

The Parent Handbook

Summer Camp 2027

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Who We Are

Origins & Faith

When We Started

Camp Chestermere began as '*Undaunted*', a Sea Cadet Camp built on CPR-donated land in 1937. Camp Chestermere ran its first overnight camps in 1953 and was purchased in 1955 by the Gospel Missionary Association for $8,500, launching what would become a long history of ministry and growth. From simple early programs serving about 70 campers, the site expanded over the decades with new cabins, a gym, triplexes, and major facilities like the wash house and the new lodge (2012). Daycamp was added in 2000, and the Camp Chestermere Association—now an independent, non-denominational Christian ministry—assumed ownership in 1991. Today, the camp hosts several weeks of summer programs plus year-round retreats, school groups, and events. From humble beginnings to a thriving ministry, God has continued to bless and grow this little site with a big heart.

Mission and Goals

Camp Chestermere is committed to being a true place of belonging - a community where campers, staff, rental groups, and guests all feel seen, welcomed, and valued. Our mission is to cultivate meaningful relationships, create memorable and transformative experiences, and foster personal growth in every person who steps through our doors. We believe in supporting young people as they learn, lead, and thrive, and in building a camp environment where everyone can discover their strengths and feel at home.

Affirmation of Faith

We Believe in...

1) The Bible - The holy scriptures as originally inspired by God, are unfailing, entirely trustworthy, and the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
2) The Trinity - There is one supreme God, who eternally exists in three co-equal persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

    The Father - God, the Father, almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of each person, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ whom He sent as a sacrifice to find unity with us.

    The Son - The Lord Jesus Christ, His miraculous virgin birth, sinless life, divine miracles, substitutionary death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, intercession and coming return.

The Holy Spirit - The Holy Spirit's presence dwells within believers, to sanctify, guide, teach, fill and empower them to live a life that pleases God and witnesses for Christ.

3) Salvation - That a person cannot be saved from sin through their own efforts, but by grace alone through the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. His sacrifice provides full forgiveness of all sin, a life on earth of joy with Christ, and upon death, eternal life in heaven with God for those who receive Him by faith.
4) Humanity - That humanity, the crowning act of God's good creation, was designed to live in fellowship with God and in loving relationship with each other. God created us in His image and saw that we are a good creation. We are called to be co-rulers with Him over creation. God has given humanity the freedom to choose to do either good or evil, and to accept or reject Him.
5) The Church - is the Body of Christ, composed of those who follow Jesus Christ through faith. All members, locally and globally, work in unity to fulfill His purposes. Through multiple expressions of community, followers of Christ gather together for worship, mutual accountability, discipleship, and participation in the ongoing mission of Jesus. While the church continues to follow a perfect God, its members rely on His mercy and grace as they operate imperfectly in love and unity.
6) Discipleship - Through obedience and faith, commit to grow in holiness as a follower of Christ by being His witness, both in speech and action, to all the world.
7) Eternity - We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His Kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body and final judgment for all from a just and loving God. Amen.

Our Commitment to You

We know how deeply you care for your children, and we consider it a privilege to partner with you in their care. Our team is committed to providing a safe, caring environment where every camper can grow in their faith, have fun, and make memories that last a lifetime.

What We Ask of You

We ask you to trust our team as we work hard to make camp the best possible experience for your child. Communication is key - please share any information about your camper's needs that will help us support them well.

One of the best ways to partner with us is by reading through this handbook. It will help you understand who we are, what your child can expect at camp, and what our staff are - and are not - equipped to handle.

Finally, we ask for your patience and understanding if things don't go exactly as planned. Most campers have a wonderful experience, but occasionally challenges arise. Your grace and partnership help our team and your child learn, grow, and work toward success together.

Our Team

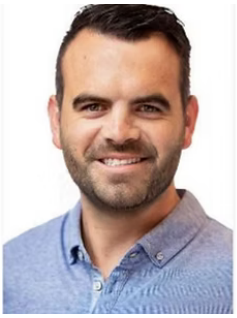
Every summer, we hire 50-100 enthusiastic young people who love working with children and believe in the impact camp can make. We look first and foremost for people of character - individuals with a growing relationship with God, a heart for our mission, and the maturity to care well for children. Many of our staff grew up through our programs, while others join us for the first time each year. While we love hiring locally from Chestermere, most of our team comes from Calgary and the surrounding area. Read below to learn how our staff are carefully screened and trained.

