

# Summer Camp FAQs

## **Where and when will the bus pick up and drop off my child?**

**Pick Up:** The bus picks up and drops off at Coronation Arena, 13500 – 112 Avenue Northwest, the arena is located west of Westmount Shopping Center. **The bus will leave at 3:00pm of the first day of camp. Please be at the parking lot by 2:30pm as the bus will be leaving at 3:00pm sharp.**

**Drop off:** The bus will be arriving back in Edmonton at the departure point between 4:00pm and 4:30pm on the following Friday.

## **What kind of camper is most likely to have a good experience at Camp Encounter?**

We cater to campers 8---18 years old, customizing each camp week to an age group. We have an excellent program that fits a wide variety of interests and abilities. Children who enjoy the freedom to explore, create, adventure, and reflect will be most likely to enjoy their experience.

## **What facilities does Camp Encounter have?**

**Dormitories:** Separate wings for guys and girls include shower and toilet facilities and 40 beds on each side. The dorms are fully heated.

**Dining Hall:** Affectionately known as our "Mess Hall", we have tables and benches to seat up to 120 people. The Mess Hall is inspected and approved annually by Alberta Health Services.

**Recreation Hall:** Large, open space for rainy days, complete with interlocking mats, fireplace, and audio/visual equipment.

**Island:** 30 acres with ten modern tipis, each week of camp includes one night on the island.

**Rock Climbing Wall:** A challenging 30' high, two---route wall with bouldering wall.

**Archery Range:** Excellent instruction, interesting targets, safe equipment, and a tree stand make for an exciting Archery experience for all ages.

**Craft Shack:** A perfect place to dream and create, complete with as many sparkles, paper, glue, and other tools as your imagination demands.

**Waterfront:** Canoe programs, swimming, and a superb beach are all found right at the main camp area.

### **What is the daily schedule like at Camp Encounter?**

Wakeup is typically around 8:00 am with breakfast around 8:30. Lunch is at noon and supper is around 5:30. In between meals, the campers, in their small groups, would visit the various program areas around camp for one to one and a half hour sessions. Evenings generally include a large, camp wide game, and each day ends with campfire songs.

### **What is the spiritual content of programs at Camp Encounter?**

Camp Encounter is a wilderness and adventure based Catholic camp. Campers do not have to be Catholic to attend. We do, however, teach and live the basic teachings of Christianity and the Catholic faith. There are daily reflections and discussions about God, faith, life and death, always rooted in Scripture. We place a high emphasis on giving thanks in all things at all times. We conclude our week with a relevant and energizing celebration of the Catholic Mass, which is open to all parents, and family members of campers, counselors and staff.

### **What is the camper to counselor ratio at Camp Encounter?**

We are able to accommodate between 50---55 children per week. We have programming staff hired to provide the activities and necessary supervision for these activities. In addition, we recruit trained volunteers to act as Junior Counselors (16---18 years old) and Counselors---in---Training (14---15 years old) for each week. These volunteers are paired up and assigned a small group of up to eight campers. The counselors and staff supervise the campers around the clock. As members of the Alberta Camping Association and our own Archdiocesan policy requires we have at least two supervisors with every 15 children at all times.

### **What kind of staff training is provided?**

The staff undergo one full week of solid training and planning prior to summer camp. They are certified in basic first aid and CPR and must have the necessary certifications in canoeing and rock climbing. Beyond that, training covers topics such as child care, liability issues, preserving a safe environment for camping, leading games, communicating to large and small groups and planning programs. We also spend a good deal of time building community. Volunteer counselors must participate in the first week of camp of the summer called "Leadership Week". During this week they are provided with training and a manual that covers much of the same information found in the staff training. In addition, they are watched closely by staff members and directors and are designated either ready to counsel as a counselor---in---training or as a senior counselor. If they are not ready yet, they are asked to wait a year before counseling. They are given a wide variety of adventure and reflective experiences throughout the week that are aimed at developing themselves personally and as a team with their fellow counselors.

### **How can I pay for my child's week at Camp Encounter?**

We accept cheques, money orders, and online credit card payments. Post dated cheques are acceptable as long as full payment is made by the posted deadline.

### **Do you have a subsidy program for families?**

We feel that no child should miss out on summer camp for financial reasons. Each year Camp Encounter sets aside funding to assist families in sending their kids to camp. Please Contact the office if you are interested in accessing the subsidy or if you are interested in sponsoring a child to attend summer camp. **Funds are limited** and based on a first come first serve basis.

