

Camp Programs

Yowochas 2026 Summer Camp

YWCA Camp Yowochas prides itself on being **a place to return**. We believe summer camp should tell a story – a story of growth, adventure, learning, and, of course, fun!

Our summer camp programs are designed for campers to keep coming back, experiencing more with each visit as they grow. Eventually, they have the chance to become counsellors themselves, using their experiences to guide the next generation through camp.

Camp Programs include:

- Explorers (ages 6-7)
- Discoverers (ages 8-12)
- Prospectors (ages 13-14)
- Voyageurs (ages 14-15)
- Leaders in Training (*LIT*) (ages 16-17)
- Counsellors in Training (*CIT*) (age 17)



“Camp Yowochas is a tradition in my family. We've also recommended it to friends whose children took the leadership training as well. My eldest found the camp experience to be priceless in terms of what she learned.”



Explorers

Ages: 6-7 | Cost: \$695

Length: 5 days (Mon. – Fri.)

Available: Sessions 1,3,5,7

Explorers is an introductory program designed for our youngest overnight campers, offering a fun and supportive introduction to camp life. Campers will participate in a variety of activities that foster a love of nature and outdoor adventure. To ensure a positive and enjoyable experience, we provide a higher staff-to-camper ratio for this age group. The Explorers program includes shared accommodations in mixed-gender groups, ensuring a welcoming and inclusive environment for every camper.

Discoverers

Ages: 8-12

Cost: \$710

Length: 5 days (Mon. – Fri.)

Sessions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 (gendered groups)

Discoverers will have the opportunity to learn a variety of skills through activities such as archery, canoeing, challenge course elements, swimming, and hiking, among others. Throughout the week, campers will also enjoy camp-wide games, nightly campfires, and a special out-trip on Wednesday night. These experiences help Discoverers build independence, foster a deep appreciation for the outdoors, and create lasting memories to take home. Please note that this program is gender-specific, with groups designated for either boys or girls, and those who identify with each gender in those groups.



Prospectors

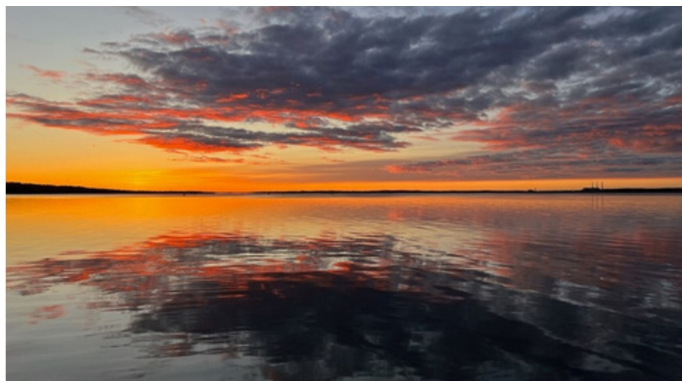
Ages: 13-14

Cost: \$725

Length: 5 days (Mon. – Fri.);

Available: Sessions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 (gendered groups)

Our Prospectors program gives campers the chance to stretch themselves through a wide mix of activities, supported by their peers and guided by their counsellors. Prospectors stay in our Hilltop Cabins and bravely tackle the iconic 91 Stairs of Doom, a rite of passage for many returning campers. They'll also take part in an overnight out-trip, where they can build outdoor skills, share stories around the fire, and create the kind of memories that last long after summer ends. Every activity is shaped to build teamwork and independence, helping campers grow in confidence as they explore the outdoors. Guided moments of journaling and mindfulness help them slow down and take in the full experience. This program is gender-specific, with groups designated for boys or girls, including campers who identify as such.



Voyageurs

Ages: 14 – 15

Cost: \$1,575

Length: 12 days (Mon. – second Fri.)

Available: June 29 - July 10 | July 13 - July 24 |

July 27 - August 7 | August 10 - August 21



What's better than one week of camp? Two weeks of camp, of course. The Voyageurs program gives both returning campers and newcomers a longer, 12-day experience filled with adventure and the chance to build stronger connections. This program is fully co-ed, with shared activities and co-ed living quarters, all supervised to ensure a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment. As older campers, Voyageurs will stay in our Yurt, which adds a sense of independence and a bit of extra excitement to their time at camp.