Structure

- Summer Staff: These are our cabin leaders and day camp group leaders - the ones your children will interact with most! Staff are typically 18+ (minimum age 16) and work full-time throughout July and August, creating a safe, fun, and Christ-centered environment for every camper.
- Seasonal Leadership Team (SLT): Usually made up of university students or young adults, this team oversees and supports our seasonal staff. Their roles vary from team leads and lifeguards to office and program coordinators, and they begin work in May to prepare for the summer.
- Year-Round Team (YRT): Our full-time team provides overall leadership and direction for camp operations. They oversee every area of camp life, supporting both seasonal staff and families to ensure a well-organized and meaningful camp experience.

Meet the Year-Round Team

Because our summer staff and leadership teams change from year to year, you'll meet a new crew each season! However, we'd love to introduce you to our year-round team - the people you're most likely to connect with throughout the summer camp experience:

Hi! My name is Alissa Trelerich (camp name ‘Star’), and I’m the Camp Coordinator here at Camp Chestermere. I’ve been part of camp life since 2009 — first as a camper, and over the years in many roles including cabin leader, day camp team lead, and office assistant. I’m passionate about the impact of camp ministry and committed to ensuring every child has a safe, fun, and meaningful experience. You might see me managing logistics during sign-in, supporting our staff team throughout the week, or (on rare occasions) giving you a call if something comes up. I oversee and mentor our seasonal leaders and staff so they can give your kids the best week possible.	
Hi! I’m Cathy Fryer (camp name ‘Kraken’), the Office Administrator at Camp Chestermere. I joined the team in the fall of 2023 from one of our member churches, and I handle all things **office and financial**, keeping everything running smoothly behind the scenes. While I’m not usually out with the kids, you’ll often find staff or campers stopping by my office - my big heart tends to draw everyone in! You’ll likely connect with me when making **camp or Horton’s Hut payments**, or if you have questions about **financial aid**.	
Hi! I’m Kevin Schular (camp name ‘Shuey’), the Executive Director at Camp Chestermere. I joined the camp community in the summer of 2025, coming from Winnipeg where I served as a pastor for many years. I’m responsible for the overall direction of camp, but I love being hands-on and connecting with campers and families whenever I can. You might catch me **playing sports with the kids**, or stopping by during sign-in or sign-out to say hello-I’m always excited to meet new faces and be part of the fun!	

How We Keep Kids Safe

Screening & Training

Our top priority is creating a safe and caring environment for every camper. This begins with a thorough screening and training process for all staff. Each applicant completes an

application and interview, provides at least two character references, and a current background check (a current police background check including a vulnerable sector check for those 18+).

Staff are then required to attend a comprehensive week-long training before camp begins. During this training, staff receive instruction in:

- Roles and responsibilities
- Activity and safety procedures
- Emergency and evacuation protocols
- Managing behavioural challenges
- Spiritual formation (leading devotions, sharing faith with respect, etc.)
- Cleaning and sanitation practices
- Team building and leadership
- Camper care and supervision

While our staff are equipped to support campers through everyday challenges, they are not certified counsellors. We use the title *leader* intentionally to reflect their role as mentors, caregivers, and role models, rather than professional counsellors. They do not have specialized training to deal with more complex situations or serious issues.

Supervision, Visibility, & Privacy Boundaries

We take great care to create an environment that is both safe and respectful for every camper. Our supervision and privacy practices are guided by clear policies that prioritize accountability, visibility, and appropriate boundaries.

Supervision guidelines include:

- To the best of our ability, campers are always supervised, with typical ratios of 1 leader for every 5-6 younger campers, and up to 1:10 for older age groups.
- Staff and volunteers rarely work alone with a single child. Whenever possible, leaders work in pairs, and private conversations are conducted in public view, and when possible, by a same-sex staff member.
- All visitors must check in at the camp office and wear a visible visitor pass.

Privacy guidelines include:

- Campers and staff must change clothes in designated bathroom stalls or private areas.

- All campers and staff are expected to wear clothing that provides appropriate coverage at all times - whether in day-to-day activities, during bedtime in pajamas, or at the waterfront.
    - Staff are directed to ensure their clothing is secure and practical, so it cannot be accidentally pulled off by children during activities, including swimwear. We recommend this standard for campers as well.
- Cabin access is limited to the staff and campers assigned to that space.
- Every person has their own bed; staff do not sit or lie on camper beds.

