



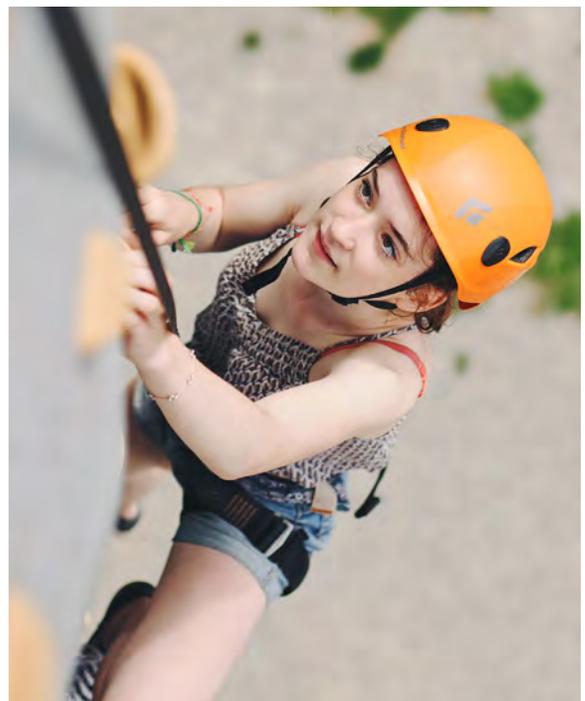
**YMCA  
Camp Elphinstone**

## **Off to Camp Guide: Leadership Development I & II**



**Keep Our Promises | Put People First | Lead by Example | Do the Right Thing**

**Our Mission:**  
**YMCA BC is a charity dedicated to**  
**strengthening the foundations of community.**





## Welcome to YMCA Camp Elphinstone!

Leadership at Elphinstone is all about developing awareness and taking action to improve yourself, others and your environment. This guide is designed to answer many of your questions and to help you understand the leadership programs at Elphinstone. Please read this booklet carefully to learn the expectations of the Leadership programs, details of each Leadership stream, and what you'll need to bring with you this summer.

You are part of a very reputable community of leaders. This is your chance to develop skills that contribute back to your home community. If you are in LD1, you will go on an extended out-trip that will give you a chance to experience some of Canada's most stunning wilderness landscapes. These trips will help you feel more confident about yourself in diverse and sometimes unknown situations. You'll develop your self-confidence and leadership abilities as you tackle skills, responsibilities and problem-solving situations you may have never taken on before. If you are in LD2, you will challenge yourself to take initiative at camp in child guidance, communication, and group facilitation skills. Through these accomplishments and successes you'll gain a feeling of trust in your own abilities, which can push you forward to more success in your everyday life. You will be a model of Elphinstone Leadership not only to your peers, but to thousands of younger campers that come to camp each summer.

We hope to answer many of your questions in this guide, but should you have any further questions about your upcoming camp experience, please contact us. Early communication allows us to address concerns before camp starts. Camp may look and feel different this summer compared to previous ones, as we may make adjustments to meet provincial health orders in order to give you a safe and fun camp experience. We will communicate with your family prior to the start of camp with updates on what to look forward to and expect.

We look forward to welcoming you to camp this summer!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "ANDREW SPONAGLE".

Andrew Sponagle  
Director, YMCA Camp Elphinstone

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jazz Zahra".