Voyageurs will take part in a variety of advanced programming, including high ropes elements, in-depth canoe lessons, and moments of self-reflection through journaling and mindfulness. The extended time together helps campers settle in, build meaningful friendships, and grow more confident as they try new challenges. They will also use the skills they've learned on a multi-night out-trip, pushing their boundaries and creating memories that will stay with them long after summer ends.

Leaders in Training (LIT)

Ages: 16 – 17

Cost: \$1,575

Length: 12 days (Mon. – second Fri.)

Available: June 29 - July 10 | July 13 - July 24

After a 7-year hiatus, we're excited to bring back our Leadership in Training (LIT) program. This 2-week experience is designed for older campers who love camp life and want to grow their skills and confidence without necessarily becoming a counsellor. The program is split into two streams:

Leaders in Wilderness (June 29 - July 10)

For campers who feel most at home in the outdoors. Participants will dig into wilderness and survival skills, learning advanced shelter building, fire crafting, orienteering, and land-based learning, with plenty of classic camp fun along the way. They'll head out on a 3-day backpacking hike in Nordegg where they can put their skills to the test, bond with their group, and create unforgettable memories.

Modern Leaders (July 13 - July 24)

For campers ready to level up their real-world skills. Through hands-on workshops in financial literacy, healthy relationships, public speaking, and more, participants will gain tools that support success beyond camp. They'll also get a taste of independence with basic cooking lessons and a friendly cooking competition. To top it off, each participant will shadow a camp role, whether kitchen, counsellor, office, or maintenance, to see how leadership works behind the scenes.

Whether campers choose to lead in the wilderness or in the modern world, the LIT program helps them build confidence, character, and lifelong skills while keeping the camp magic alive.

NEW

Counsellors in Training (CIT)

Ages: 17 (Must be 17 by July 1, 2026)

Cost: \$2200

Length: 25 days

Available: July 27 - August 21

Camp Yowochas has a long tradition of offering strong leadership training programs. We believe in respecting ourselves, others, and the environment, and in the ripple effect that happens when someone shows what it really means to lead. We know every young person has the potential to be a leader and often has more in them than they realize.

Participants spend their time preparing to lead children in the outdoors. The first week follows the rhythm of our summer staff training, with added sessions on problem-solving, behaviour management, and communication skills. During this time, CITs (Counsellors in Training) also earn their certification in standard first aid and CPR.

In the second week, CITs will shadow experienced counsellors for a few days, experiencing camp programs from a staff perspective. The second half of the week is spent on a multi-day out-trip focused on group bonding, responsibility, and reflection.

New for this year, CITs will remain at camp for the full month rather than heading home for a weekend break. On Saturday, August 8, we will host a family visiting day and invite families to join us for the afternoon and a family supper to connect with their campers and see what they have been working on.

Weeks three and four offer a full shadowing experience. CITs work alongside the same group for the entire week and put the lessons from the first half of the program into practice. Having two shadow weeks gives a more accurate picture of camp life and allows CITs to grow with feedback and hands-on experience.

The CIT program will be based at the hilltop Retreat Cabin. The program is co-ed, including the sleeping quarters, while maintaining a safe and supportive environment for everyone.

Note: To apply for this program, a CIT Application Form must be completed and submitted by March 1, 2026. The form can be obtained from the Camp Yowochas website or office.

All applicants must participate in a screening process. Contact us for information about CIT scholarships.



2026 Session Dates

Each week of summer camp has a unique theme that inspires a story to guide us through the week. The theme is woven into our mealtimes, campfire skits, wide games, and our Thursday night banquet dinner, where we decorate the dining hall and dress up. If you'd like to join in the dress-up fun, feel free to bring along a costume! Themes will be emailed to summer camp families before the start of Session 1.

Session 1: June 29 - July 3

Session 2: July 6-10

Session 3: July 13-17

Session 4: July 20-24

Session 5: July 27 - July 31

Session 6: August 3-7

Session 7: August 10-14

Session 8: August 17-21

Please note: All camp sessions are subject to availability and may be cancelled without notice prior to registration opening in January.



CAMP YOWOCHAS MERCHANDISE

You can now bring a piece of Camp Yowochas home with you! From cozy hoodies to fun camp swag, our Yowochas merchandise is the perfect way to keep the camp spirit alive all year long. You can easily purchase items at our on-site Tuck Shop using credit or debit, or conveniently add them to your online registration during checkout. Visit our website for more details, and don't miss the chance to show off your Yowochas pride.

