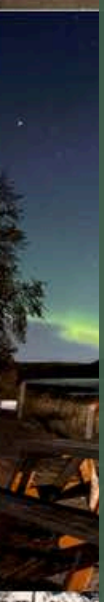


YWCA EDMONTON | CAMP YOWOCHAS YWCA EST. 1916 a place to return

2027

Summer Camp Guide







A Message from YWCA Edmonton's CEO and Camp Manager

Dear Families,

Summer camp at YWCA Edmonton's Camp Yowochas is more than an unplugged, screen-free experience. **It's MAGICAL.**

At YWCA Edmonton, our mission is to build a safer, stronger, and more equitable community through leadership, education, and empowerment. At Camp Yowochas, we bring that vision to life on the traditional lands of Treaty 6 Territory and the Métis Homeland of Region 4. We are thrilled to watch campers explore and stay active in nature, try new things, and discover the strength within themselves to build independence and lasting confidence. Camp is a safe, inclusive community where children of all backgrounds feel a true sense of belonging — whether they are canoeing on Lake Wabamun, singing karaoke in the main lodge, or roasting marshmallows over the campfire.

Summer 2027 promises to forge even more core childhood memories!

Throughout the season, campers will embark on innovative adventures designed to spark imagination, curiosity, and empathy. Along the way, they will practice shared stewardship of the land and develop valuable life skills including teamwork, leadership, resilience, and problem-solving — all while having an unforgettable time in the great outdoors.

Explore this Summer Camp Guide for everything you need to know about the 2027 Camp Yowochas season, including camp offerings, registration details, and our Campership Subsidy program. On behalf of YWCA Edmonton, we can't wait to welcome your camper for a summer filled with discovery, inclusion, and a little bit of magic!

Sincerely,

Rachel Foley
CEO, YWCA Edmonton

Clare Watson
Senior Manager - Camp Yowochas, YWCA Edmonton



Camp Yowochas has been proudly owned & operated by YWCA Edmonton since 1916.

YWCA Edmonton is a community leader in advocacy, counselling services, disability services, and youth programming in the Edmonton region. Through education, empowerment, and a community-centric approach to supporting individuals and families, **YWCA Edmonton inspires leaders to advocate for equity in our community.**

Camp Yowochas offers programs for:

- Outdoor recreation
- Leadership development
- Environmental education

All programs:

- Foster leadership and teamwork skills
- Boost confidence, self-esteem, and encourage stepping out of comfort zones
- Strengthen interpersonal relationships and build lasting friendships
- Cultivate an appreciation for nature and land-based learnings
- Promote character development and instill strong values
- Offer a valuable break from technology
- Are fun and educational

Join Our Team!

Would you like the opportunity to work at Camp Yowochas this spring or summer and help shape the future of youth?

Apply Online

Or email us at **yowochas@ywcaedm.org** for more details.

At Camp Yowochas, we pledge to...

- **Cultivate empathy and deep respect** for self, one another, and our shared responsibility to care for the land.
- **Recognize and celebrate the unique strengths of every camper**, sparking courage, leadership, and innovation through sustainable outdoor programs.
- **Lead with heart to nurture the whole person** — body, mind, and spirit — building a safe, inclusive, and equitable community where all voices and abilities are valued.



DID YOU KNOW?
The name "Yowochas" comes from the first two letters of each word in YWCA Edmonton's previous name: **Yo**ung **Wo**men's **Ch**ristian **As**sociation. We are now a fully secular organization with no religious affiliation.

A Brief History of Camp Yowochas

YWCA Edmonton began offering summer camp experiences in 1916 and families quickly embraced the chance for girls to learn new skills, spend time outdoors, and build confidence. In the late 1940s, the organization began building a camp facility at its current location along the shores of beautiful Lake Wabamun.

Camp Yowochas officially opened in 1953 with a handful of rustic cabins and a cook shack in a simple lakeside setting, which became the heart of many summer memories. Over the years, the site grew with the support of YWCA Edmonton volunteers, donors, and community partners. New cabins, a dining hall, a recreation hall, and waterfront facilities were added to meet the needs of growing programs. By the mid 1960s, the camp was bustling with swimming, canoeing, crafts, out-trips, and leadership activities that shaped generations of campers.