Jazz Zahra  
Summer Camp Director

### YMCA Camp Elphinstone Registration Office

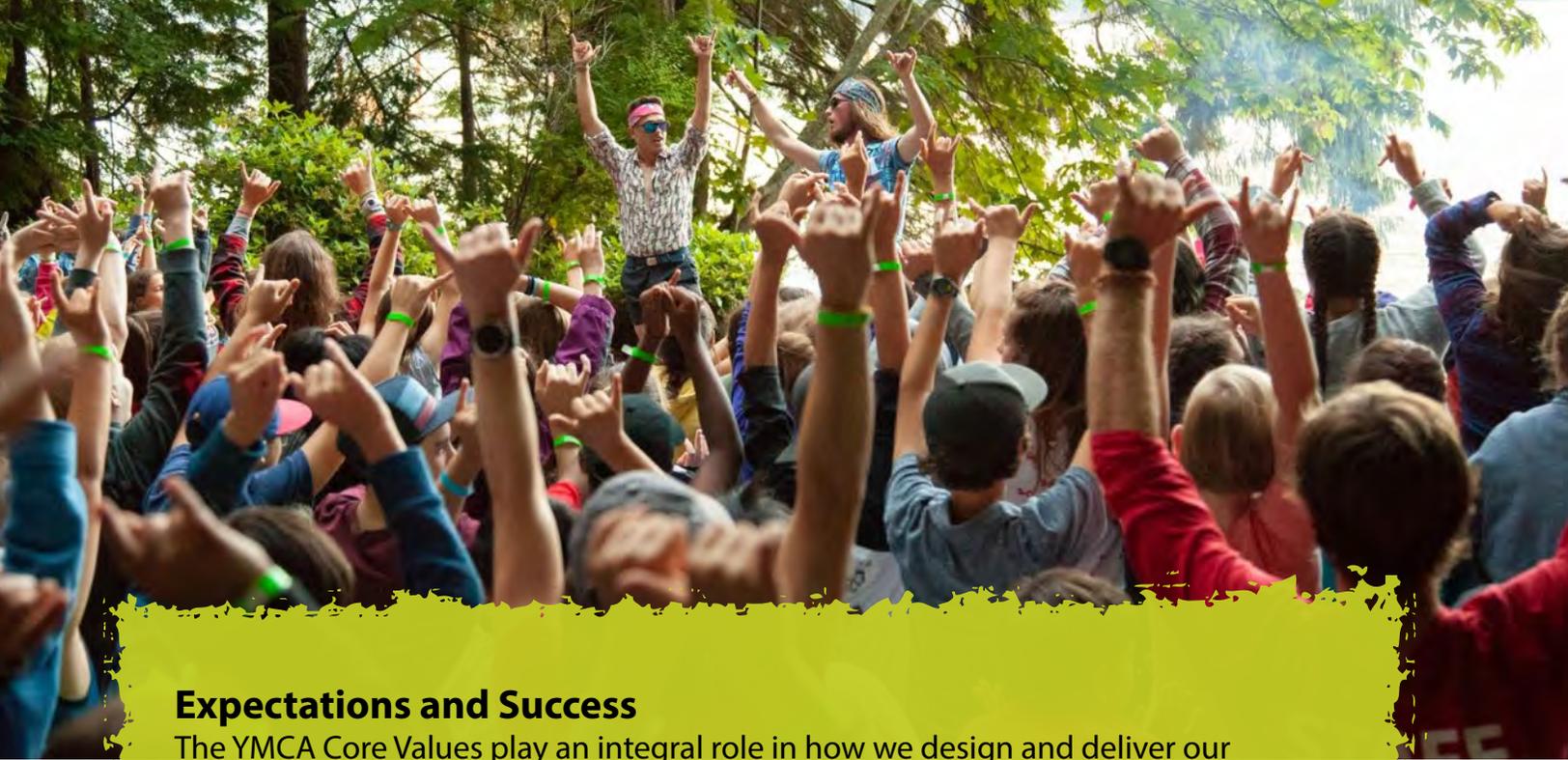
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Gibsons, B.C. V0N 1V6

T: 604.939.9622

F: 604.886.2363

E: [camps@bc.ymca.ca](mailto:camps@bc.ymca.ca)



## **Expectations and Success**

The YMCA Core Values play an integral role in how we design and deliver our leadership programs. We want you to get the most out of your experience and we create each program with this in mind. Throughout the year we engage with leaders to gain valuable feedback on how to make the best program we can. The programs are designed to set you up for success with challenges and opportunities to grow and learn about your personal strengths and the importance of working together.

As a member of the group you will have certain expectations of others, and they of you. Our expectation is that you're a full member of the group, participating in all aspects of the program offered and doing your best to achieve team success.

Whether at camp or on an out-trip, you're expected to take the initiative, role model, and share responsibilities. On trip, this might include cooking, doing dishes, rising early to assist with breaking camp, maintaining group moral and navigating. At camp, this might include actively participating in camp programs, teaching younger campers skills and games, and caring for the environment by picking up garbage and treating equipment with respect. This equality among your leadership group will ensure that all voices are heard and everyone has a positive experience.

Your counsellors are a resource for your questions, and will help coach you in learning the skills necessary for a positive experience. Counsellors are teachers, mentors and coaches and will be there to support or intervene in difficult situations. You can expect exemplary leadership and dedication from them, as well as a breadth of knowledge and experience.

The success enjoyed by the entire group will come from full participation, a positive attitude, and the willingness to try new things and learn from everyone.



### **Camp Behaviour Policy:**

At YMCA Camp Elphinstone our staff are trained and experienced in providing high quality care for our campers, ensuring the needs of each individual are met. We expect that all staff, volunteers, campers and parents/guardians are focused on supporting Elphinstone to be a safe environment for everyone, both emotionally and physically.

### **Camper Dismissal:**

If a situation arises where a camper threatens the safety of another camper or if a camper shows a complete disregard for camp rules, that individual may be dismissed at the discretion of the Camp Manager/Supervisor. The camper's family is responsible for any costs associated with that individual's dismissal and no refund will be given if the dismissal is due to behavioural reasons or concerns. It is the parent/guardians' responsibility to pick the child up directly at camp or arrange for pick up upon the dismissal.

