



# John Bosco Wilderness Camp

## Information Sheet

### Preparing for Camp

#### Forms

If information changes after you have submitted registration forms, please contact the camp office to make changes. The information on all forms is an important first step to a positive experience for your child.

#### Cancellations

Cancellations must be received at least 28 days prior to the start of the registered camp session. Cancellations received on or before the deadline will be given a full refund, minus a \$200 processing fee. Memberships and donations are not refundable. No refunds will be issued after the cancellation deadline.

### Packing Tips

Packing proper clothing and equipment is an important part of your campers experience. A well-prepared camper is a successful camper. When packing, ensure your camper assists as this will make them more aware of what was packed and will make it easier for them to find things. Please pack old clothes that your child will recognize. A suggested clothing and equipment list specific to your child's program is attached in a separate document. The following is a list of hints to make packing easier.

***The following items are stored at the main camp and should be packed separately for easy removal upon arriving at camp:*** Pills or other medications that need to be given to the first aid person, dishes, swimsuit and towel. Toiletries including sunscreen, lotions, lip balm, etc., insect repellent, and all food or candy, cough drops and gum are stored in the mess hall. Anything that would attract animals is not allowed in the tents or tenting areas.

#### Labeling Items

**Label** all items your child brings to camp. It is easier to identify lost-and-found articles that are clearly labeled with both first and last names. Lost-and-found items will be held for 2 weeks following each session.

***\*\*John Bosco Camp is not responsible for items lost. Please do not send valuables. \*\****

#### Rain Gear

This is the **most** important piece of equipment your camper will bring. Camp programs continue even on rainy days, so your child needs rainwear in which they can be active. Rain suits including both pants and jacket are best. Plastic tends to rip easily and is **not** recommended. Ponchos are also not recommended. ***\*\*Wind jackets are not waterproof and are ineffective as rain gear. \*\****

When buying rain gear, look for "coated" nylon with sealed seams. Durability is also important, considering that most children will spend time in situations that cause wear and tear. Rubber boots are not practical for out-tripping programs. 2 pairs of shoes / hiking shoes and good socks for hiking or canoeing are recommended. The second pair of shoes would be used in the evenings and allow campers to have warm, dry feet for the night. Dry campers mean safe and comfortable campers!

#### Cold Weather

Even during the summer, there are some cold days and nights. It is better to be over-prepared "just in case". A toque and a pair of mitts, long underwear, and warm sweaters should definitely be included. An extra blanket should be included if they do not have a cold weather sleeping bag.

## **Tent Living**

Campers live in tents, sharing with other campers. Each group will have up to ten campers and two group leaders. Group leaders sleep in the same tenting area as the campers but in a separate tent. While on out-trips, the camper's gear, clothing, and some of the group's food and/or equipment will be in their backpack. For safety, backpacks are stored outside of the out-tripping tents under a plastic ground sheet. Organization of clothing and equipment is the key to this truly unique experience, so please plan accordingly.

## **Laundry**

A breathable laundry bag will help your child keep dirty clothes separate from clean clothes. Camp laundry facilities are not available except in emergencies.

## **Opening Day**

Registration is at the Camp Administration Building between **1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.** We are not able to have campers arrive early.

Upon arrival to camp, please follow the signs and park in the playing field. Once parked, please register at the Administration Office. Medications are handed into the first aid person at this time.

A canteen account will be opened and credited with the amount of money deposited in the store account. As your child purchases items, the amount they spend is subtracted from the total. Any money not spent by the end of camp will be refunded at the end of the summer. Amounts under \$10.00 will be moved into our sponsorship fund.

**All medications** including over-the-counter medications will be labeled and given to the camp staff. Once you are registered, your child will be shown to their group and introduced to their Group Leaders. Group Leaders will instruct campers to retrieve their luggage and bring it to the group meeting area. Dishes, toiletries, swimsuits, and towels will be separated from the luggage and left at the main camp. The group will then go to their tenting area to set up tents.

Opening ceremonies take place by the flagpole at the Administration Building at 3:00pm.

## **During Camp**

### **Mail**

Camp is able to accept mail. Mail takes at least five days (often longer) to reach camp. Send your letters early to ensure their arrival while camp is in session. Mail will be picked up/ dropped off approximately twice per camp. A letter from home can be a wonderful treat if it is positive and lighthearted. Bad news is best left until the camper arrives home and is within the closeness of family.

Please address mail to your camper as:

Camper's Name  
c/o St. John Bosco Camp  
PO Box 217  
Smeaton, SK S0J 2J0

### **Telephones**

Telephones are not available for campers to make or receive calls. In cases where caregiver consultation is required, a senior John Bosco Camp staff will communicate with caregivers.

There is **no** cell service. Please leave campers' phones at home.

*\*\*Emergency calls to campers should be directed to the Camp Manager. 306 426 2227\*\**

### **Program Activities**

Overnight hikes; Canoeing; Naturelore; Orienteering; Wilderness Crafts; Swimming; Drama; Campfires and Sing Songs; Ropes and Challenge Courses; Sports and Games; Camping Skills; Discovery; Reflection; Archery and more.

## **A Typical Day at Camp**

8:00	am	Rise & Shine	3:30	pm	Free Swim
8:30	am	Breakfast and dishes	4:30	pm	Activity
9:00	am	Activity	6:00	pm	Supper and dishes
10:30	am	Activity	7:00	pm	Activity
12.00	noon	Lunch and dishes	8:30	pm	Discovery
1:00	pm	Quiet time	9:00	pm	Campfire
1:30	pm	Activity	10:00	pm	Cocoa
3:00	pm	Canteen	10:30	pm	Lights Out

## **Nutrition at Camp**

Our meals are simple, wholesome, and nutritious to meet the needs of the high activity level of camp. We do accommodate restricted diets (vegetarians, allergies, diabetics) with **prior** notification specified on the registration form. Please provide detailed information on the registration form. If allergies are severe, Caregivers are encouraged to contact the Camp Manager by phone to discuss the details. There are no known nuts or peanuts on camp property. An additional \$5.00 per day will apply for special dietary requirements.