Emergencies

The safety of our campers and staff is our highest priority. Our team is trained and prepared to respond quickly and effectively to a wide range of emergency situations. We have detailed procedures and plans in place for both minor and major emergencies, and staff are trained to assess each situation based on its severity, location, and available resources.
Our emergency plans cover situations such as:

- Medical incidents or injuries (minor and major)
- Missing or lost persons
- Fire or smoke emergencies (building or grass fire)
- Severe weather, including tornadoes
- Water-related incidents (from flooding to drowning)
- Dangerous persons or threats on site

All staff are trained in emergency communication, evacuation procedures, and camper supervision during any crisis. Families can be assured that safety plans are reviewed regularly and that our staff are well-prepared to respond with care, calm, and professionalism.

Waterfront

The waterfront is one of the most exciting parts of camp - and also one of the areas where safety matters most. Each summer we hire two fully qualified lifeguards who are present and actively supervising anytime campers are at the beach or in the water.

To ensure everyone's safety, we have clear waterfront policies in place:

- Campers are **never permitted** on the beach or in the water unless a lifeguard is on duty and has given permission.
- **Lifejackets are required** for anyone in a kayak, canoe, or powerboat.
- **Children age 7 and under** must wear a lifejacket at all times when in the swimming area.

- All staff are trained in **water search procedures** and basic **spinal support techniques** to assist in an emergency until a lifeguard takes over.

With these measures in place, we aim to ensure that every camper enjoys the waterfront safely and confidently.

Injuries

Even with strong safety practices in place, minor injuries can sometimes happen at camp. The most common incidents include bumps, bruises, small cuts or scrapes (often from games like gaga ball), and mild sprains or strains. These are usually treated onsite by our trained staff, and campers are often able to return to activities shortly after.

If an injury appears more serious, our staff will follow appropriate next steps, which may include:

- Having the camper assessed by our Camp Medic or YRT member with medical training
- Contacting the camper's guardians to share information or request guidance
- Taking the camper to a medical facility
- Contacting emergency services if needed

We are fortunate to be located less than 10 minutes from an emergency services station here in Chestermere. If emergency services are required - especially for transport to a medical facility - guardians will be contacted immediately, and a camp staff member will accompany the camper and remain with them as much as medical professionals allow.

Illness

Camp is a close and social environment - and that's part of what makes it so special! We regularly clean and sanitize our facilities and encourage frequent handwashing among campers and staff. However, this closeness can also mean that common illnesses like colds or the flu may occasionally spread.

If your child becomes ill during camp, our staff will do their best to care for them within reasonable limits. A camper will be sent home if they experience:

- Fever
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

- Any combination of symptoms (even if mild) that prevent full participation or exceed what our staff can safely manage

Please do not send your child to camp if they are ill or have sustained an injury that would limit their ability to participate. If you're unsure, give us a call - we'll be happy to discuss options and, when possible, transfer your child's registration to another week once they're feeling better.

Please note that refunds cannot be provided for campers who go home early due to illness or injury.

Sign Out

To ensure every camper's safety, we have strict sign-out procedures in place. During registration, parents or guardians will be asked to list all adults authorized to pick up their child. This list must include first and last names for each approved person - including parents or guardians themselves.

At pickup, staff will request **photo identification every time**, even for day camp programs. We know this can take an extra moment, but these precautions help us ensure that each camper leaves with the correct, authorized adult.

Camper Care

Caring for campers is at the heart of everything we do. Our programs, activities, and daily routines are all built around helping each child feel valued, supported, and included. During staff training, our team learns how to build meaningful relationships with campers, create fun and engaging experiences, recognize the different needs of various age groups, and offer compassion while maintaining clear boundaries and direction.

Inclusion

Dietary

We serve a variety of filling, balanced meals cafeteria-style. Each meal includes a main dish and several sides to choose from, and there's always plenty for seconds after everyone has been served (dessert excluded!). Our kitchen team loves to get creative, so while menus vary, you can expect kid-approved classics alongside fun new favorites.

Here's an example of what a day's meals might look like at camp. While menus can vary, this gives a sense of the balanced and kid-friendly options your child can expect:

	Breakfast Example	Lunch Example	Dinner Example	Snack Example
Main	-French toast with berry compote and home-made whipped cream	-Chicken Tinga Tacos with tortillas	-Roast chicken thighs -Fettucine alfredo	-Banana bread with cream cheese cinnamon icing
Sides	-Scrambled eggs -Bacon strips -Hashbrowns -Fresh fruit -Cereal bar -Syrup -Ketchup	-Lettuce, tomato, onion, sour cream, salsa, cilantro -Fruit punch drink	-Garlic bread -Roasted seasonal vegetables	

If your child is a picky eater, please help them set a goal to eat something at each meal. Our leaders will gently encourage campers to try what's available - we just don't want anyone skipping meals!

