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**Le camp** favorise aussi le partage  
 entre générations.  
**The camp** promotes  
 inter-generational sharing.



learn various ways to discover their territory. From water sampling to identifying plants and insects, they get to enhance their knowledge of the environment and put their talents to good use. “Kids are curious. They already have a highly developed sense of observation and a connection with the territory,” explains José Gérin-Lajoie, Environmental Science Research Coordinator and the mastermind behind the project. “This is what we want them to take away: they have many scientifically valuable qualities. They might use them in hunting, or with the temperature, but there are parallels to be made with ingenuity, problem-solving, and observation of phenomena.”

This pragmatic approach to science galvanizes some apprentices. “By learning scientific research, we wanted to empower our youth and expose them to opportunities that exist for them in the world,” enthuses Snowball, now Vice-Chair of the KRG.

### A transmission belt

Promoting inter-generational sharing, the camp also allows young people to follow in their ancestors’ footsteps. “A lot of our elders are very knowledgeable about the environment. We don’t see their degrees, but they know a lot because of the survival skills they had to have.” Through their stories and useful advice,

these knowledgeable people reaffirm the identity of the territory and instill in the youths the importance of protecting it.

This alliance between science and culture incites young people to take a critical, enlightened stance on the environment and stirs their desire to protect it as Guardians of the river, the title bestowed upon them at the end of the camp.

### A unifying project

The data collected over the years has revealed that the George River is doing well. The water quality is incredible. What’s more, the rare earths mining project has been suspended indefinitely. Imalirijit is not folding yet, however—the Guardians of the river will continue to monitor the impacts of climate change.

The project will also have paved the way for a brand-new large-scale initiative. Recipient of the 2018 Arctic Inspiration award and of a \$466,000 grant, Nunami Sukujainiq (Science on the land) will allow the deployment of collaborative scientific projects across Nunavik.

The greatest success of Imalirijit? With an approach focused on listening and mutual aid, research can create long-lasting ties between researchers and the community, and can be the bridge between science and culture. ■

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*Les données recueillies au fil des ans révèlent que la rivière George se porte bien.*

*The data collected over the years has revealed that the George River is doing well.*



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