



YMCA Camp Elphinstone
Home of a million memories

Spring Break Camp
Information Guide

WELCOME LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

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. 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. We play through the rain so being prepared is important, which means packing some extra clothes 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,



Pam Chater
Camp Director
YMCA Camp Elphinstone

MCA 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

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.

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 3:30pm** 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.

CONTACTING YOUR CAMPER AT CAMP

We have a couple of methods in which to contact campers, mail, pay phones, e-mail 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 will send an update e-mail to all parents during the week and feel free to respond back with an e-mail for your camper that we will deliver to them.

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.

HEAT ROOM

Please read the following information carefully, as it contains some important information.

YMCA Camp Elphinstone has implemented a new procedure for campers and staff luggage. With the widespread issue of bed bugs in the lower mainland, we have built a new heat treatment room to ensure prevention of bed bugs. All bags will pass through this space before campers move into their cabins. This heat treatment will heat bags to 125 degrees, which will ensure that any bags or luggage that possibly

contain bedbugs and eggs will be killed prior to moving into cabins, eliminating any concerns of bed bugs spreading to our cabins, or your home. To allow for bags to be heated, we will need you to ensure that all items that should not be heated are packed in a zip lock bag and are placed on top of your camper's luggage. The following items should **not** be heated, as it could cause damage: plastic (toiletries), electronics (which should be left at home), candles, wax, medicines, photographs or pictures, cameras, food, cosmetics, pop cans, aerosols. Please make sure zip lock bags are well labelled with your camper's names. We appreciate your support in this matter.

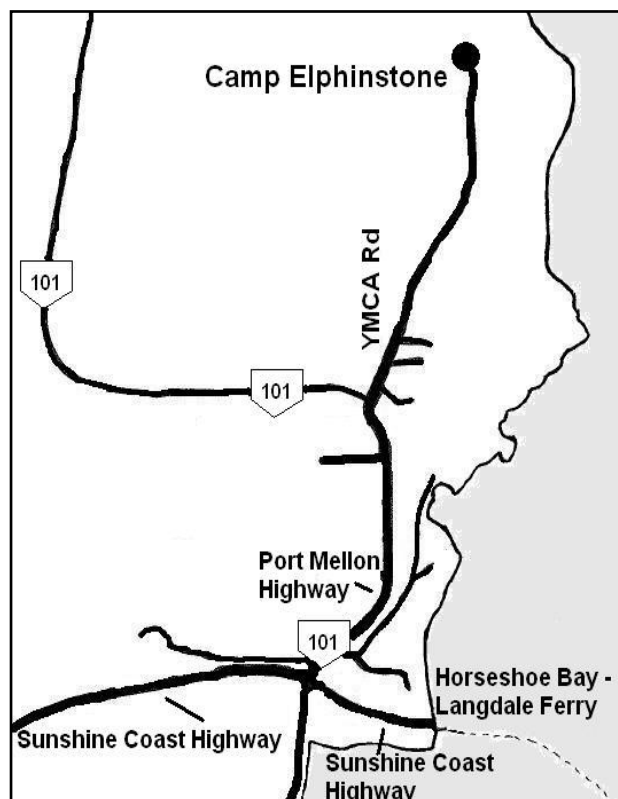
NEED MORE INFORMATION?

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 across from the terminal down by the water. There will be staff and signage up to help direct you to the right location.



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. Check in at the upper parking lot/McKenzie Hall.