If your child has **food allergies or dietary restrictions**, please let us know ahead of time. We can accommodate most needs (e.g., gluten-free, dairy-free, vegan, vegetarian, allergen-free), though in some cases we may ask you to send specialized foods to help us best meet your child's needs.

Nut Policy: Camp Chestermere is a *Nut-Aware* facility. We do not serve nut products in our kitchen or tuck shop, and we ask campers and guests not to bring nuts onsite. However, because we can't fully control what others bring, we cannot guarantee a completely nut-free environment. Campers who require an EpiPen are welcome to carry it with them at all times.

Medical

We want every camper to feel safe and supported while at camp. Most of our full-time staff are trained in Standard First Aid, and each summer we hire two qualified Camp Medics with advanced 40+ hour certifications (such as Wilderness or Workplace Advanced First Aid, or EMR). You'll have the chance to meet our Medic at drop-off.

Our Medic is responsible for administering medications, managing health concerns and injuries, providing first aid, escalating care when needed, and documenting all incidents.

For everyone's safety, **all medications** (prescription and over-the-counter) must be turned in to the Medic for secure storage, in original containers labeled with your child's name and instructions. EpiPens and rescue inhalers may stay with campers if required.

If your child has a chronic medical condition (like diabetes), please contact us before camp so we can discuss how to best support their needs.

Special Needs

We strive to include children with mild developmental delays and have had positive experiences with a variety of needs (e.g., ADHD, FASD, ASD). However, we do not have the specialized training to support children with higher needs or significant developmental delays, and Camp Chestermere is not a specialized needs camp.

Campers who are generally independent at school usually do well in our program (nominal ratio 8:2), though camp can be more intense than school with longer days, fewer quiet moments, and no parent presence overnight. In rare cases, a Director may determine that a camper's needs cannot be safely met, and early dismissal may be required. We encourage families to **contact us before registering** to discuss whether camp is a good fit.

Aides or Respite Workers

We welcome aides or respite workers to support campers in having a successful week, however, arrangements must be made in advance to comply with our child protection policies.

Camper Challenges

Homesickness

Homesickness is common and does not need to be a negative experience for your child. Generally, we find that the best way to prevent homesickness from happening or to mitigate its impact is to keep the child focused on the exciting activities they are participating in and the friendships they are making.

Phone Calls & Parent Visits

Camper Initiated

It's common for campers to feel homesick and want to call home, especially late on the first night of overnight camp. While we never prevent a child from calling if they are truly in

distress, we've found that immediately allowing calls during bouts of homesickness can cause more distress and often leads to a camper leaving camp early.

In most cases, we ask campers to wait for a more convenient time to call and focus on calming down for bedtime. As the next day goes on and campers become engaged in activities, their anxiousness usually decreases and the desire to call home subsides. If a camper continues to feel the need to speak with a parent, we will gladly facilitate the call.

Parent Initiated

For the safety and well-being of all campers, we ask that parents **avoid calling or visiting their child during camp**. With a large program and multiple campers, we do not have the capacity to facilitate frequent calls or visits, and these can sometimes increase homesickness rather than help.

If a serious incident occurs at camp, we will contact you immediately. Otherwise, parents do not need to worry about checking in throughout the week. If an emergency happens at home, you are welcome to call the camp office. For emergencies outside office hours, a phone number will be provided so you can reach us.

For security reasons, parent visits are only permitted under special circumstances and when prearranged with our leadership team. Please do not 'drop by' - you will be turned away.

Negative Behaviour & Expectations

We strive to make camp a safe space where all campers are treated with respect and free from emotional, verbal, or physical harassment. Our staff are trained to manage minor conflicts and help campers adjust their behaviour, extending grace and opportunities for campers to adjust as much as possible before a greater level of intervention is applied. Typically, this occurs in three stages:

1. **Conversation:** Cabin leaders talk with the camper about their behaviour, its impact, and set clear expectations.
2. **Leadership Involvement:** If the behaviour continues, a member of the Seasonal Leadership Team meets with the camper, outlines consequences, and may contact parents for guidance. Year Round Team are also notified.
3. **Going Home:** If negative behaviour persists or creates an unsafe environment, a Director may ask a parent/guardian to pick up their child early. Decisions to send a camper home are final.