A major wave of development in the early 1980s created the foundation for the summer camp and year-round outdoor education centre guests enjoy today. New buildings and expanded program areas welcomed more young people and offered a wider range of experiences.

Today Camp Yowochas remains a place where campers can explore the outdoors, build confidence and independence, and discover their full potential. It is a place where friendships take root, where trying something new feels possible, and where every camper feels connected to something meaningful.

YWCA Edmonton is proud to carry the Camp Yowochas legacy forward, offering an experience that continues to inspire joy, curiosity, and a lifelong love of the outdoors.













Location & Facilities

Located 80 km west of Edmonton, YWCA Edmonton's Camp Yowochas is situated on 60 acres of Aspen parkland forest and wetlands with lakeside facilities on Lake Wabamun.

Accommodations range from tents, a yurt, and the Hilltop Cabins for older campers to modern dormitories equipped with heating for younger campers. Indoor washrooms and showers are available for all guests. The waterfront boasts a fleet of more than 50 boats including canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddle boards. We also have low ropes activities, a climbing wall, archery ranges and many kilometers of hiking trails.

Camp Yowochas provides a beautiful base for any outdoor adventure!



*Currently closed for the 2027 camp season (subject to change)

Health & Safety

The health and safety of every guest at Camp Yowochas is of the utmost importance.

We ensure:

- 24-hour supervision
- A minimum of one Counsellor and one Assistant Counsellor per group
- All waterfront activities are supervised by Lifesaving Society certified lifeguards or certified boating instructors
- The mandatory wearing of a personal flotation device for all boating activities
- Staff receive comprehensive safety training including emergency procedures
- A team of resource/support staff to assist Counsellors 24 hours a day
- First aiders are available at all times *(Note: The Stony Plain Hospital is only a 30-minute drive away from camp.)*
- Healthy and nutritious meals *(allergies and special diets can be accommodated with advance notice)*

Accommodations

The Lodge is our main building and includes dormitory-style bedrooms, administrative offices, dining hall, kitchen, washrooms, and our wellness center. It accommodates up to 50 people.

The Dumbledorm is located right next to the Lodge and has dormitory-style bedrooms and washrooms. It accommodates up to 52 people.

The Fox Den is a heated cabin located right across from the Lodge, accommodating up to 12 people.

The Yurt is located just down a trail from the Lodge and can accommodate up to 14 people.

The Hilltop Cabins are located at the top of the 91 Stairs of Doom. There are 4 cabins that accommodate 8 people each.

9 Campsites are located up the hill – three surround the Hilltop Cabins and the other six are located in the survival area. Each campsite accommodates four to 12 people.

Staff

Camp Yowochas staff members demonstrate a genuine interest in helping children grow and develop through outdoor experiences. All program staff, including Counsellors, hold Standard First Aid and CPR certification, and are each required to meet YWCA Edmonton security screening standards.

Staff have previous experience leading children — perhaps as a part-time job, volunteer work, or camping — and many are former summer campers returning to Camp Yowochas to continue developing their leadership and early employment skills.

Before campers arrive, staff receive an intense week-long training session, covering everything from health, hygiene, and safety to bullying prevention, program planning, and dealing with homesickness.

Camp Yowochas Outdoor Activities

Land

- Initiatives
- Shelter Building
- Orienteering
- Nature Hike
- Wetlands Exploration
- Low Ropes
- Climbing Wall
- Archery
- Fire Building
- Sauna
- Outdoor Cooking

Water

- Canoeing
- Voyageur Canoeing
- Stand Up Paddle Boarding
- Sit On Top Kayaking
- Polar Dip

Winter

- Cross Country Skiing
- Quinzhee Building
- Curling
- Ice Skating
- Snowshoeing

Group Activities

- Survival Game
- Capture the Flag
- Wide Game
- Large Group Initiatives
- High Energy Games



Outdoor Education & Group Use

Camp Yowochas operates year-round, offering a welcoming space and diverse program opportunities for adults and children such as:

- Teachers' retreats
- Professional development days
- Team-building
- Outdoor skill-building
- Indigenous workshops
- Corporate retreats

We welcome groups ranging from 20 to 150 participants and offer a customizable itinerary tailored to create the perfect outdoor education experience for your team. Our kitchen service also accommodates all dietary needs, ensuring a comfortable and inclusive experience for everyone.

