

YMCA Camp Elphinstone
Home of a million memories



Spring Camp Information Guide

WELCOME LETTER FROM THE MANAGER

Dear Campers and Families,

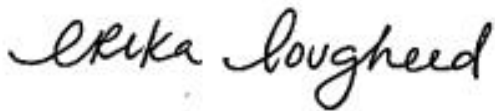
Hello from YMCA Camp Elphinstone. We are gearing up for spring break here on the Sunshine Coast and are excited that you will be joining us.

Talking with your camper about their up-coming adventure is an important step in ensuring a good time, and communication is key to preparing for a great camp experience. We expect all campers to abide by the YMCA Core Values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility throughout their time at camp.

Spring Break camp can be a bit rainy so be sure to talk to your child about this too. We play through the rain here so being prepared is the most important aspect and this means making sure that some extra clothes are packed for your camper.

We are really looking forward to spring break. There are a number of new folks as well as some returning staff members set to ensure that Spring Break Camp is organized, safe and most importantly - FUN!

Sincerely,



Erika Lougheed
Camp Manager
YMCA Camp Elphinstone

YMCA Camp Elphinstone

1760 YMCA Rd, Gibsons, BC

Tel: 1-604-886-2025

Fax: 1-604-886-2363

E-mail: camp.elphinstone@vanymca.org

Registration Office

200 – 1166 Alberni St. Vancouver BC

Tel: 604-939-9622

Fax: 604-939-9621

E-mail: camps@vanymca.org

Website: www.vanymca.org/camps



CAMP ACTIVITIES

YMCA Camp Elphinstone has many exciting activities to offer:

Waterfront

Canoeing, kayaking, fishing, voyageur canoes (weather permitting)

Land Sports and Challenges

Low ropes course, basketball, soccer, volleyball, archery, tennis, tetherball, Ultimate Frisbee

Creative and Environmental

Art, drama, music, campfires, nature walks to Big Tree, Global Adventures

Outdoor Living Skills

Shelter building, map and compass, nature craft

Your camper will have an opportunity to participate in a variety of the above listed activities. All activities will be age-appropriate and participation will be based on the size, skill and safety of the campers.

TUCK SHOP

Our camp tuck shop provides a great opportunity for campers to take home camp gear or souvenirs of their camp experience. All campers will have an opportunity to visit our tuck shop with their cabin group at least once a week. Possible items include: T-shirts, hoodies, hats, water bottles, magnets, beach balls and crests. The prices of these items will range from \$3 to \$45 (prices/items are subject to change). Some healthy food and drink options will be available, possible items could include popcorn, pretzels, juice, and fruit slushies.


In order to help us minimize the amount of money campers need at camp the tuck shop will maintain a computerized account system. A credit can be added to your camper's account through our registration office 604-939-9622.

Remaining credits on campers' accounts of more than \$5.00 will receive a reimbursement approximately 2 weeks after the session ends. Remaining credits on campers' accounts of \$5.00 or less can be carried forward to other YMCA programs or put to YMCA Camps Annual Campaign. Annual Campaign funding is used to provide financial assistance to families and individuals who otherwise can't afford to participate.

RESIDENTIAL CAMP TRANSPORTATION

If you are coming from the lower mainland:

To Camp: Meet at the Horseshoe Bay ferry terminal, walk on passenger's area.
Check in between 8:30-9:00 am.



We will walk on the 9:20 am ferry and become more acquainted as a group. Campers will be transported by camp bus from the Langdale ferry to Camp Elphinstone.

From Camp: We will take the 4:30pm ferry over to Horseshoe Bay. Please meet your children at 5:10pm at the walk off passenger area.

If you are coming from the Sunshine Coast:

To Camp: Please arrange to arrive at camp between 9:45 and 10:15am on Monday. If you require transportation services, please call 604-886-2025.

From Camp: Please arrange to pick up your camper at camp between 3:00pm and 3:30 pm on Friday.

Parents and Guardians will be required to sign in campers with identified staff members at each location. Please advise us if the person picking up the camper differs from the person who dropped them off. For your child's safety, that person will be required to show photo identification. Please arrive on time to allow for sign in. Any changes to transportation during the session can be made with the Camp Elphinstone office.

If you miss your bus, arrange for transportation to the Horseshoe Bay ferry terminal for the next convenient sailing. Please call the camp office (1-604-886-2025) and we will meet the ferry you choose at the Langdale Ferry Terminal side and transport your camper from there.

DAY CAMP TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is provided in our own YMCA passenger van or, if numbers require, a school bus. A bus monitor will be on each van/bus and your child must be signed in with the bus monitor upon boarding AND signed out upon leaving. If you wish your child to be able to walk home from the bus please ensure that the camp office has written notice of this.

Travelling By Bus

Arrive at the bus stop at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled bus time and allow up to 15 minutes for delays. If you miss the bus please drive your child to camp and call YMCA Camp Elphinstone directly at 1-604-886-2025.

The bus monitor will **only** release your child to the person(s) listed on the registration form. If you miss your intended pick-up your child will remain on the bus and will travel to the final scheduled stop on that route. Bus monitors will coordinate with camp and will remain with your child. Please contact YMCA Camp Elphinstone if this does happen.