Campers sent home due to behavioural issues may not attend additional weeks in the same summer, but are welcome to register again the following year. If a camper is sent home due to negative behaviour, no refund or credit will be granted.

Examples of behaviours that may initiate or escalate this process include:

- Name-calling, threats, or abusive language
- Crude or inappropriate jokes or comments
- Pervasive swearing
- Intimidating gestures or unwanted physical contact
- Failure to follow staff instructions
- Failure to take responsibility for actions or adjust behaviour when asked
- Physical altercations

What to Expect

Theme Elements

Each week of camp has a unique theme, such as Disney/Pixar, Legends & Lore, or the Amazing Race.

In the past few years, there has been a lighter focus on the weekly themes, and have heard feedback from parents that this could be improved upon, so, this year, we are looking forward to a refresh on our themes and working hard on how we can implement them even more! We already have plans to infuse themes into our activities, events, and language throughout the whole week.

The highlight of the theme is the **Theme Dinner** for overnight campers, where staff and campers are encouraged to dress up, or the **Dress-Up Day** for daycampers (both Tuesday events). We invite those who are able to bring a costume or prop (no weapons allowed) to join in on the fun! For example, dress up as Mario during video games week, a Survivor contestant during Game Shows week, or a Pirate during High Seas & Hidden Treasures.

Registration

Registration for Summer Camp opens **December 1st** through our **CampBrain portal**, which will walk you step-by-step through the process. The form collects all the essential details we need, including medical information, dietary needs, and household contacts. If there are any changes you need to make before the camp starts, please call our camp office.

You will also have the opportunity to request that your child be grouped with a friend or sibling. Please note:

- **Overnight cabins:** Friend requests must be of the same **gender** and **within one year of age**.
    - Overnight Campers can also request a friend to be in the activity group - This is not limited to age or gender, so siblings, or friends with larger age gaps can still do activities together!
- **Daycamp groups:** Same one-year age range requirement applies.

If a camp week fills up, your child will be placed on a **waitlist**, and we will notify you by email or phone as soon as a space becomes available.

We offer a **sibling discount** for families registering multiple children from the same household; this is applied automatically at checkout.

For Summer 2027, we will be offering an Early Bird Discount in December - stay tuned on our social media for other deals and prizes leading up to camp!

Daycamp

Drop Off/ Pickup

Drop-Off: 8:00-8:30 AM every day
Early Drop-Off (extra fee): Starts at 7:30 AM
Pick-Up: 4:00-4:30 PM every day
Late Pick-Up (extra fee): Until 5:00 PM
Closing Program (Friday): We encourage parents to join us at **3:45 PM** to see how the week wrapped up!

Schedule

May vary slightly week to week

DAYCAMP									
Time	Monday	Time	Tuesday	Time	Wednesday	Time	Thursday	Time	Friday
7:30	Early Sign-In	7:30	Early Sign-In	7:30	Early Sign-In	7:30	Early Sign-In	7:30	Early Sign-In
8:00	Sign In	8:00	Sign In	8:00	Sign In	8:00	Sign In	8:00	Sign In
8:30	Travel Time	8:30	Travel Time	8:30	Travel Time	8:30	Travel Time	8:30	Travel Time
8:45	Activity 1	8:45	Activity 3	8:45	Activity 6	8:45	Activity 2	8:45	Activity 5
9:45	Travel Time	9:45	Travel Time	9:45	Travel Time	9:45	Travel Time	9:45	Travel Time
10:00	Activity 2	10:00	Activity 4	10:00	Activity 1	10:00	Activity 3	10:00	Activity 6
11:00	Travel Time	11:00	Travel Time	11:00	Travel Time	11:00	Travel Time	11:00	Travel Time
11:15	Fireside	11:15	Fireside	11:15	Fireside	11:15	Fireside	11:15	Fireside
12:00	Travel Time	12:00	Travel Time	12:00	Travel Time	12:00	Travel Time	12:00	Travel Time
12:15	Lunch	12:15	Lunch	12:15	Lunch	12:15	Lunch	12:15	Picnic Lunch
1:00	Wide Game	1:00	Activity 5	1:00	Campfire	1:00	Activity 4	1:00	Wide Game
2:00	Travel Time	2:00	Travel Time	2:00	Travel Time	2:00	Travel Time	2:00	Travel Time
2:15	HH, Beachtime (after 2:30)	2:15	HH, Beachtime (after 2:30)	2:15	HH, Beachtime (after 2: 30)	2:15	HH, Beachtime (after 2: 30)	2:15	HH, Beachtime (after 2: 30)
2:45		2:45		2:45		2:45		2:45	
3:15		3:15		3:15		3:15		3:15	
3:45	Travel Time	3:45	Travel Time	3:45	Travel Time	3:45	Travel Time	3:45	Closing Program
4:00	Sign Out	4:00	Sign Out	4:00	Sign Out	4:00	Sign Out	4:00	Sign Out
4:30	Late Sign Out	4:30	Late Sign Out	4:30	Late Sign Out	4:30	Late Sign Out	4:30	Late Sign Out

