

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR YOUTH OVERNIGHT CAMP

February 2022

1. What is youth overnight camp?

Youth overnight camp is an opportunity for youth ages 12 to 17 to attend free overnight camp in south central Ontario. At most camps, youth stay in cabins with small groups of their peers. Some camps also offer outdoor overnight excursions in tents. Our camp partners are experts in delivering wholesome, nature-based experiences infused with leadership opportunities, skill development and fun. Each camp offers a unique opportunity for youth to explore new activities, new surroundings and build new friendships.

2. What is the eligibility criteria for youth overnight camp?

Families who live in York Region, who have children and meet at least one of the following criteria may be eligible:

- Live in one of the following communities paying either subsidized or market rent: [Housing York Inc.](#), York Region non-profit Housing, Co-operative Housing Community in York Region
- Receive [Ontario Works](#), [Ontario Disability Support Program](#) or [Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities](#)

Youth must be between the ages of 12 and 17 to attend camp.

3. What happens after I apply for youth overnight camp?

After you apply, the York Region Children's Community Programs team will assess your eligibility for the program based on the eligibility criteria. If a member of your family is eligible for youth camp, the parent/caregiver on the application will receive a personalized communication from York Region with available camp options and spaces at the time of application approval. Camp spaces are offered based on age and gender requirements set out by our camp partners. Our camp partners also provide specific available weeks to York Region; other weeks of camp may not be available. A prompt response is required to secure one of the offered spaces. Spaces are given on a first-come, first-served basis to youth who confirm their desire/availability to attend camp and will not be reserved otherwise.

RECREATION SUBSIDIES

1-877-464-9675
york.ca/recreationsubsidies



4. How does my family decide which camp youth should attend?

How you decide which camp to attend is up to you! York Region will provide the website and contact information for each camp available to eligible campers. We encourage you to review each camp's offered activities, typical day plan, meal plan, location, and decide based on which camp appeals to your camper.

5. What happens after we select a camp?

Campers and their parent/caregiver should reply to the camp options communication as soon as possible to reserve a space in their desired camp. Families must also register directly with the camp to complete their reservation.

Once a youth confirms their desire to attend a specific camp with York Region, a registration information package will be provided to them. This package contains required registration forms/waivers, a suggested packing list and other pertinent information from the camp.

Registration directly with the camp must be completed to secure the camp space.

6. What is included when a camper is eligible for York Region funding?

Youth who attend overnight camp using York Region funding are eligible for the following:

- Placement at the available camp of their choosing. Available camps are provided in the camp options communication (see question 3. What happens after I apply for youth overnight camp?)
- Cost of enrollment and camp stay is covered by York Region for specific weeks of camp negotiated by York Region with selected camp partners
- A camp backpack including basic supplies, such as a sleeping bag, flashlight, bug spray, sunscreen, water bottle. *Limited supply available*
- Transportation to and from camp (if available, see camp options communication for details)

7. Where are the camps located?

York Region selects camps which are located within approximately a 2.5-hour drive of central York Region (not including traffic). Camp partners may change year-by-year, though we have long standing relationships with several amazing camps!

Camp partner details for the upcoming summer will be shared with families who are eligible for youth overnight camp funding after they are approved by York Region.

8. How do campers get to camp? How do they get home?

Most of our camps provide transportation from the York Region area to and from camp. Some modes of transportation include coach buses, school buses, multi-passenger vans and camp staff vehicles. York Region requires all camps to carry the required insurance to transport campers to and from their destination.

Some camps do require parents/caregivers to drive their camper to and from camp. These details will be shared with families before camp options are selected.

In case of emergency, York Region will work with parents/caregivers and camp staff to facilitate the safe return of all campers to York Region.

9. Are camping supplies needed?

York Region provides a limited supply of camp backpacks to approved campers; first come, first served. Each pack contains basic supplies needed for their time at camp, such as sunscreen, bug spray, water bottle, sleeping bag and flashlight. Additional supplies will be the responsibility of the youth attending camp. Each camp will provide a suggested packing list prior to registration; many camps have these lists available on their websites.

10. My youth has special needs; how can they be accommodated?

York Region makes every effort to partner with camps that will accommodate the needs of our communities. Families who know their camper may need extra support or accommodations at camp will be asked to discuss their needs directly with the desired camp(s). Our camp partners are responsible for confirming their ability to meet the needs of campers. While we cannot guarantee that our camp partners can meet every camper's needs, we will work diligently to try to find solutions.

11. The camps or camp weeks offered to me do not meet my youth's interests or needs – now what?

York Region aims to provide a variety of experiences and available camp weeks to try to meet the needs of our community. We know that the available options will not always meet every individual's needs. Families that cannot be accommodated through York Region's youth overnight camp program may choose to independently explore the accredited overnight camps in Ontario at ontariocampsassociation.ca. Many camps offer their own subsidies or payment programs.

12. My family doesn't qualify for York Region's overnight camp program but my child would still like to attend camp – what can I do?

We regularly review our eligibility criteria to ensure we are offering our program to families in greatest need. Families who cannot be accommodated through York Region's youth overnight

camp program may choose to independently explore the accredited overnight camps in Ontario at ontariocampsassociation.ca . Many camps offer their own subsidies or payment programs.

13. Why is York Region's overnight camp program only available for youth ages 12 to 17?

The youth overnight camp program was designed to serve families whose children are aging out of the summer day camp programs available through our local municipal recreation departments. Our summer day camp subsidy is available to support families with children ages four to 13.

Happy camping!