## **Home Sickness**

It's normal for children to experience homesickness when they are away from home, especially when they are in a new environment like a summer camp. Homesickness is a real feeling and a natural reaction for children. Camp staff are trained to detect and support campers that experience homesickness.

## **Behavioural Guidance Policy**

Before camp, caregivers should discuss behavioural expectations with their campers. If behavioural problems arise, the camper will first work with their Group Leader and then a senior staff member to resolve the issue. If no solution is found, the camper's caregiver will be contacted for guidance. If the behaviour cannot be resolved, the camper may be sent home.

**Possession of controlled substances (e.g. alcohol, marijuana, non-prescription drugs, tobacco, vapes etc.) or violence/aggression toward another camper or staff member will result in immediate removal from camp.**

**A camper who leaves their group or hides, cannot be kept safe in our wilderness environment. If a camper runs away or hides from their group they will be required to go home.**

Campers will be held responsible for any malicious damage they cause. Fees for campers sent home for behavioral reasons will not be refunded.

## **Mental Health at Camp**

While John Bosco Wilderness Camp strives to make all campers feel welcome and comfortable during their time at camp, we are not equipped to deal with serious mental health concerns. If problems arise beyond our scope/ability to handle safely, we will contact the caregivers of the camper and arrange for them to be picked up so that they can be given more suitable care.

## **In Case of Injury or Illness**

First Aid Personnel are on staff at all times. If a trip to a doctor or the hospital is necessary, a staff member will accompany your child and the First Aid staff or Camp Manager will contact you. If your child requires any prescription drugs, other medications, or treatment not covered by your medical plan, John Bosco Camp will pay the hospital or clinic and bill you.

## Evaluations

We encourage you to talk to your child's Group Leaders on pick up day to see how the camp went. A survey will be emailed to you after camp to gather feedback from you to improve camp experience for everyone. Please help us to meet your camping needs by completing the survey.

## **Closing Day**

Caregivers are responsible for picking up campers on the last day of camp or for making other arrangements to ensure their child has a safe ride home. Please indicate who will be picking up your camper.

Closing ceremonies start at 11:00 a.m. Group songs and skits are performed. Camp is officially over following the closing ceremonies (approx 12:00 noon).

## **BBQ**

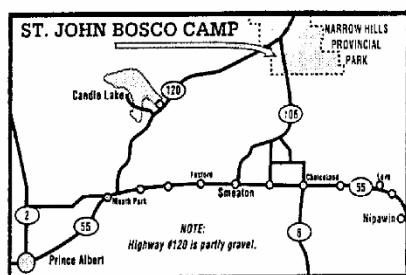
Everyone is invited to join the camp staff for lunch following the closing ceremonies. Hamburgers will be on sale at the canteen as a camp fundraiser. Also available are the normal canteen items: drinks, chips, candy bars and ice cream products.

## **Lost and Found**

Please check the lost and found for missing items **before** leaving camp. Also make sure your camper has picked up any medications from the First Aid and their dishes from the mess hall. Articles left behind may be picked up at any time while camp is in session. There is no provision for articles to be mailed to you, so please check for all items before leaving camp. Unclaimed articles are donated to charitable organizations.

## **Location/Transportation / Bus to Bosco**

Camp is located approximately 67 km northeast of Smeaton on the Hanson Lake Road (Hwy 106). Paved highway. Approx traveling times are 1 ½ hrs from Prince Albert and 3 hrs from Saskatoon. (Google maps will direct you to take highway 120. This is a gravel road that is very slippery when it is raining)



John Bosco Wilderness Camp offers a bus service with pickup and drop off locations in Saskatoon and Prince Albert. The bus service must be booked and paid for during registration at least three weeks before the start date of camp and costs \$240 +GST for a round trip (\$120 for one-way). A minimum of 8 campers is required for this service to be available. If the bus service is canceled, caregivers will be notified at least three weeks before the start date of camp and the bus fees will be refunded. **For junior campers, the bus is only available for trips home and costs \$120.00 +GST**

If you want to send your child on the bus but did not complete the "Bus to Bosco" section on the registration form, please contact the office to check for availability.

Bus service is limited to 13 campers. It will be driven by an adult volunteer (a member of the camp Board of Directors, a staff member, or a volunteer known to camp) with valid class 4 Saskatchewan driver's license.

Bus leaves promptly at times shown. Please have your child at the pick-up point at least **20 minutes** early in order to pack their gear. Campers will arrive at camp around 1 p.m. **\*\*Please send a bag lunch or lunch money with the camper as a lunch / bathroom stop will be made en-route.\*\***

**To Camp – Pick Up Location**

Saskatoon	Preston Crossing (Burger King parking lot)	9:00am
Prince Albert	McDonalds (2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave W and Marquis Rd W)	11:00am

On closing day, the bus will be leaving camp at approximately 1:00 pm for the ride home. Please make arrangements to meet your child at the drop off locations at the designated times.

**From Camp – Drop Off Location**

Prince Albert	McDonalds (2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave W and Marquis Rd W)	3:00pm
Saskatoon	Preston Crossing (Burger King parking lot)	5:00pm