Groups

For Daycamp, our group structure will remain similar to previous years. Campers will be assigned to a **letter group**, which is part of a larger **activity group** within an **activity room**. Campers should remember both their **group letter** and **room**, as this helps them (and us!) stay organized throughout the week.

Daycampers will stay with the same group all week long - travelling together to activities, wide games, events, and more, being referred to by their group letter (e.g. “Group A” or, “Group B”). These consistent groups help campers build friendships and give leaders a great chance to connect with their campers.

Activity Rotation

Daycampers will rotate through a mix of classic camp activities with their letter group. Throughout the week, each group will visit our **five main activities** - power tubing, kayaking, wall climbing, archery, and target shooting - **twice** each. In addition, every group will enjoy **one Art Spot session** and **one playground visit** across the road.

This structure gives campers the chance to experience their favourite activities more than once while still enjoying a variety of creative and relaxed options throughout the week.

Daycamp Lunch

Daycampers are required to bring their **own lunches and snacks** each day, as meals are **not provided**. The only exception is **Friday**, when we enjoy our traditional **picnic lunch** (hotdogs, burgers, chips, and watermelon). This meal is **included in the cost** of daycamp.

Overnight

Drop Off/ Pickup

Drop-Off (Sunday): 6:00-7:00 PM
Pick-Up (Friday): 4:00-5:00 PM
Closing Program: We’d love for you to attend our **Closing Program at 3:45 PM on Friday** — it’s a special way to end the week!

Accommodations

Overnight campers stay in cabins that sleep 10 people, typically 8 campers and 2 leaders. **Girls’ cabins** are located in triplex buildings, with three cabins per building and two full washrooms included. **Boys’ cabins** are separate buildings, each with a half-bath, and a short walk to the “washhouse” for showers.

Cabins are assigned according to **age and gender**, and campers will not find out their cabin until check-in. All cabins have **bunk-style single beds**; campers must bring their own bedding. Beds are chosen on a first-come, first-served basis upon arrival.

During the week, cabins function like a camper's "family," traveling together for meals and events. Groups are referred to by their cabin name (e.g., "Davis Block" or "Sneakers Room"), creating a sense of community and belonging.

