

YMCA Day Camps Family Handbook

Lower Mainland & Fraser Valley

2022



Friendships start here.





Welcome to YMCA Day Camps

Friendships. Self-exploration. Leadership. It all starts here. At YMCA camps, there are no classrooms or cliques, no homework or tests. Instead, there are opportunities for self-discovery, growth and skill building. At the Y, kids don't need cell phones to find each other or screens to keep them engaged. Friend requests happen in real time.

The YMCA has been providing camps for more than 100 years to help children and youth build confidence, leadership skills and environmental awareness. Kids ages 6-12 can choose from a wide range of camps offered across the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley during the summer months and school breaks.

Day camps keep kids active, enable them to make new friends and acquire valuable skills, all the while staying close to home. Regardless of which camp you choose, at the Y, we'll help your kids learn new skills, make lasting memories and be active in a safe, fun and nurturing environment.



YMCA Day Camp Staff

All staff are trained leaders committed to the well-being of children, and have completed the following before camp starts:

- A criminal record check, three reference checks and personal interview
- First Aid and CPR-C certification
- A minimum of 21 hours of training, which includes topics such as child protection, child guidance, risk management and supervision.
- Bronze Cross or National Lifeguard certification (*lifeguards only*)

Health & Safety

The YMCA of Greater Vancouver remains committed to providing your child with a safe, healthy and memorable day camp experience. Our summer day camps follow the current COVID-19 protocols mandated by the Provincial Health Officer.

To read our complete Health and Safety Plan, click [HERE](#).

Accessibility at Camp

The YMCA welcomes kids of all abilities to our programs. YMCA staff are able to assist campers with basic physical and cognitive disabilities. However, please contact us prior to registration in order to discuss your child's additional support needs.



Deposit

Fees may be paid in full and a non-refundable deposit of \$25 per week will be collected at the time of registration. Deposits will be applied to the overall cost of camp.

Cancellation Policy

Notification must be received in writing no later than two weeks prior to the start of your camp session in order to receive a refund (less the non-refundable \$25 per week day camp deposit). Session transfers must be completed at least one week prior to session start date.

Financial Assistance

No one should miss out on a YMCA camp experience. That's why we offer financial assistance and payment plans to assist those whose financial circumstances would otherwise prevent them from attending camp. Please contact us for more information and a confidential application form. Applications must be received at least two weeks prior to camp start date.

Learn more about our YMCA Financial Assistance Program [HERE](#).

Holidays

YMCA Day Camps do not operate on statutory holidays. Fees for shorter weeks will be pro-rated.

Duty to Report

We are required by law under the Child, Family and Community Services Act to report any disclosures, suspected child abuse and neglect to the appropriate authorities for investigation. Our responsibility is to report suspicions or disclosures, not to determine if abuse has occurred. Investigations are the responsibility of the Ministry of Children and Family Development and/or the police, and they are responsible for contacting the parent/guardian.



As a charity for over 130 years, we rely on generous donations by individuals, businesses, and community partners to help us make proven YMCA programs affordable and accessible for everyone so they can have the opportunity to live healthier, happier lives.

To find out how you can support a child in need, please visit our YMCA CommUNITY Campaign website by clicking [HERE](#).



Authorized Pick-Up List

You are required to notify YMCA staff if someone other than those listed on the authorized pick-up list will be picking up your child. If this person is unknown to the staff, they will be required to show photo identification.

Custody

If a custody agreement or court order is in place for your child, a copy must be on file. Staff will act in accordance with this legal document. If issues around custody exist and there are no legal documents, the parent with whom the child resides will be deemed the custodial parent and staff will only follow instructions from this parent unless otherwise instructed by a court order.

Late Pick-Up

We expect that all children are picked up on time, respecting our staff's work schedules and personal commitments. Late pick-ups may result in additional charges of \$1/minute per child and/or withdrawal of services.

Failure to Pick-Up

If a child is not picked up by closing time, staff will contact parents/ guardians and/or emergency contacts. If after 30 minutes staff are unable to contact parents/guardians or emergency contacts, staff will call the Ministry of Children and Family Development, who will take your child into care until you can be located.

Personal Effects

The YMCA is not responsible for any personal items/articles that are brought, used or left at our programs or facilities. Any items left at camp will be donated after September 1st.

Medication

Staff may administer medication if your child is on a strict medication schedule. Prescription medication must be in the original container stating the child's name, dosage and time to be given, and a consent form must be completed. Non-prescription medications require a consent form signed by a doctor.