Location	To Camp	From Camp
Sechelt Elementary (5800 Cowrie Ave)	8:00 AM	4:50 PM
Davis Bay – at Pier 17 (Hwy 101)	8:15 AM	4:40 PM
Roberts Creek Elementary (1088 Roberts Creek Rd)	8:30 AM	4:25 PM
The Poplars (Hwy 101)	8:40 AM	4:15 PM
Elphinstone Secondary (Front Parking Lot, Gibsons Way)	8:45 AM	4:05 PM

Travelling by Car

Please ensure that your children are on time for camp. When they are late they miss important parts of the day. If you know your child will be late on a specific day, please call Camp directly at 1-604-886-2025 or send a note with your child the day before.

Drop-Off: 9:00 am

Pick-Up: 4:00 pm

CONTACTING YOUR CAMPER AT CAMP

We have several methods in which to contact campers mail, email, pay phones, and through the Camp Office. Please see details below - if you have any questions or concerns contact us at 1-604-886-2025.

By Mail

Camper's Name and Session
c/o YMCA Camp Elphinstone
1760 YMCA Road
Gibsons BC V0N 1V6

- Everyone enjoys receiving mail, so please write! Mail will be picked up every day and delivered to your camper by cabin group.
- 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.

Pay Phones:

The camp has pay phones for outgoing calls. Each cabin group will be given a time block during the week to use the phones to call home if they choose. Please do not give your child directions to call at a specific time as this is not always possible due to fluctuating schedules. Instead, please give several numbers (work, home, and cell) your child can reach you at.

If your camper would like to use the pay phones please send a calling card with them (along with instructions on how to use it) or agree to accept collect calls (Camp is long-distance from Vancouver).

Please do not send a cell phone with your camper as they frequently have a negative impact on the camp experience.



By Email

We use Bunk1.com to help you communicate with your camper. Bunk1's secure, easy-to-use website services let you stay in touch with your camper all session! To use the one-way email system, go to: <http://www.ymcacampelphinstone.ca> and click on the Camper Email button. If you do not already have an account you will need to register first. When registering you will be asked for a preapproval code (the code for Elphinstone is: 9EP9802), complete your information and purchase credits.

We have partnered with Bunk1 in order to help us manage the volume of emails we receive. Each morning the Bunk Notes system bundles and sorts the messages for us to print out and distribute to campers. It also protects us from computer viruses and ensures we receive all emails and none are

lost in filters. Bunk Note credits cost \$1 each and are purchased in packs of various sizes, **with your first one free.**

Emergency

Should a family emergency arise that requires you to contact your child, please call 1-604-886-2025 and we will be happy to assist you.

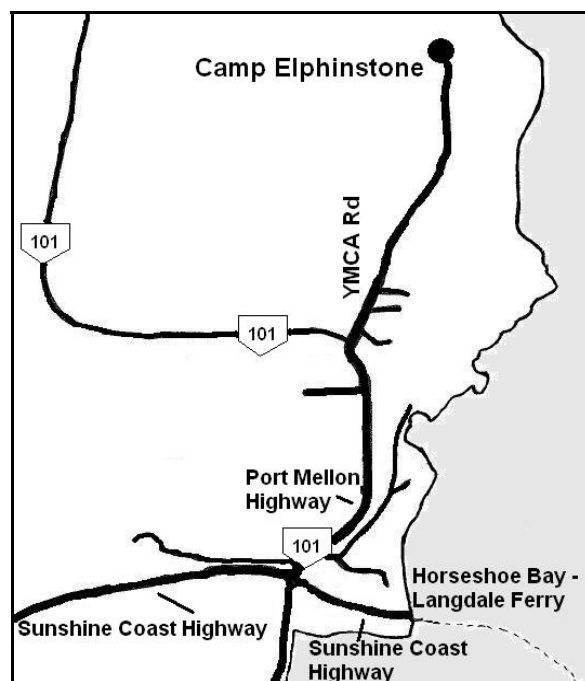
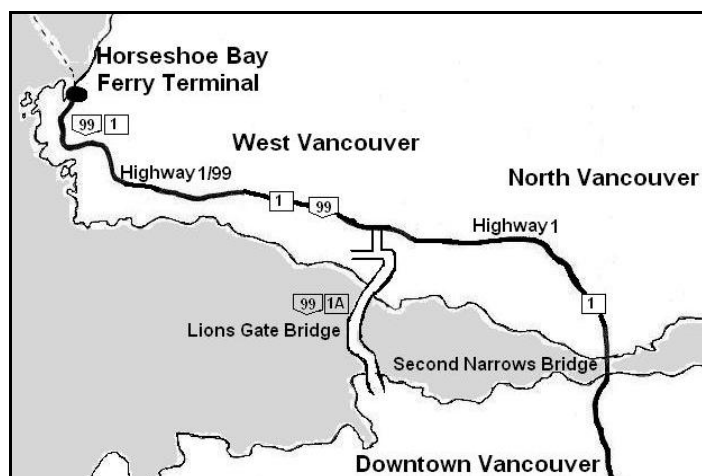
NEED MORE INFORMATION?

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 ELPHINSTONE

To Horseshoe Bay Ferry Terminal:

Take Highway 1 West, from Vancouver and follow signs for Horseshoe Bay in West Vancouver. If your child is taking the ferry with camp staff, they will be signed in and out next to the Passenger Drop-Off and Pick-Up area of the ferry terminal in Horseshoe Bay Village.



To Camp from Langdale Ferry Terminal:

Camp Elphinstone is 1.5 km (25 minute walk, 5 minute drive) from the Langdale Ferry terminal. After departing the terminal, turn right on the first street and follow Port Mellon Hwy to YMCA Road (first street on the right). Follow YMCA Road through the subdivision down to the camp gates. Park in the visitor's parking lot and check in with the office.