Schedule

May vary slightly week to week

OVERNIGHT - Kids											
Time	Sunday	Time	Monday	Time	Tuesday	Time	Wednesday	Time	Thursday	Time	Friday
		8:30	Breakfast	8:30	Breakfast	8:30	Breakfast	8:30	Breakfast	8:30	Breakfast
		9:25	Gratis/ Cabin Cleanup	9:25	Gratis/ Cabin Cleanup	9:25	Gratis/ Cabin Cleanup	9:25	Gratis/ Cabin Cleanup	9:25	Gratis/ Cabin Cleanup
		10:00	Fireside	10:00	Fireside	10:00	Fireside	10:00	Fireside	10:00	Fireside
		10:45	Travel Time	10:45	Travel Time	10:45	Travel Time	10:45	Travel Time	10:45	Travel Time
		11:00	Activity 1	11:00	Activity 3	11:00	Activity 5	11:00	Activity 3	11:00	Activity 4
		12:00	Travel Time	12:00	Travel Time	12:00	Travel Time	12:00	Travel Time	12:00	Travel Time
		12:15	Lunch	12:15	Lunch	12:15	Lunch	12:15	Lunch	12:15	Picnic Lunch
		1:15	Travel Time	1:15	Travel Time	1:15	Travel Time	1:15	Travel Time	1:15	Travel Time
		1:30	Beach/HH	1:30	HH/Theme Prep	1:30	Beach/HH	1:30	HH/Free Time	1:30	Activity 5
		2:30	Travel Time	2:30	Travel Time	2:30	Travel Time	2:30	Travel Time	2:30	Travel Time
		2:45	Wide Game	2:45	Cabin Choice	2:45	Wide Game	2:45	Event	2:45	Cabin Choice
		4:00	Travel Time	3:45	Travel Time	4:00	Travel Time	4:15	Travel Time	3:45	Closing Program
		4:15	Activity 2	4:00	Activity 4	4:15	Activity 1	4:30	Campfire	4:00	Sign Out
		5:15	Travel Time	5:00	Travel Time	5:15	Travel Time	5:15	Travel Time		
		5:30	Dinner	5:30	THEME DINNER	5:30	Dinner	5:30	Dinner		
		6:45	Travel Time	6:45	Travel Time	6:45	Travel Time	6:45	Travel Time		
6:00	Sign In	7:00	Campfire	7:00	Wide Game	7:00	Activity 2	7:00	Fireside		
7:15	Rules + Welcome Event	7:45	Travel Time	8:00	Travel Time	8:00	Travel Time	7:45	Travel Time		
8:00	Fireside	8:00	Fireside	8:15	Fireside	8:15	Fireside (Ministry Night)	8:00	Movie Night/Snack		
8:45	Snack/Meds	8:45	Snack/Meds	9:00	Snack/Meds	9:00	Snack/Meds		/Staff Connect/Snack		
9:15	Cabin Devo	9:15	Cabin Devo	9:30	Cabin Devo	9:30	Cabin Devos	9:30	Cabin Devos		
9:30	Bedtime	9:30	Bedtime	9:45	Bedtime	9:45	Bedtime	9:45	Bedtime		

Groups

In 2026, we introduced a new system of **activity groups** separate from cabin groups. When campers arrive, they will also be assigned a **colour group** (e.g. red, blue, purple, pink, green) and receive a matching wristband.

These activity groups include a mix of campers from different cabins, genders, and ages. Campers will travel with their colour group throughout the week for all scheduled activities, giving them the chance to meet another group of new friends and experience a variety of activities together.

Read more below for details on the new **activity rotation system** being implemented this year.

Activity Rotation

For their primary activities, overnight campers will leave their cabin groups and join their **colour group**, which includes a mix of campers from across the camp. As a colour group, they will participate in each of the **five main activities** - power tubing, kayaking, wall climbing, archery, and target shooting - **twice** throughout the week.

In addition to these rotations, campers will also enjoy **two Cabin Choice periods**, where they stay with their cabin group and choose an activity together. Options may include Art Spot, the playground, or one of the main activities.

This mix allows campers to build connections beyond their cabin while still enjoying shared experiences with their core group. It's also a **blend** of our 2025 rotation, where every camper experienced each activity once, and our previous "pick-three" model, where campers selected a few favourites to focus on all week. By centering on our primary activities, we give campers more opportunities to learn and grow in each skill area while still encouraging inter-cabin connections - without adding the heavy administrative load of the old system.

Cabin Cleanup

Each day after breakfast, Overnight Camp does Gratis/ **Cabin Cleanup**, where campers and their leaders work together to help keep camp tidy. Campers can expect to lend a hand cleaning their **bunk space and cabin**, as well as helping with **shared areas** like sweeping floors, wiping dining tables, or even giving the washrooms a quick scrub.

To make things fun, cabins earn **points** based on how well they clean- and can score **bonus points** for creativity if they have time to decorate their space! It's a great way to build teamwork and take pride in caring for our camp together.

Tuck Shop

Horton's Hut is our **onsite candy and merchandise store**, and a highlight of the week for many campers! Overnight and Daycampers will visit Horton's Hut **once per day**, except on Fridays when they can shop during pick-up to spend any remaining balance or purchase merchandise.

Snacks like candy, chips, soda, and ice cream typically range from **$2-$5** each. Parents can **deposit money** into their child's camp store account at registration or check-in - any amount is welcome, though we recommend about **$25 per week**. For safety purposes, campers should NOT bring cash or change with them to camp - all Horton's Hut payments are made under camp store accounts.

During the week, campers can **choose up to three items per day**, check out with our staff, and see their updated balance. This helps teach **independence and budgeting**, while giving them a fun daily treat to look forward to!