To book your group at Camp Yowochas, please contact us at **outdoored@ywcaedm.org**.

Yowochas 2027 Summer Camp

YWCA Edmonton's 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.

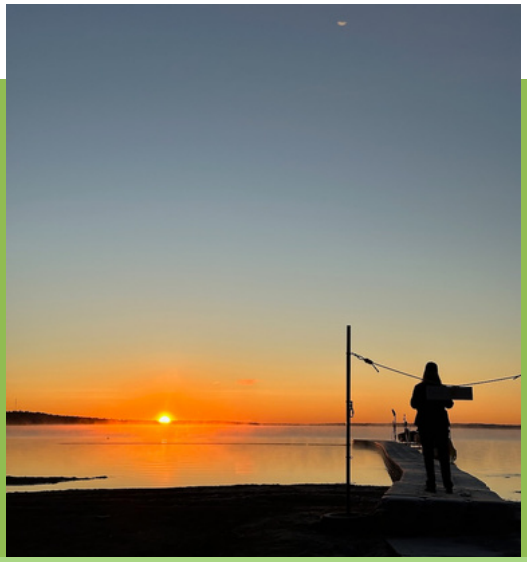
Camp Programs include:

- Discoverers (ages 8-12)
- Prospectors (ages 13-14)
- Voyageurs (ages 14-15)

Note: The Explorers, Leaders in Training, and Counsellors in Training programs have been paused for the 2027 season as programming is revamped for 2028.







"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."



Discoverers

Ages: 8-12
Cost: $840 (Sessions 1-5, 7 & 8); **$672** (Session 6)
Length: 5 days, Mon - Fri (Session 6 is 4 days)
Availability: All sessions (gendered groups)

Discoverers will build skills through archery, canoeing, challenge course elements, swimming, and hiking, along with plenty of classic camp fun. Throughout the week, campers take part in camp-wide games, and nightly campfires. These experiences help Discoverers grow in independence, deepen their appreciation for the outdoors, and create the kind of memories they'll talk about long after summer ends. Though groups are designated for boys and girls, gender-diverse youth are welcome to join the cohort in which they feel most comfortable.

Prospectors

Ages: 13-14
Cost: $875 (Sessions 1-5, 7 & 8)**; $700** (Session 6)
Length: 5 days, Mon - Fri (Session 6 is 4 days)
Availability: All sessions (gendered groups)

The Prospectors program challenges campers to stretch themselves while 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 returning campers. They'll also build outdoor skills, share stories around the fire, and create lasting memories. Each activity is designed 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. Though groups are designated for boys and girls, gender-diverse youth are welcome to join the cohort in which they feel most comfortable.



Voyageurs

Ages: 14-15
Cost: $950
Length: 5 days, Mon. – Fri.
Availability: Sessions 1, 3, 5 & 7 (co-ed groups)

This fully co-ed program is designed for both new and returning campers who are ready for a more advanced, independent camp experience. It features shared activities and supervised co-ed living quarters in The Yurt. Throughout the week, campers will challenge themselves, gain confidence, and build friendships through advanced outdoor and canoe skill development and self-reflection activities. At the end of the week, Voyageurs will face an epic, Amazing Race*-style final challenge! Teams will race against the clock, decoding clues, navigating checkpoints, and tackling physical and mental roadblocks that put all their newly acquired skills to the ultimate test. Relying on strategy, quick thinking, and teamwork, campers will sprint toward the finish line to celebrate everything they accomplished together!*



Please Note: Pricing does not include GST

2027 Sessions & Themes

For Discoverers and Prospectors, each week of summer camp has a theme that sets the stage for a story we follow throughout the week. The theme shows up at our mealtimes, campfire skits, camp-wide games, and the Thursday night banquet dinner, when we decorate the dining hall and dress up together. If they wish, campers are welcome to bring a costume from home to join in on the dress-up fun!



ARTS WEEK
Session 1: June 28 - July 2
Session 5: July 26 - July 30

Create, design, and inspire! Campers will explore their artistic side through a variety of fun and collaborative creative activities. All week long, campers will turn big ideas into works of art while practicing teamwork, gaining confidence, and building friendships. Whether they dream of taking centre stage, love to tell stories, have a knack for arts and crafts, or express themselves through music, this week will be filled with laughter, imagination, and unforgettable moments.