### **What ages does Camp Encounter accommodate? Can my child attend with their siblings?**

We have camps designed for campers ranging in age from 8---18. Typically we group them into 8---10 and 10---13 year olds. Our Teen Week is for 12---15 year

olds, and our Leadership Week is for 14---18 year olds. Two of our weeks are designated for families with children ranging in age from 8---13 year. Children must be at least 8 years old as of their first day of camp. There is flexibility on the upper end of an age range of any given camp, ie. An 11 year old could attend the 8---10 year old week, but this must be previously arranged with the Camp Director.

### **What is the swimming program like? What is the lifeguard to camper ratio?**

Camp Encounter is located on the shores of Lac la Nonne. We are home to the finest sand beach (perhaps the only one) on the lake. Campers can expect to swim two to three times during the week. At no time are campers required to swim. We have a complete array of beach toys including beach volleyball and sandcastle tools. Our lifeguard is nationally certified and we adhere to the Alberta Camping Association's ratio of 35 swimmers to one lifeguard. At all times, the majority of our staff and counselors are in the water with the kids, having fun and keeping a watchful eye.

### **How does Camp Encounter ensure the safety and security of its campers?**

Camp Encounter adheres to the regulations and guidelines of the Alberta Camp Association and we undergo a compliance inspection every three years. Our adventure facilities (rock wall, challenge course, low ropes course, and canoes) are inspected annually and repairs and changes are done as necessary. We conduct a safety drill within 24 to 36 hours of the arrival of the camper so that all are familiar with our signals and meeting place in case of emergency. All staff (support and programming) attend the Abuse Protocol Training program offered by the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton. Camp Encounter is regularly audited by a risk management company called Praesidium to best ensure we comply with abuse and risk management policies and procedures.

### **What is the food like and who prepares it?**

We are committed to providing balanced, nutritious, home cooked meals and snacks. Expect breakfasts like pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, yogurt, and cereal. Lunches are lighter and kid friendly. Soup and sandwiches, tacos, and

spaghetti are all on the menu. Supper is always hearty. And, what would camp be without awesome desserts like apple crisp, ice cream, jello, or home made cookies? Evening snack is typically sugar---free and includes things like veggie trays with sausage and crackers or nachos and salsa.

### **How are dietary restrictions handled?**

There is a place on our registration form for these needs. We are able to accommodate most reasonable restrictions including allergies, lactose intolerance, and vegetarians, however we cannot guarantee that cross contamination will not occur. If you are concerned about your camper's dietary restrictions, please contact the office staff. We also ask that if your camper has a certain dietary restriction, you submit a photo of your camper for us to provide the kitchen staff with, to guarantee they are given the correct substitute. It is also recommended that your camper bring along some supplemental food.

### **What medical facilities are available and what medical staff are on site?**

According to ACA regulation, Camp Encounter has a dedicated First Aid center. All of our staff are trained to a minimum level of standard first aid and CPR. We hire a First Aid Attendant to coordinate the delivery of First Aid. This person is responsible for tending to both the minor injuries that are bound to occur and the major injuries, if they occur. As well, this person holds and supervises all medications children may have or take. All medications are recorded and administered according to the schedule provided by the parents or guardians.

### **How are prescription drugs and other medications supervised?**

We ask that you fully disclose the medications your child will need throughout the week on our registration forms. Please send the medication with full instructions along with your child. At the start of your child's week of camp our First Aid Attendant will round up and log all medications along with the necessary times to supervise their consumption. Light remedies, such as Tylenol and cough syrup, will be provided only with your permission, as indicated on your registration form.

### **Is there a refund policy if a camper leaves early?**

If a camper cancels prior to two weeks before the beginning of camp, a refund will be issued less a \$100 administration fee. If a camper cancels within two weeks of the beginning of camp or begins camp and leaves early, no refund is issued.

### **What happens during inclement weather?**

Mother Nature is full of surprises and there are some great adventures in those surprises. We issue a complete gear list including inclement weather gear, as we continue to program through most conditions. That said, the children are monitored constantly and sessions/schedules are changed appropriately to ensure that the experience with inclement weather remains a positive one. Of course, in the case of severe weather, ie. thunderstorms, we have plenty of indoor spaces for games and songs until the storm passes. We have access to a large basement on site as well, in the unlikely event of a very serious weather warning.

### **What type of insurance coverage does Camp Encounter have?**

Camp Encounter is an organization under the umbrella of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton. As such, we carry property and liability insurance appropriate to all of our activities at Camp Encounter.

### **How do I get a hold of my child if necessary?**

We do ask that you only try to reach your child if it is necessary. You can call our main number at (780) 967---2548, or send us an e---mail at [info@campencounter.com](mailto:info@campencounter.com).