

ALBERTA FUTURE LEADERS

What is the Alberta Future Leaders Program?

The Alberta's Future Leaders Program (AFL) is a community and youth development program that provides leadership opportunities to First Nations and Métis youth. Using sport, recreation, and arts activities AFL aims to promote active, positive and healthy lifestyles.

AFL Communities enter into a 3 year partnership with the AFL Program to host two trained AFL Mentors in their community (one Youth Mentor and one Arts Mentor) from May through August each year. During this time the AFL Mentors work with the community to develop and deliver youth-focused sport, recreation, arts and leadership activities and trips for 9-25 year olds.

VISION

Promoting active, vibrant First Nations and Métis communities, where local sports, recreation, arts and leadership experiences inspire youth to become positive leaders.

MISSION

We partner with communities to provide youth with new experiences, positive role models and opportunities to build confidence, overcome barriers and realize their potential.

How Does AFL Work?

The AFL Program, administered through Alberta Sport, Connection in partnership with the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, has partnered with 42 First Nations and Métis communities across Alberta to create over one million participant hours of programming since 1996. The key components to our success include:

Leadership Retreat

During the Leadership Retreat, select future leaders from each Host Community are brought together to share ideas and learn new skills. Through rock climbing, canoeing and hiking activities, the youth are given the opportunity to develop their leadership skills, learn about communication, team-building and develop strong friendships. Upon returning home, most of these future leaders work with their AFL Mentors to run programs, and many continue to serve their communities long after the summer ends.

Leadership through the Arts Week

This art journey to Edmonton features an *Evening of the Arts* presented by AFL mentors and youth from participating communities. AFL mentors and selected youth participants will organize and curate a show of visual and performing arts at the Kaasa Gallery, Jubilee Auditorium in early August. During their Edmonton stay, AFL youth participants and community members will have the opportunity to experience some of Edmonton's arts and culture offerings such as a visit to the Art Gallery of Alberta, the Royal Alberta Museum, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Collection, one of the city's many festivals or a workshop offered by a prominent Indigenous artist.

Intensive AFL Mentor Training

Before the summer begins, AFL Mentors spend 8 days learning from Elders, community members, guest speakers and past AFL mentors about the histories, cultures and communities they will be working in. During this time they are given extensive training that focuses on cultural awareness, youth program planning, team-building, and expectations as they relate to their role within the AFL Program. AFL Mentors also meet during and after the summer to discuss best practices, address current challenges, share ideas across communities and provide recommendations for future programming.

Role Modeling

Teachers, athletes, lawyers, artists...AFL believes that Mentors can come from any background. What they all have in common is their positive attitude, active lifestyle, spirit of determination and endless energy. As they live and work in communities, the AFL Mentors build strong relationships with local youth, acting as positive role models and inspiring youth to be their best.

Programs, Camps and Trips

From May through August, AFL Mentors teach meaningful life skills through sport, recreation and arts activities, special events, and out-trips. They run everything from campfires and art programs to rafting trips and hockey tournaments. Activities are designed to meet community needs and youth interests.

Partnerships

The AFL believes that investing in Alberta's youth today will create a positive tomorrow. Our partners share this philosophy, and together we create opportunities for youth across the province to realize their potential.