TIME TRAVEL WEEK
Session 2: July 5 - 9
Session 6: August 3 - 6

Time has shattered at Camp Yowochas! Your camper is invited by the Time Assembly to come and help fix the fissure that has opened at camp – and prevent it from spreading to the rest of the world. Each time they lay their heads to rest, they'll wake up in another era where they must hunt for dinosaur eggs, fight through medieval times, and more. But they must act quickly, the time fissure must be fixed before they leave camp at the end of the week. Is your camper up to the task?



MAD SCIENCE WEEK
Session 3: July 12 - 16
Session 7: August 9 - 13

Grab the lab coats and get ready for a week of wild experiments and scientific discovery! Campers will explore the fascinating world of science through hands-on experiments, explosive reactions, creative inventions, and exciting challenges. From mixing mysterious concoctions and launching catapults to discovering the wonders of chemistry and physics, every day is packed with curiosity, creativity, and fun. Campers will think like scientists, experiment like inventors, and unleash their inner mad scientist!



SURVIVOR WEEK
Session 4: July 19 - 23
Session 8: August 16 - 20

Welcome to Survivor Week, where your camper will step into a world of ultimate strategy, teamwork, and epic challenges. Campers will be assigned to groups for the week in a camp-wide challenge. They'll hunt for immunity and advantage tokens to benefit their group through the week. Not to worry: no campers will be voted 'off the island.' Rather a torch lighting ceremony will uplift and encourage campers in their cabin. Fast-paced, collaborative, and incredibly fun — has your camper got what it takes?

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









Camp Yowochas Merchandise

Keep the camp spirit going all year round with our Camp Yowochas merchandise, including:

- Hoodies
- Classic camp T-shirts
- Water bottles
- Stickers
- and more!

New items are added each year, so there's always something fresh to discover. Youth and adult sizes are available, so treat yourself as well as your camper!

Items can be purchased at our on-site Tuck Shop using credit or debit card. Or order merchandise during your online registration checkout and take advantage of a discount on hoodies!

Orders will be sent home with your camper at the end of their session so they can wear it proudly the rest of the summer.

"Camp Yowochas was phenomenal. I can't imagine having the energy as a parent or the resources to do all those activities individually with my kids over the course of a year let alone all crammed into one week. Its truly incredible all the organization it must take."





Registration Information

(applies to all camp bookings)

2027 Summer Camp Registration Open Dates

January 11, 2027 - Returning families

January 25, 2027 - New families

- **A $50 deposit per registration is required; this is non-refundable and non-transferable.**
- You can register online, by phone or by email.
- We accept payments via Visa, MasterCard or cheque.
- Registrations made less than 30 days before the program start date must be paid in full by Visa or MasterCard.
- All registration fees are subject to GST and a $25 administrative fee.
- An annual Camp Yowochas T-shirt is included with each camper's registration fee.
- Digital registration packages will be emailed to families in PDF format.
- **Final Summer Camp payments are due by March 15, 2027.**

Registration Confirmation: Once your registered program is confirmed for 2027, families will receive an email with instructions on how to return to the online registration portal to pay the remaining balance. Please check your junk or spam folder to ensure you don't miss any emails from us.

Fee Payment: Fees may be paid in installments as long as the full balance is received by March 15, 2027. Due to high demands, if the balance is not paid by this date, the registration will be cancelled and the spot will be offered to another family.

Register Online Now!

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations made up to 30 days before the program start date will receive a full refund, minus a $50 administration fee. Cancellations made less than 30 days before the start date are not refundable unless a doctor's note is provided. Once a camp session has begun, no refunds will be issued if a camper is sent home for any reason. YWCA Edmonotn reserves the right to cancel Camp Yowochas programs due to low registration or to protect the health and safety of campers and staff. In such cases, a full refund will be provided.

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

Campership Subsidy Fund

At YWCA Edmonton, we believe that every child deserves the chance to experience the joy, growth, and adventure of Camp Yowochas — regardless of their financial situation.

Apply for a Subsidy

Through the **Campership Subsidy Fund**, we are pleased to offer financial assistance to families who may need help covering the full fees for summer camp.