### **Possession of Illicit Substances:**

Smoking, vaping or vaping devices, the consumption or possession of alcohol and/or non-prescription drugs are not permitted on YMCA property. Any camper who disregards this policy will be automatically removed regardless of circumstance or degree of participation.

### **Dress Code:**

Because LD participants are role models for younger campers they are required to maintain an appropriate appearance while at camp. Wearing revealing clothing or clothing with inappropriate logos (e.g. strong language, alcohol/drug/tobacco references) will not be permitted. LD participants may be asked to change if their clothing does not meet these standards. As well, LD participants should bring footwear appropriate for camp activities, as outlined in the packing guide.



## Program Descriptions

### **Leadership Development I (LD1):**

This two-week program teaches campers the technical skills associated with delivering camp activities while focusing on team building. Campers participate in an out-trip experience and are offered the opportunity to build strong, lasting friendships in a positive and constructive setting. Youth gain a solid foundation in delivering all types of camp programming (e.g. canoeing, archery, rock climbing, etc.) while learning how to support others. LD1 participants will contribute to and learn how to facilitate special camp programs, like theme days and evening programs. This program is designed to be a pre-requisite of the LD2 program.

### **Leadership Development II (LD2):**

This three-week program allows campers the chance to apply skills learned in Leadership Development 1 and continue to grow as leaders. This program emphasizes initiative, communication and the group care skills necessary to be a strong leader in a camp setting or elsewhere. LD2s take part in regular camp activities, like boating, archery, ropes course, and more with a focus on fine-tuning their teaching and group facilitation skills. LD2s may take part in a short out-trip experience. Participants work directly with groups of young campers in short cabin placements to practice firsthand their group care skills.

At YMCA Camp Elphinstone, we are committed to building up leaders who not only positively contribute to the camp community, but who also stand out as leaders in their home and school environments. As such, LD2s will gain valuable skills that are assets in all work environments, including the importance of working together and solid communication, how to give and receive feedback, and the importance of knowing your strengths and when to ask for help. We focus on transferrable skills for participants to be successful leaders in a variety of contexts. Completion of the LD2 program does not guarantee a job at Camp Elphinstone, but if interested in working at Camp Elphinstone, we encourage all our leaders to apply.

As part of their training, all LD2 participants will take part in Bronze Cross and Bronze Medallion certification course. This certification is a requirement of camp staff and will help prepare them for future employment. LD2 participants should be prepared to fully participate in this course and be aware that it does have some challenging physical requirements and certification is not guaranteed.

For more information on the requirements of Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross, please go to:  
[www.lifesavingsociety.com/lifeguarding/bronze-medallion.aspx](http://www.lifesavingsociety.com/lifeguarding/bronze-medallion.aspx)  
[www.lifesavingsociety.com/lifeguarding/bronze-cross.aspx](http://www.lifesavingsociety.com/lifeguarding/bronze-cross.aspx)





### **Camp Activities**

YMCA Camp Elphinstone has many exciting activities to offer. All activities are age-appropriate and participation is based on the size, skill and safety of the campers. LD participants will participate in a variety of activities such as:

#### ***Waterfront***

Sailing, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, swimming, voyageur canoeing and stand up paddle boarding

#### ***Outdoor Living Skills***

Canoe trips, backpacking/hiking trips, outdoor cooking, shelter building, fire building and orienteering, Leave No Trace lessons.

#### ***Land Sports and Challenges***

Archery, low & high ropes courses, rock climbing, basketball, gaga ball, volleyball and tetherball.

#### ***Creative and Environmental***

Arts & crafts, photography, campfires, discovery hikes, nature walks to "Big Tree", global education and marine beach studies.

### **Out-Trips:**

LD1 participants take part in an extended sea kayaking trip. This trip is designed around learning how to lead a typical YMCA out-trip with a group of campers. It is also designed to encourage teamwork and communication among the group.

LD2 participants will have the opportunity to take part in a 2-3 day backpacking, canoe, or kayak trip. LD2 participants may also have the opportunity to participate in an overnight out-trip with their cabin placement. They should be prepared to assist counsellors with leading a cabin group of 10 younger campers on a hike or canoe trip.



## What to Bring to Camp

Please label all of your belongings in case anything gets misplaced. There is no laundry at camp, so please pack enough clothing for your entire stay at camp. Below is a suggested packing list. Out-trip needs are taken into consideration in this list.

### First Day of Camp Packing List

There are a few items your camper will need with them through the first day of camp. These items will ensure your camper is staying sun-safe and is prepared for activities like our Swim Challenge once they arrive at camp. These items should be packed in a separate, smaller day pack that campers will keep with them as they begin their orientation to camp on the first day.

