

## Fact Sheet: About United Church Camping

United Church Camping is the largest residential camping network owned and operated by a religious organization in Canada. We currently operate 63 camps for children, youth, and people of all ages and backgrounds. From coast to coast, in every province and one territory (Yukon), thousands of people come to our camps to live in community, develop leadership skills, experience the outdoors, have fun, and deepen their faith in God.

**All Are Welcome:** United Church Camps are for everyone who loves the outdoors and adventure! All are welcome regardless of age, race, class, gender, orientation, or faith tradition. Campers from Christian and other faiths, as well as non-Christian campers and diverse groups, enjoy the opportunity our camps provide to enrich lives through a greater appreciation of the natural world.

**Our Camps Are Unique:** Our camps are for people of all ages and all backgrounds, offering

- focused time in welcoming communities with opportunities to build wholesome relationships
- recognition of personal gifts, and opportunities to exercise those gifts in community
- holistic ministry that combines the body, mind, and spirit, including faith formation programming
- safe and focused time connecting to the beauty and wonder of God's creation
- leadership development opportunities with models and mentors for young people to follow
- opportunities to rest from the demanding schedules and expectations of our daily lives

**Our Camps Are for Everyone:** Summer programming is offered for children and youth, but camps also offer rental opportunities with a variety of facilities and outdoor experiences for small or large groups seeking to meet and relax for a few days or a week:

- summer camp programs for children, youth, families/parents & tots, and seniors
- retreat opportunities for congregations, presbyteries, and conference offices
- camp sites for individuals, groups, families
- rentals to local businesses, community organizations, and school groups

**Programs and Services:** United Church camps offer a variety of programming and services, including archery, swimming, games, sports, ropes course, adventure camps, wilderness camps, faith formation programming, arts and crafts, climbing walls, boating, worship, and much more!

- *Faith Formation Programming:* At camp, campers learn that faith is lived out as they discover personal meaning; are creative, merciful, and just; develop traditions and rituals; care for creation; practice silence, prayer, meditation, or reflection; and never stop questioning.

**Mandatory Standards:** The United Church's Duty of Care program includes administrative standards and an accreditation process. If you see the "Accredited Camp" logos of the United Church and the provincial camping association, they are your guarantee that the camp meets or exceeds all mandatory standards.

### How to Support United Church Camps and Campers!

- Volunteer your time and expertise, or donate funds directly, by contacting your local camp ([www.united-church.ca/contact/camps](http://www.united-church.ca/contact/camps)).
- Support camps nationally through the Camp Trust Fund administered at the General Council Office. This fund is being grown to support camp capital expenses and the Connections conference. We invite bequests and other contributions to the fund (see contact info below).
- To discover if your local Conference office has a fund for camps, contact them directly ([www.united-church.ca/contact/conferences](http://www.united-church.ca/contact/conferences)).
- Talk to your local camp and your minister about how your congregation can support a local camp, or if you have no camp in your presbytery, how you can support a camp in another presbytery.

A *National Camping Brochure* with the locations of all camps, contact info, programs/services/ facilities, rentals, and accreditation, is available at no charge. Also see [www.united-church.ca/exploring/camping](http://www.united-church.ca/exploring/camping).

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