- Most subsidies cover **a portion of camp fees.** (Think of it as a bursary that helps reduce the overall cost of registration.)
- 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 — no exceptions.
- Subsidies are limited and not guaranteed. Approval is based on **demonstrated financial need and available funding.**

For more information, please email us at campership@ywcaedm.org.

Subsidy Timelines

November 16, 2026
Subsidy applications open

December 16, 2026
Application deadline

December 23, 2026
Notification of subsidy approvals

January 5, 2027
Deadline for families to confirm use of the approved subsidy amount

Once a family accepts the subsidy and agrees to pay the remaining balance of camp fees by March 15, 2027, their child(ren) will be registered for summer camp.

Help Make Summer Camp Possible for All

Donate to the Campership Fund

The Campership Subsidy Fund is made possible by the generosity of YWCA Edmonton donors. **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 their children have the opportunity to create cherished memories while building their confidence, independence, and sense of belonging.

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



Creating Safe and Inclusive Spaces for All

Gender Inclusivity and Equity

YWCA Edmonton is dedicated to fostering an environment at Camp Yowochas where every camper feels seen, respected, and valued. We believe in equity and inclusivity, offering all campers the opportunity to participate in the group that best reflects their gender identity. Our goal is to ensure that everyone has an enriching and supportive camp experience. If you have any questions or would like more information about our commitment to gender inclusivity, please contact us.

Cabin Assignments

All cabin groups may be moved to a flex cabin at the discretion of camp staff. This helps us balance group sizes, maintain safety, and provide the best overall experience for everyone.

Camper Communications

Camp Yowochas is a device-free zone for ALL summer campers. **Please do not send digital devices with your child.** If you'd like to contact your camper during the week, you may email us and we will deliver emails to campers at the end of each day. In an emergency, you can call the camp office directly to speak with your camper. Campers are discouraged from calling home for non-emergency reasons, as this often increases homesickness.

Illness at Camp

For the health and safety of the whole camp community, sick campers will have to go home. If your camper is feeling better later in the week, they are welcome to return. Please note that refunds are not issued for illness.

Showers

A common question we receive is, *"When can my camper shower?"* At Camp Yowochas, campers may shower either in the morning before programming starts or in the evening after campfire — they simply need to inform their counsellor. Additionally, every camper is scheduled for a mandatory shower on Thursdays, which we refer to as "International Shower Day."

Activities at Camp

With more than 100 campers on-site each week and so many activities running simultaneously, schedules vary from group to group. While every cabin cohort experiences a full range of camp fun, we cannot guarantee that every camper will participate in every activity during their stay. Our goal is to make sure all campers enjoy a balanced and meaningful week.

Camp Photos

During each weekly camp session, our counsellors and staff do their best to capture the all fun, excitement, and memories of the camp experience to share with families when campers return home.

In previous years, these photos have been posted online to the Camp Yowochas Facebook page. Beginning in 2027, however, camp families will receive an emailed link to a private Google Drive folder of photos following their child's camp session. This ensures families are able to share in their camper's favourite Yowochas memories while they are still fresh in their minds.



Supporting Camper Well-Being

Behaviour Prevention: 3-Strike Rule

At YWCA Edmonton's Camp Yowochas, we manage over 100 campers each day, and we recognize that each camper comes from a unique background and may have different behaviours. To create a safe and positive environment for everyone, we set clear boundaries and expectations from day one. Campers are involved in creating a cabin contract, which they sign to remind themselves of these expectations, including no swearing, listening to one another and the counsellors, and no bullying.

To help our staff manage behaviour fairly and consistently, we use a 3-strike system:

- **Strike 1:** The camper has a one-on-one conversation with their counsellor to review expectations and reflect on what happened in a supportive, calm setting.
- **Strike 2:** The camper meets with a Camp Yowochas manager, and we contact their parent or guardian so you have the chance to speak with your camper.
- **Strike 3:** If the behaviour continues, the parent or guardian will be called to pick up their camper.

This approach helps campers understand the importance of respecting others and following camp guidelines so that everyone can have a positive experience.

In the event of a camper emergency or behavioural issue, **families MUST be available to pick up their camper during the week.** If we cannot reach a parent or guardian, emergency services may be contacted.

