



YMCA Camp Deka
On the edge of wilderness



Camp Information Guide

WELCOME LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Campers and Families,

Welcome to the Camp Deka family and thank you for choosing the YMCA for your child's summer camp experience. We look forward to having your child at camp and our staff are preparing to ensure all campers have a positive and successful camp experience. The YMCA of Greater Vancouver and the YMCA-YWCA of Kamloops are proud to be partners in such an important endeavour!

This guide has been put together to help answer any questions you might have about the upcoming summer. Making sure campers understand expectations and guidelines before arrival is an important part of the transition to camp life. Please take the time to review the information in this guide with your camper to prepare them for their adventure!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us prior to your child's camp visit. Early communication allows us to address questions and concerns before your child starts camp, ensuring an easy transition on the first day. Our year round office is located at YMCA Camp Elphinstone until June 15th, 2012. As of June 22nd, 2012 we will be at Camp Deka, "on the edge of the wilderness".

We are very excited about this summer and the 2012 staff team is looking forward to being up at the lake and providing an amazing camp experience!

Yours in camping,

Camp Director

YMCA Camp Deka (Winter Office)

1760 YMCA Rd, Gibsons, BC

Tel: 1-604-886-2025

Fax: 1-604-886-2363

annie.markvoort@vanymca.org

YMCA Camp Deka (Summer Office)

5391 Mahood Lake Rd

Lone Butte, BC V0K 1X3

Registration Office

200 – 1166 Alberni St.

Vancouver BC

Tel: 604-939-9622

Fax: 604-939-9621

camps@vanymca.org

Website: www.vanymca.org/camps

CAMP ACTIVITIES

Over the course of your camp experience you will have the opportunity to try a wide variety of activities and games. In everything we do at YMCA Camp Deka we emphasize creativity, imagination and adventure in a safe, fun-filled atmosphere designed to encourage growth and the development of self-confidence.

Mornings feature interest groups which is a formal lesson in a camp activity of a campers choice. You will have the opportunity to learn and practice new skills in at least three different program areas through interest groups.

The principal unit of activity for the rest of camp is the cabin group which includes the two group leaders and nine other campers. ZAP happens in the cabins and is a rest period so campers can reenergize and the cabin group can plan the rest of their day. Afternoons are an opportunity for cabins groups to plan and participate in recreational activities. Everyone has the opportunity to voice their opinion during the planning of cabin events.

Evening programs range from campfire to Capture the Flag. Most evening programs are run for the whole camp and give juniors, intermediates, seniors and leadership campers an opportunity to get to know one another and have fun as a whole camp family.

At YMCA Camp Deka we do our best to foster an atmosphere of cooperation rather than competition. When we run an activity containing elements of competition we focus on challenging the individual or cabin group to achieve their own goals rather than measure their accomplishments against the achievements of others.

Programs

YMCA Camp Deka has more programs available than time! Our goal is to give campers a chance to try as many activities as possible. Below is a list of some of our most popular activities:

- Archery
- Arts & Crafts
- Campfire
- Canoeing
- Capture the Flag
- Climbing Wall
- Deka Lake Regatta
- Discovery Hikes
- Fire Lighting & Outdoor Cooking
- Fishing
- Initiative Challenges
- Kayaking
- Operation Catfish
- Overnight Out Trip
- Shelters & No Trace Camping
- Skit in a Bag
- Swimming

TUCK SHOP

All campers receive a camp t-shirt on the last day of camp. The cost of the t-shirt is included in the camp registration fees. Please do not bring any money to camp.

TRANSPORTATION

If travelling by bus please ensure that you arrive at least 15 minutes prior to departure time on Monday morning in order to allow enough time to sign in and load the bus.

From the Vancouver Area by Bus

The bus takes seven hours, one way, with a rest and meal break. Lunch is provided. YMCA Camp Deka staff members will be on the bus to help make the trip enjoyable and well supervised.

- The bus departs from Burnaby Central School (4939 Canada Way at Kensington) at 8:30am on the Monday of your session. It then travels to the Chilliwack Family Y's Hocking Centre (45844 Hocking Ave, Chilliwack) for 9:30am, departing at 9:45am.
- The bus returns to the Chilliwack Family Y's Hocking Centre at 5:30pm and to Burnaby Central School at 6:30pm on the last Friday of each session.

From Kamloops by Bus

The bus takes two hours, non-stop. YMCA Camp Deka staff members will be on the bus to help make the trip enjoyable and well supervised.

- The bus departs from the Downtown YMCA-YWCA (400 Battle Street) at 9:00am and returns at 6:00pm on the last day of the session.

Traveling by Car

If you are driving to/from camp plan to arrive between 3:30 and 4:30 PM on the first day of camp. Pick-ups should be between 9:00 am and 10:00 am on the final day of the session. If there is a reason why these times are not possible please discuss other arrangements with the camp director in advance.

Sign-in and Sign-out

Parents/guardians are required to sign campers in and out either at the bus stop or at camp with identified YMCA staff members. Please advise us if the person picking up your camper differs from the person who dropped them off. For your child's safety that person will be required to show photo identification. Any changes to transportation during the session can be made with the Camp office at 604-939-9622.

CONTACTING YOUR CAMPER AT CAMP

By Mail

Everyone enjoys receiving mail so please write! Send letters prior to or during the first few days of camp to ensure delivery. Letters that do not arrive until after the session has ended will be returned to sender.

If sending a package, please do not send any food due to allergy and animal concerns.

Send mail to:
Camper's Name
c/o YMCA Camp Deka
5391 Mahood Lake Road
Lone Butte, BC
V0K 1X3

By Telephone

Camp Deka is just beyond the boundary of telephone lines in the area so communication is provided through a radio telephone. This phone is for emergency use only and we cannot make the phone available to campers for calls home of a non-emergency nature.

If you should have any questions or concerns which require you to talk to the Camp Director while your child is at camp, call the Camp Elphinstone Office at 1-604-886-2025 and the message will be relayed to the Director at Deka. We appreciate your patience with this system and are constantly working to improve our communication links between you and the camp.

In Case of Emergency

Should an emergency arise that requires you to contact your son/daughter please call 1-604-886-2025 and we will be happy to assist you. If you are calling after regular office hours please follow instructions on the after hours automated answering service to activate the emergency pager. Your call will be returned promptly.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Check out the *Preparing for Camp* page on our website for more information about what to expect for camp – we have everything from packing lists, to coping with homesickness and what sort of food we serve at camp. There are also hints and tips for ensuring a positive experience. If you still have questions please feel free to give us a call and we'll be happy to answer your questions.

DIRECTIONS TO CAMP DEKA

From the Lower Mainland (approx 7 hour drive from Vancouver)

- Follow Hwy 1 up to Cache Creek then continue on Hwy 97
- Turn Right on Hwy 24
- Turn Left on Horse Lake Rd
- Continue on Mahood Lake Rd
- Continue past Hathaway Lake Resort another few km's
- Entrance to Deka will be on the right.