Fireside

“Fireside” is our word for **chapel time** - a daily highlight where campers and staff come together for worship and teaching. Daycamp gathers **once per day**, while Overnight Camp meets **twice daily**.

Each Fireside includes a mix of **upbeat and reflective worship songs**, followed by a **short, engaging message** from a real Bible story and what it teaches us today. On **Wednesday night** at Overnight Camp, we hold **Ministry Night**, a special time for deeper reflection and response. This might include extended worship, a presentation of the gospel, or a practical call to action.

All campers and staff **attend Fireside**, and while we encourage participation, we understand that some campers come from different backgrounds - no one is ever forced to join in beyond their comfort level.

Closing Program

Our **Closing Program** wraps up the week with celebration and fun! Held on **Friday at 3:45pm**, it’s a chance for parents to join us and see what campers have been up to. You’ll hear stories from the week, find out who won **Cabin Cleanup**, enjoy the **Lost and Found Fashion Show**, and learn about upcoming events at Camp Chestermere. We’ll also share instructions for the **sign-out process** at that time.

Packing List

What to Pack (Overnight Only - Both - Daycamp Only)

CLOTHING	TOILETRIES	SLEEPING & MORE
☐ T-shirts	☐ Toothbrush & Toothpaste	☐ Sleeping Bag and/or Blankets & Sheets
☐ Shorts	☐ Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash	☐ Pillow
☐ Long-sleeve shirts	☐ Deodorant	☐ Water Bottle!!!
☐ Pants/ Sweatpants	☐ Shower Towel	☐ Life jacket (Optional- only if you already have one)
☐ Pyjamas	☐ Beach Towel	☐ Costume for Dress-Up day/ Theme Dinner
☐ Socks & undergarments	☐ Waterproof sunscreen	☐ Bible
☐ Bathing suit	☐ Insect repellant	☐ Notebook/ Journal
☐ Shoes -At least one pair of closed-toed shoes required -Sandals/water shoes recommended, -Easy slip-on/off shoes are also recommended.	☐ MEDICATIONS - All medication MUST be **signed in** in original packaging. (No need to bring over-the-counter medications)	☐ Packed Lunch & snacks (Daycampers are only provided lunch on Fridays)
☐ Hat!!!		
☐ Weather dependant clothing (Rainjacket, boots, etc.)		
☐ Change of Clothes		

ALL BELONGINGS SHOULD BE LABELLED WITH CAMPERS NAME

What NOT to Pack

Electronics - Cell Phone, Smart Watch, game systems, music players & headphones
Valuables - Cash, jewelry, anything you don't want broken
Dangerous items - Lighters, knifes, sharp tools, unlabelled medications or drugs, nut products

Cancellation Policy & Refunds

Financial Aid

Camp Chestermere is proud to offer **Jar Jar's Kids**, a donations-based financial assistance program that helps send children to camp who might not otherwise be able to attend. To apply, families must complete a Jar Jar's Kids application form.

Please note that this program is **funded entirely by donations** and, as such, **availability is not guaranteed**.

In addition to our own program, families are encouraged to explore **KidSport Canada**, an external organization that may be able to provide additional funding support for camp fees.

Discounts

Camp Chestermere offers a discounted rate of $20.00 off (per week) to families who book in 2 or more siblings. This discount is automatically applied at checkout and can be found on your "Household Account Statement" attached to your confirmation e-mail.

Cancellation Policy

Camp Chestermere's cancellation policy is as follows:

- If you cancel your registration within 30 days or more in advance of your selected camp, you will receive a full refund of your registration fees.
- If you cancel your registration between 15-29 days in advance of your selected camp, you will receive a 50% refund of your registration fees.
- If you cancel your registration 0-14 days in advance of your selected camp, you will receive no refund of your registration fees.
- No refunds will be provided for campers who are removed from programming for any reason once their week of camp has begun.

Donations

As a **non-profit organization**, Camp Chestermere relies on the generosity of our community to help us continue providing meaningful camp experiences. We welcome donations of all kinds—**items**, **time**, or **financial gifts**.

If you would like to donate items (especially program materials), please **call ahead before dropping them off**. To donate your time, visit our website to explore **volunteer opportunities**.

Financial donations can be directed toward **Jar Jar's Kids** (our financial aid program helping campers who otherwise couldn't afford to come), **site maintenance**, or our **general fund**. Every contribution makes a difference in helping us serve campers and families each summer.