Please ensure your camper is prepared with the following items:

- Water bottle
- Rain jacket
- Towel
- Swimsuit
- Hat
- Sunscreen

### Leadership Development I packing list:

#### Clothing

- 1 rain coat with hood (waterproof)
- 1 pair rain pants
- 1 hat with brim for sun and rain protection
- Enough socks for two weeks
- Enough underwear for two weeks
- 7-8 T-shirts
- 3-4 long-sleeve T-shirts (one recommended to be non-cotton)
- 2 pairs long pants (we recommend at least one pair of Quick-Dry pants)
- 3 pairs of shorts (we recommend at least one pair of Quick-Dry shorts)
- Long johns or thermals
- 3 sweaters or sweatshirts (fleece and wool are great!)
- 2 sets of pajamas
- 2 pairs sturdy close-toed running shoes or light hiking boots (one pair will be your "wet" shoes on out-trip). Keens are acceptable "dry" shoes while at a campsite however full coverage shoes are required as "wet" shoes. Crocs are not considered an acceptable out-tripping shoe.
- 1 pair of sandals with back straps
- Water shoes
- 2 swim suits
- Toque

### Face Masks

Face masks are not required, but if your camper is more comfortable wearing a mask, they are welcome to do so. Please pack enough reusable or disposable masks for an entire session, as there is no laundry service.

### Bedding

- Sleeping bag (warm, compact, preferably synthetic or down-filled mummy style bag)
- Pillow & pillow case
- Therm-a-Rest or sleeping pad (optional)
- 1 fitted sheet for single bed (optional)
- Blanket (optional)

### Personal Items

- Soap and shampoo (biodegradable\* is preferred)
- Toothpaste and toothbrush
- 1 brush or comb
- 1 water bottle
- Menstrual supplies
- Sunscreen (minimum SPF 30)
- Hand sanitizer (small travel-size bottle for out-trips)
- Insect Repellent (no aerosols)
- Headlamp/flashlight (with extra batteries)
- 2 towels (1 beach towel and 1 smaller quick-dry chamois-style towel)





## Leadership Development II packing list:

### Clothing

- 1 rain coat with hood (waterproof)
- 1 pair rain pants
- 1 hat with brim for sun and rain protection
- Enough socks for three weeks
- Enough underwear for three weeks
- 12 T-shirts
- 3-4 long-sleeve T-shirts (one recommended to be non-cotton)
- 2 pairs long pants (we recommend at least one pair of Quick-Dry pants)
- 4 pairs of shorts (we recommend at least one pair of Quick-Dry shorts)
- Long johns or thermals
- 3 sweaters or sweatshirts (fleece and wool are great!)
- 2 sets of pajamas
- 2 pairs sturdy close-toed running shoes or light hiking boots
- 1 pair of sandals with back straps
- Water shoes
- 2 swimsuits
- Toque

### Face Masks

Face masks are not required, but if your camper is more comfortable wearing a mask, they are welcome to do so. Please pack enough reusable or disposable masks for an entire session, as there is no laundry service.

## Bedding

- Sleeping bag (warm, preferably synthetic fill, compact if taken on out-trip)
- Pillow & pillow case
- 1 fitted sheet for single bed (optional)
- Blanket (optional)
- Therma-a-Rest or sleeping pad (optional)

## Personal Items

- Soap and shampoo (biodegradable\* is preferred)
- Toothpaste and toothbrush
- 1 brush or comb
- 1 water bottle
- Sunscreen (minimum SPF 30)
- Hand sanitizer (small travel-size bottle for out-trip)
- Insect Repellent (no aerosols)
- Flashlight (with extra batteries)
- 2 towels (1 beach towel and 1 smaller microfiber towel)
- Menstrual supplies

## **Optional items for all Leadership participants (LD 1 & LD2)**

- Writing paper, envelopes, pen
- Stamps
- Journal
- Rubber boots
- 30 litre Dry Bag (Seal Line brand, for example) – **Strongly recommended**
- Musical instrument
- Books
- Costumes
- Camera (campers will not be able to use cell phone cameras)
- Hiking Pack – **Strongly recommended** (a functional backpack should be comfortable when full, durable and have adequate capacity for up to 5 days of personal items, group equipment and food. Large volume (about 55 litres) internal frame packs are popular because they are equally useful as a canoe or travel pack. Simple packs without a lot of extra pockets and frills are often easier to pack and more durable in the long run. LD participants will use this pack for their out trip as well as placement trips with campers. We do provide Algonquin packs at camp as well for camper or group gear.)

*\*Biodegradable Soap – all soap products (shampoo, soap and conditioners) used at YMCA Camp Elphinstone are recommended to be biodegradable, as our water is treated and returned directly to the ocean. We need your help to protect the environment. Our water system works best and operates cleanly when all soap products used are biodegradable.*

## Other important packing information

### **Medications:**

All medications are to be sent to camp in their original packages within a Ziploc bag, clearly labelled with the person's full name and date of birth. All staff and camper medications are locked in a secure space within the Wellness Centre. We ask that you give the medications directly to our Wellness Staff at the check-in table on the first day if you're dropping off your child at Horseshoe Bay or at camp. If your child wears a medic alert bracelet, we strongly encourage that they wear this bracelet while at camp, and that this information is clearly noted on the ePACT medical form.