WHAT CAMP FAMILIES ARE SAYING

🏕️ **97%** of camp families would recommend Camp Yowochas to another family.

🏕️ **97%** of camp families are highly satisfied with their camp experience.

“We like Camp Yowochas so much we plan our whole summer around it and drive back from BC so our kids can attend.”



Registration Information

(applies to all camp bookings)

Registration for 2026 Summer Camp opens on January 12 for returning families and on January 19 for new families. Registration for all other camp programs opens for everyone at 10:00 am on January 12, 2026.

Registration for 2026 will begin with a non-refundable, non-transferable deposit of \$50 per registration. Once your registered program is confirmed for 2026, an email will be sent to families with instructions on how to return to the online registration portal to pay the remaining balance. Families will have until April 30, 2026 to pay the complete balance, you can in installments as long as full payment is received by April 30. If the balance is not paid, the registration will be cancelled, and the spot will become available to others.

- Registration opens at 10:00 am on January 12 for returning families and at 10:00 am on January 19 for new families.
- A \$50 deposit per registration is required. The deposit is non-refundable and non-transferable.
- You can register online, by phone or by email.
- We accept payments via Visa, MasterCard or cheque.
- Final Summer Camp payments are due by April 30, 2026.
- Registrations made less than 30 days before the program start date must be paid in full by Visa or MasterCard.
- GST will be added to all payments.
- T-shirts are included in the cost of registration.
- Registration packages will be sent via email in PDF format.
- Please check your junk or spam folder to ensure you don't miss any emails from us.

Camper Subsidy Fund: Camp Yowochas offers a Camper Subsidy Fund to assist families who may not be able to afford the full fees. Please see the following page for more information.



Register Now

www.yowochas.campbrainregistration.com

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations made up to 30 days before the program start date will receive a full refund, minus a \$50 administration fee. For cancellations made less than 30 days prior to the program's start, no refunds will be provided unless a doctor's note is submitted. Additionally, no refunds will be given to campers who are sent home for any reason once the camp session has begun. Camp Yowochas reserves the right to cancel programs due to insufficient registration or to ensure the health and safety of campers and staff. In such cases, a full refund will be provided.

Please note, for campers with pre-existing respiratory conditions, we cannot control or predict air quality during wildfire season. Refunds will not be issued for pre-existing conditions, so we kindly ask families to plan accordingly and consider their child's health needs when registering.



Campership Subsidy Fund

The **YWCA Camp Yowochas Campership Subsidy Fund** helps families facing financial challenges make summer camp possible for their children.

Our subsidy process was updated for the 2025 season and will remain the same for 2026. These guidelines help us share support as fairly as we can while demand continues to grow:

- Most subsidies cover **only a portion of camp fees**. Think of it as a scholarship that helps reduce the overall cost.
- Each camper is eligible for **one camp subsidy per year** and, if approved, can register for one camp session annually.
- All families must pay the **\$50 camp registration fee** to register their camper, without exception.
- Subsidies are limited and not guaranteed. Approval is based on **demonstrated financial need and available funding**.

For more information, please email:
campership@ywcaedm.org

Subsidy Timelines

November 14, 2025: Subsidy applications open.

December 14, 2025: Final date to submit subsidy applications in full.

December 23, 2025: Families will be notified if they have been approved for a 2026 subsidy and the amount awarded.

January 9, 2026: Deadline for families to confirm whether they will use their approved subsidy amount. Once a family accepts the subsidy and agrees to pay the remaining balance by April 30, YWCA Camp Yowochas will register their child(ren) for summer camp.

Help Make Summer Camp Possible for All

At YWCA Camp Yowochas, we believe that every child deserves the chance to experience the joy, growth, and adventure of summer camp – regardless of their financial situation. For many families, sending their children to camp can be a significant financial strain, but thanks to the generosity of donors like you, the **Campership Subsidy Fund** helps bridge the gap.

Your gift can make all the difference. Even a small contribution can help cover a portion of camp fees for a family in need, ensuring that more children get the opportunity to create cherished memories in the safe and welcoming environment of Camp Yowochas. When you donate to the Campership Subsidy Fund, you are empowering a new generation of campers to experience the magic of camp – an experience that can shape their confidence, independence, and sense of belonging for years to come.

Please consider donating to the Campership Subsidy Fund when you register your child or contact our office to explore other ways you can help make camp a reality for deserving children in our community.



Donate to the
Campership
Subsidy Fund