Additional Support Needs

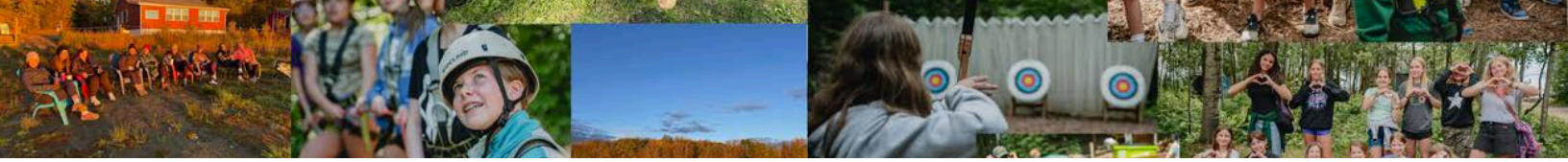
YWCA Edmonton wants every camper to have a successful and enjoyable time at camp, and part of that is being honest about the type of support we can offer. At Camp Yowochas, we are not able to accommodate campers who require an on-site aide or one-to-one support. Our staff are not trained as behaviour specialists and cannot provide the level of care required for complex behavioural or medical needs. If your child needs this type of support, we would be happy to recommend other camps in the region that are designed to offer specialized programs and services for youth who benefit from additional assistance.

Medications

Each camper must arrive with all the medications they need for the week – they cannot be shared between siblings. Prescription medications (including inhalers) can only be administered to the camper to whom they were prescribed. (Tip: Request a blister pack from your pharmacist to avoid the worry of lost medication bottles at camp!)

If you need to update your medication administration form after registration, contact us to reopen edit access in your online account.

For your camper's safety, please do not send them to camp without their prescribed medications or pause medications without medical advice.



Emergency Preparedness

Air Quality

At YWCA Edmonton's Camp Yowochas, we closely monitor air quality every day. It's important to note that air quality at camp is often significantly better than it is in the city. During periods of poor air quality, we adjust our schedule to reduce high-energy activities and provide indoor spaces for respite. Fortunately, many of our activities are not considered high energy.

While we take every precaution to ensure a safe environment, please be aware that YWCA Edmonton is not responsible for pre-existing respiratory conditions or any respiratory issues that may arise due to air quality. Refunds will not be issued for respiratory issues related to poor air quality. We encourage families to consider their camper's health needs when registering for camp.

Emergency Protocols

With the increasing risk of wildfires and severe weather in our province, we have outlined our evacuation plan here to ensure the safety of all campers and staff.

1. **Evacuations:** If Camp Yowochas needs to be evacuated due to a nearby wildfire or other emergency, we ask that you **do NOT go to camp** to pick up your camper under any circumstances. This is to protect the health and safety of our staff, campers, and emergency personnel, as additional vehicles on the roads could interfere with evacuation efforts. We will evacuate all participants and staff by bus. We have an agreement with Golden Arrow Bus Services, which can provide buses within 30 minutes.

2. **Communication with Families:** Once we receive an evacuation order, we will communicate via email with parents/guardians of children at Camp Yowochas. Please avoid calling our phone lines; all communication will be conducted strictly through email. Be sure to check your spam folder, as our emails may end up there. Additionally, check YWCA Edmonton's social media channels for real-time updates.

3. **Muster Point:** Depending on the location of the danger, we will evacuate either east or west, most likely to Edmonton. We will head to the nearest designated evacuation shelter and will provide families with details on where and when to pick up their campers. Rest assured, your campers are safe with us. Our trained staff will oversee their supervision, and we have a detailed plan in place to evacuate our site efficiently. In the event of an emergency, campers will leave their belongings behind to ensure their safety and swift evacuation.

"I recommend Camp Yowochas to all families I meet with children the same age as my child. It is a fun experience and it makes for great memories."





Thank you for your support of YWCA Edmonton & Camp Yowochas!

Make a Donation

Charitable Registration Number: 108227935 RR0001

Connect with Us

YWCA Edmonton
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Camp Yowochas
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yowochas@ywcaedm.org

@CampYowochas

YWCA Edmonton and Camp Yowochas are safe spaces that welcome and support all members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.


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