### **Out-trip Footwear:**

LD1 and LD2 participants are required to bring two pairs of closed toed shoes for their out-trip. One pair will be worn during the day and will get wet. The second pair will be kept dry for the evenings. We ask for a sturdy pair of shoes to be worn during the day as campers may encounter rugged terrain while portaging or swimming. To ensure your camper's safety we recommend an older pair of running sturdy shoes over thin water shoes. Keen-brand type sandals are fine as long as they have adequate toe coverage. Crocs are not considered an acceptable out-trip footwear

### **Luggage:**

Luggage does not need to be expensive—backpacks are ideal, duffels, old suitcases and big laundry bags are fine too. We kindly ask that you do not pack items in garbage bags as they rip easily and can be mistaken for garbage.

### **What Not to Bring:**

At YMCA Camp Elphinstone, we believe that a camp experience should be a return to the basics, where campers can develop a sense of harmony with nature, themselves and others in an unplugged environment. If any of these items are brought to camp they will be collected by camp staff and returned to the parent/guardian at the end of the camp session. Please ensure the items listed below are not brought to camp.

- Cell phones
- Electronic toys or devices (e.g. Nintendo DS)
- Personal media players (e.g iPod, iPad)
- Radios, stereos, portable speakers
- Food, candy, and gum
- Curling irons and hair dryers
- Matches
- Knives
- Fireworks
- Toy guns or water pistols
- Expensive watches, jewellery, or any other valuables

## **Heat Room** *(please read the following information carefully)*

Due to the widespread issue of bed bugs in the Lower Mainland, all bags and personal belongings arriving at YMCA Camp Elphinstone must pass through a heat treatment process, which eliminates the concern of bed bugs spreading to our facilities or to your home. Our specially constructed heat treatment room heats bags to 125 degrees Fahrenheit (about the temperature of a clothes dryer) which ensures that any bed bugs and/or eggs that may be contained within participants' belongings are killed prior to moving into cabins.

Although the heat treatment is safe for most items, a few items should not pass through the heat treatment room as it may cause damage. The following items should not be heated: plastics (such as toiletries and cosmetics), medicines, aerosols, cameras, photographs, rubber boots, candles/wax, food (including pop cans) and electronics (which should be left at home).

**All items that should not be heated must be packed in a Ziploc bag and placed at the top of the luggage so it may be removed prior to treatment. Please ensure Ziploc bags are well labelled with your child's name and session. We appreciate your support in this matter**

## **Lost and Found**

Lost items will be held for one week after the last day of the camp session after which they will be donated. You are welcome to contact the camp office regarding your child's lost item; it is best to email us at [camps@bc.ymca.ca](mailto:camps@bc.ymca.ca) with a detailed description of the item as well as your child's name and session, but please be patient as we are all very busy during the camp season and may not be able to locate lost items right away. Please label your child's belongings as this increases the chance that they will return home with everything.

The YMCA is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen items.





## Health and Safety at Camp and on Trip

An enjoyable experience begins with a healthy participant. Your child's good health — physical, social and emotional — is very important to us. Our programs emphasize careful planning to ensure high safety standards are in place. We are a member of the British Columbia Camps Association and many of our YMCA Practices exceed the BCCA standards.

Staff are trained to reduce the risk of and respond to emergencies. All staff hold current CPR and First Aid certifications and many staff possess additional qualifications depending on their role at camp. Our out-tripping staff have Wilderness First Aid, NLS, and FOODSAFE qualifications. All waterfront staff are certified lifeguards (NLS). All staff and campers are required to wear personal flotation devices (PFDs) in boats at all times. All PFDs are provided at camp. While on a trip, out-tripping staff check in with the Camp Director/Manager each night via cell phone, satellite phone, or inREACH device.

The health and safety of your child is our first priority. We comply with various health and safety regulations and industry standards to ensure that we offer a safe environment. As per Provincial Health guidelines, Camp Elphinstone has transitioned from a COVID-19 Safety Plan to a Communicable Disease Safety Plan (see below). Camp Elphinstone regularly consults with our local health department regarding any updates or changes to protocols.

### Communicable Disease Plan

This guidance applies to staff, volunteers, participants, clients, families, and contractors. People returning from international travel may be subject to additional, individual requirements as set by the Federal Government.

#### Principles

##### 1. Everyone is to self-monitor their health

- Campers, families, and guests should not attend or visit camp if they are experiencing symptom(s) of illness, such as fever, vomiting, diarrhea, coughing, muscle aches, sore throat, etc. until they have been resolved in accordance with the guidance from the BC Centre for Disease Control [bccdc.ca](https://bccdc.ca).
- Please stay away until your symptoms are resolved AND you are feeling well, AND you are not subject to any public health self-isolation requirements.
- During camp, campers who are experiencing symptoms and identified as needing to isolate must be picked up immediately from camp.