Illness

It is important to prevent the spread of infectious diseases to other children and staff; therefore, when your child is vomiting, has diarrhea or a fever of 38 degrees Celsius or higher (100 degrees Fahrenheit), we require your child to stay home.

If your child develops symptoms or develops a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius (100 degrees Fahrenheit), while at camp, staff will contact you to request your child be picked up.

Your child must be symptom free for a period of 24 hours prior to returning to camp.

Clothing & Weather

Regardless of weather, we spend time outdoors every day. Please ensure your child has appropriate clothing (e.g. rain gear, hat, sunscreen, etc.).

Absence from Camp

No discounts or refunds are issued for missed days.



Medical/Emergency* Information (ePACT)

ePACT is a secure emergency network that the YMCA of Greater Vancouver uses to collect medical and emergency contact information electronically. ePACT maintains the same levels of security as online banking, and limits access only to the administrators we assign for enhanced privacy. ePACT replaces paper forms to make it easier for families to share emergency information. Families will receive an email invitation to share information with us via ePACT. Follow the instructions to create or log in to your account, and enter the required information. You can update your information at any time, and we will automatically be notified.

Children will only be permitted to sign into camp if their ePACT file is complete.

Withdrawal of Service

In some situations, it may be necessary for the YMCA to withdraw services. However, we will make every attempt to work with the family to resolve the issue to the mutual satisfaction of all parties, provided that the arrangement does not compromise the mission and values of the YMCA, put staff, the child or other participants at risk. Situations are dealt with on an individual basis, taking into account the specific needs and circumstances of the family and camp.

The following situations may be considered cause for terminating care:

- Inappropriate conduct including: harassment, threatening behaviour, or violent acts toward staff, children, or other families
- Involved in the camp.
- Behavioural concerns (the YMCA does not have the resources to deal effectively with a child whose behaviour requires ongoing significant intervention, such as persistent unprovoked physical violence, persistent bullying, verbal harassment or unauthorized departure from the group).
- Unresolved custody issues (if a family's custody issues result in ongoing conflicts at camp or with staff).
- Ongoing late pick-ups.
- Non-payment of fees.
- When a family's requests cannot be accommodated, as they conflict with the principles, policies and procedures of the YMCA.

Privacy of Information

The YMCA of Greater Vancouver respects the right of individuals to the protection of their personal information. The YMCA is committed to maintaining the confidentiality, privacy, and accuracy of personal information it collects, uses and discloses. YMCA staff and volunteers who have access to personal information follow fair information principles, in keeping with privacy laws. We collect, use and disclose personal data in order to better meet your needs, ensure the safety of children in our care, collect statistical data, satisfy government and regulatory obligations, and inform you about the program in which you are registered. We may contact you periodically to inform you about other YMCA programs, services and opportunities that may be of interest and benefit you. To view our Privacy Policy, please visit gv.ymca.ca.

Preparing For Summer Day Camp



Day Camp Health and Safety Protocols

Vaccination:

We encourage everyone who can, to get vaccinated.

Health Declarations:

Each morning on the sign-in sheet, parents will be asked to confirm that their child is healthy and able to participate in camp. If a child has a new symptom listed on the health declaration, the parent is encouraged to go to the BC Centre for Disease Control website or call 811 and see if testing or self-isolation is required. Symptoms must be resolved in accordance with BCCDC guidance before the child can return to programming.

Drop-off and sign-in/sign-out:

To restrict access by parents to the program space, drop-off and sign-in/sign-out will take place outside.

Hand washing:

We will have all campers wash their hands when they arrive at camp, throughout the day, and before and after lunchtime and snacks.

Enhanced cleaning and sanitizing:

The cleaning and sanitizing of high-touch surfaces will be completed at regular intervals.

Physical Distancing:

As much programming will take place outside as possible. Parents will not be able to access indoor areas, except if required for sign in/out.

Outdoor Activities:

Spending time outdoors is part of the YMCA Day Camp experience, and we will make this a continued focus throughout the summer.

To view our complete Day Camp Health and Safety Plan, please visit gv.ymca.ca/day-camps.

What You Should Pack Every Day

- A morning and afternoon snack, and a healthy bagged lunch. (*an afternoon snack is provided at our YMCA Kids Club locations.)
- A water bottle. It's important to stay hydrated throughout the day.
- Weather appropriate clothing. We go outside in all weather conditions — rain or shine!
- Sunscreen.
- Swimsuit and towel (These items may not be required each day. Please check with your day camp program to find out if/when your child will need to bring these items.)