

Green Ambassadors



Julia and Colin

As Parks Canada Youth Ambassadors for 2013, Colin Sutherland of Ottawa, Ontario, and Julia Belliveau of Sussex, New Brunswick, were on a mission to educate young Canadians and get them excited about national parks and historic sites. Julia and Colin shared their stories in person, through events and tours, and on social media outlets. OWL got a chance to talk to Colin about how he made a difference.

OWL: Why did you apply to the program?
Colin: Not only do I love our national parks and historic sites, but I find that many people my age live in cities, so it's important to remember that nature and history are all around us, and we should make an effort to connect with them. This is likely the best summer job you could get in Canada, if not the world!

OWL: Why is it important to educate youth about our national parks?
Colin: It's important for young Canadians to discover the treasures within our borders. Often people travel the world to find places that give them a sense of awe, yet Canada is full of these places.

OWL: What did you learn from the experience?
Colin: I learned that Canada is diverse in nature and cultural landscapes. I've also learned that there are young people across the country who are incredibly passionate about parks and historic sites. I never met anyone who wasn't amazed about Canada's national treasures. I also learned that we forget that our natural and cultural history does not end at the border of a national park: it extends into our backyards, onto my university campus, and into our local parks. Nature is all around us to appreciate and treasure.



1.



2.



3.

Check out some snapshots of Julia and Colin's journey!

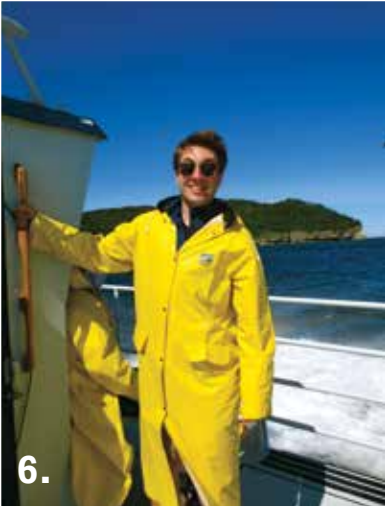
1. A beautiful view at Fundy National Park in New Brunswick.
2. Colin standing on a glacier at the Duke of Edinburgh's Award 50th Anniversary Expedition, Jasper National Park in Alberta.
3. Julia and Colin "making faces" at the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site in Nova Scotia.
4. Colin and students exploring a glacier at Jasper National Park.
5. Colin and Julia visiting Cave and Basin National Historic Site in Banff National Park in Alberta.
6. Colin whale-watching at Forillon National Park in Quebec.
7. Julia at a campfire at the Rouge Learn-to Camp, Rouge National Urban Park in Toronto, Ontario.
8. Snorkelling with seals at Forillon National Park.



4.



5.



6.

"Whether we were working as facilitators at Learn-to Camp in Toronto, as leaders on a group hike in Fundy National Park, or as participants at the Duke of Edinburgh's Award 50th Anniversary trip in Jasper, we made it our mission to connect with young people."—Colin



7.



8.

For more information on the Parks Canada Youth Ambassador Program go to pc.gc.ca.