## 2. Personal hygiene

All campers and staff/volunteers are to:

- Perform regular hand washing/sanitizing, including after using the washroom, doing cleaning activities or garbage removal, after sneezing into your hand, and before and after preparing food.
- Follow routine practices for possible exposure to blood or body fluids.
- Cough/sneeze into your sleeve or a disposable tissue.

## 3. Cleaning

Cleaning of shared surfaces is completed at a minimum of once per day, and many frequently shared areas are cleaned more often as needed.

## 4. Get vaccinated

While the YMCA encourages everyone to follow the BC Centre for Disease Control recommendations for protection against any disease appropriate to your age, work, or personal circumstances, COVID-19 vaccinations are not mandatory for participants and families.

## 5. Face coverings/masks

Face coverings/masks are not required, but may still be worn by choice for anyone older than 2 years of age.

### **24 Hour Supervision:**

YMCA Camp Elphinstone provides what we call "24/7" supervision of all our campers.

Pairs of group leaders ensure a high level of supervision throughout the session. Counsellors sleep in the cabin with the leadership camper group and are available day and night for emergency situations.

### **Campers Leaving Camp:**

Campers meeting the below criteria will be required to self-isolate and be picked up from camp for a minimum of 48 hours and up to 5 days:

- Any camper with two or more symptoms related to covid-19 not otherwise explained by pre-existing conditions or circumstances
- Any camper with a fever

If your camper becomes ill at camp, it is expected that a family member or emergency contact be available to pick the camper up from camp within 12 hours of initial contact with camp. We do not provide covid-19 tests at camp, nor do we accept negative tests as proof to return to camp.

### **Campers Returning to Camp:**

Campers who have been sent home for communicable disease symptoms may return to camp after 48 hours from the time they depart camp, if they meet the below criteria:

- Their symptoms have improved
- They no longer have a fever
- They feel well enough to return to regular camp programming

## **Wellness Centre:**

Our Wellness Centre serves the health needs of everyone at camp. The Wellness Staff are in charge of the day-to-day routine of camper health checks, delivering medications and handling incidents and accidents on site. Our team of two Wellness Staff are familiar with all kinds of common ailments and are always working with participants to make sure they are at their best. The Wellness Staff will keep you informed about your child's health in the case of a change in health, a trip to the doctor or an emergency. If you have any concerns or questions regarding your child's health while they are at camp, our Wellness Staff will call you back directly to discuss your concerns. In order for us to provide the best care possible for your child, please make sure to be as specific as possible on your child's ePACT medical questionnaire.

### **ePACT Medical Questionnaire:**

You will receive an ePACT medical questionnaire email after registration. This is a **required form that needs to be completed as soon as possible**, as this will ensure your camper's medical needs are met while they are here at camp. You may update this form throughout the year if you need to provide us with new or changed information before camp starts. It should only take 10 minutes to complete and if you have completed this form in the past for your child, all you will need to do is log into your account and confirm the information provided is still valid. Your child will not be able to attend camp if this form is incomplete.

## **Illness While at Camp:**

Camp is a very challenging environment to handle contagious illnesses. For this reason we work hard to ensure that we know the health of our campers and staff and do everything we can to minimize the potential for spread of illness. It's our camp practice to treat injury, illness and infectious diseases as per recommendation of the local health unit. For common illnesses or viruses, children will be taken to a local clinic for assessment, prescription for medication will be given and campers will be asked to return home until they are no longer contagious.

Unfortunately, we do not have the space or the additional staff supervision to support individual campers for lengthy medical stays in our Health Centre and feel that they will be much better supported at home to make a speedy recovery and return to camp. In addition, having campers with any type of contagious illness recover at home helps us to reduce the potential for spreading illness in our community. Families will be responsible for any costs associated with prescriptions and will not be reimbursed for the time at home

## **Head Lice:**

Upon arrival, your child will be checked for head lice – we **STRONGLY** recommend that caregivers check their campers for lice prior to start of camp. If lice or nits are found by our staff, your child will not be permitted to come to camp until they are nit-free. Ideally, it takes 7-8 days to effectively kill/remove lice and nits, so we suggest checking your child's head at least one week prior to arrival and then again the day before you send them to camp. Please keep in mind that it can be difficult for a child to integrate into their cabin if they miss the first day or two of camp.

If you don't know how to check for head lice, please talk to your family doctor or a public health nurse. Although lice do not carry disease and are not considered 'dangerous', they are a nuisance! Please help us keep our camp a lice-free zone. If lice or nits are found by our staff upon arrival and your child is not permitted to come to camp, there will be no refund provided.

**Dietary Restrictions:**

We take all camper dietary restrictions seriously and provide appropriate alternatives at each meal served where required. We take every step in offering and informing campers of the alternatives made available to them at each meal.

Please follow these two steps prior to your camper's arrival at camp:

1. Please speak with your camper about their responsibility in ensuring they are following their required diet.
2. Let your camper know that they should speak with a YMCA staff member right away if they have any questions or concerns regarding the food provided while here at camp.

**Homesickness:**

Homesickness is fairly common at overnight camp. Many campers feel a sense of missing home at some point during their stay, although the vast majority of homesickness is overcome after the first few days. Children who are missing home often need the support of their counsellors and fellow campers to feel better. If a child is homesick, we endeavor to identify it and give them the support they need right away. The predominant symptom of homesickness is preoccupying thoughts of home. Other symptoms may include being withdrawn, headaches or stomach aches or other body complaints, and crying.

Preparing for a camp experience at home will help prevent homesickness. Please see our [general Off to Camp Guide](#) for tips on preventing homesickness.





### **Accessibility at Camp:**

The YMCA welcomes children of all abilities to our programs. Camp Elphinstone staff are trained and able to assist campers with physical and developmental disabilities. In the event that your child requires one-on-one support, one of our Inclusion Counsellors will be assigned to ensure your child's needs are met. Our Inclusion Counsellors will help modify and adapt programming to ensure your child is included and integrated into the Camp Elphinstone experience. If your child requires one-on-one support while at camp, please contact the Summer Camp Director to discuss how we can best support your child.

### **Inclusion at Camp:**

Recognizing that prejudice, discrimination, and stereotyping are prevalent through society, we are dedicated to the creation of a safe, secure space for those seeking services with us. It is the policy of YMCA Camp Elphinstone to maintain and promote a facility that provides the highest quality of services to our campers regardless of their actual or perceived gender identity or sexual orientation. We encourage the parent(s) or guardian(s) of any transgender, trans\*, and gender non-conforming campers to contact the Camp Director to discuss the commitments to inclusion made by YMCA Camp Elphinstone and how we can best welcome and support your camper(s).



### **International Campers**

We are hopeful we will be able to host international campers at YMCA Camp Elphinstone this summer.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will require all international campers to:

- Follow regulations and guidelines from the Province of British Columbia, Government of Canada, and regional health authorities.
- Comply with Government of Canada entry requirements for travel to Canada, as found here: [travel.gc.ca/travel-covid](https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid)

In the event that a camper is required to isolate or quarantine prior to camp, during camp or after camp, this would be the responsibility of the parent/guardian to arrange. YMCA Camp Elphinstone cannot be held responsible for any logistics, costs, or supervision, and will not be able to accommodate the camper during isolation/quarantine periods. **Campers cannot be accommodated prior to or after their session's scheduled start and end respectively. Campers who are identified as needing to quarantine/isolate during sessions must be picked up immediately from camp.** We will require a written quarantine/isolation plan to be provided for campers detailing how they will be picked up from camp in the event that they are required to quarantine/isolate. **For this reason, international campers will require a local emergency contact who is able to travel to camp to pick them up.**



### Tuck Shop\*

Our camp tuck shop provides a great opportunity for campers to take home camp gear or souvenirs of their camp experience. All campers have an opportunity to visit our tuck shop with their group at least once a week. Items you might find in the Tuck Shop include t-shirts, hoodies, hats, water bottles, magnets, and so forth. Prices of items range from \$2 to \$50. Please note that prices and stock are subject to change. In addition to swag and souvenirs, campers will also find healthy food and drink options such as popcorn, pretzels and smoothies.

Credit can be added in \$10 increments to your camper's account by including an amount on your registration form or through your profile on the YMCA Community Portal at [mymca.ca](http://mymca.ca). If you have questions, please email our team at [camp.elphinstone@bc.ymca.ca](mailto:camp.elphinstone@bc.ymca.ca). Cash is also accepted but we don't recommend campers travel to camp with cash. Any campers who have a remaining credit of more than \$10.00 will receive a reimbursement at the end of the 2023 summer session. Credits on camper's accounts under \$10 will be donated to our **COMMUNITY** Campaign to help send a kid to camp.

The YMCA **COMMUNITY** Campaign funding is used to provide financial assistance to families and individuals who otherwise can't afford to participate.

*\*Tuck Credits must be added at least 2 business days before camper arrives at camp*



## Contact with Camp

### By Mail:

Everyone enjoys receiving mail, so please write! Mail is picked up every day and delivered to your camper by cabin group. **Send letters prior to or during the first few days of camp to ensure delivery to one-week campers.** Letters arriving after your child has gone home will be sent 'return to sender', so please make sure you use a return address!

Letters should be addressed:

*Camper's Name and Session  
c/o YMCA Camp Elphinstone  
1760 YMCA Road  
Gibsons, BC V0N 1V6*

### By Email:

Families are also welcome to send a letter to their camper via email to ensure it arrives on time. If you would like to send an email to your camper please address it to [campermail@bc.ymca.ca](mailto:campermail@bc.ymca.ca) and our office staff will print it out and ensure its delivery. There is not an email response option to this method and camp will not be confirming that emails/ messages have been delivered. Please clearly state your camper Name and Session in the subject line of your email.

### Office Phone (for emergencies only):

For emergencies that require you to contact your child, please call 604-886-2025 and we will be happy to assist you. We do not recommend calling your child unless absolutely necessary! Please don't sacrifice your child's enjoyment and inclusion in programming for anything but an emergency.

### Phone:

There are no phones available for regular camper use at camp. Rest assured that "no news is good news" and your child is busy having fun at camp. If there are any problems, YMCA staff will contact you.

If a camper requests to call home, they will be permitted to make a call from the office during the day.

**Please do not send cell phones with your camper as they frequently have a negative impact on the camp experience AND will be taken away until the camper is returning home.**

While your child is on out-trip, they will NOT be reachable under any circumstances other than an emergency. We will have contact with the out-trippers at the nightly check-in.

## Transferring Camp Sessions Policy

You will need to contact our office at least 1 week prior to your camper's arrival at camp in order to transfer to another camp session. Please call our camp office at 604-886-2025.



## Transportation — Getting to Camp

Parents/guardians are required to sign campers in with YMCA staff at each location. Please advise us if the person picking up your child differs from the person who dropped them off. For your child's safety, every person who may pick up your child **MUST** be listed on our sign-in forms and they must be prepared to show government photo identification. **If you need to add a name to your authorized pick up person(s), please email [camps@bc.ymca.ca](mailto:camps@bc.ymca.ca).**

The scheduled arrival and departure times below are very important as they enable our staff to structure important first and last days of the session, in order to best benefit each camper group. For your child's safety, if you wish to change your transportation selection, **we require written notification of the change 5 business days prior to the camp session start date**—please email the camp office at [camps@bc.ymca.ca](mailto:camps@bc.ymca.ca).

If you are unable to make the scheduled time on pick up day, please contact the camp office at 604-886-2025.

Please note that bus and ferry times are subject to BC Ferries summer sailing schedule and may change. We will provide you with notification should this occur.

**Drop Off/Pick Up at YMCA Camp Elphinstone, Gibsons, B.C.:**

If you are dropping your child off directly at YMCA Camp Elphinstone...

- Drop Off: Between 12:30 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Sunday  
(No lunch is provided on first day of camp for campers dropped off directly at camp)
- Pick Up: Between 9:45 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. on Friday.

**Drop Off/Pick Up at Horseshoe Bay Ferry Terminal:**

If you are dropping your child off at Horseshoe Bay ferry terminal...

- Drop Off: 10:00 a.m. on Sunday
- Pick Up: 11:30 a.m. on Friday

When you arrive at the ferry terminal, please look for YMCA staff who will direct you the appropriate area—we will direct campers and families to the grassy knoll by the water directly behind the ferry terminal. Sign in will take a little bit of time and parents/guardians are required to stay with their child until they have been through the sign in process. **Please do not purchase a ferry ticket as this is included in your registration fees.**

**Reminder:**

Families are provided with two options for arrivals to and departures from camp: “Own Transportation” and “Horseshoe Bay.” If you selected **Own Transportation**, please know that camp will be expecting you to drop off and pick up your camper at YMCA Camp Elphinstone directly within the designated drop off/pick-up window. If you selected **Horseshoe Bay**, your registration fee included a round-trip fare to and from camp, with arrivals and departures occurring at the Horseshoe Bay Ferry Terminal. If you need to make a change to this selection, please contact our customer service agents at 604.886.2025. Additionally, please know that the selection you made for transportation applies to BOTH arrival and departure. If you would like to make special arrangements and proceed with a combination of these options, you must contact our customer service agents directly and inform camp staff at the sign-in table on the first day of camp.



## Directions to YMCA Camp Elphinstone

YMCA Camp Elphinstone is located on the beautiful Sunshine Coast, just two kilometres north of the Langdale ferry terminal on the shores of Howe Sound and a 40-minute ferry ride from Horseshoe Bay in West Vancouver. To get to Horseshoe Bay ferry terminal, take Highway 1 westbound from Vancouver and follow signs for Horseshoe Bay in West Vancouver. If your child is taking the ferry with camp staff, they will be signed in and out in the walk-on passenger area (there will be staff and signage to help direct you to the right location).

YMCA Camp Elphinstone is a 2 km walk or a three-minute drive from the Langdale Ferry terminal. After departing the terminal, turn right at the lights and follow Port Mellon Highway to YMCA Road (first road on the right). Follow YMCA Road until you see the YMCA Camp Elphinstone sign. Check in at the upper parking lot/Mackenzie Hall.

