

Kakhamela Family Camp Guide 2024



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A LETTER TO CAMP PARTICIPANTS AND FAMILIES

Dear Kakhamela Families,

We are so excited that you will be joining us at Camp Kakhamela Family Camp. Diabetes Canada is committed to providing the best possible camp experience for your family. This package has been designed to help you become more familiar with our programs and allow you to prepare for your camp experience. Please take a few minutes to review the information contained in this package.

We have a series of programs planned this year and we can't wait to share it with you. You'll get to try some amazing activities, meet new friends, develop new skills, and learn more about diabetes. But before you start packing your suitcase, please read our D-Camps Family Camp Guide and this Information Package. It is full of important information that will prepare you to have the best camp experience possible. Some of the important information included in this package is:

- Dates and Locations
- Healthcare at Camp
- Camp Activities
- Meals and Accommodations
- Suggested Packing list
- Electronics and Pet Policy
- Serving Diverse Campers
- Cancellation and Refund Policy

From all of us at Diabetes Canada, and Camp Kakhamela, we are excited that you are joining the D-Camps family. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact us at any time.

Sincerely,
The D-Camps Team



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Kakhamela Family Camps

Our family camp provides a unique seasonal setting and is focused on providing connection, support and community to families living with type 1 diabetes. At Family Camp, we provide these opportunities for anyone in your child's care-giving community. That could be grand-parents, extended family or close friends. If there are additional people involved in the care of your child with type 1 diabetes, they are welcome to attend.

Family Camp brings people together in a way that just doesn't happen in any other setting. Family Camp is a fantastic introduction or connection to the D-Camps experience. You and your family will get the opportunity to take part in camp programming in a community of people who understand the day-to-day challenges of living with type 1 diabetes.

Family Camp is a great fit for you if:

- You have a recently diagnosed child and are looking to connect with people who understand.
- You have years of experience and could be a valuable support to others.
- Someone in your family lives with type 1 diabetes and you want to have a fun D- Camps experience!

Dates and Location

Our Kakhamela Family Camp is located at YMCA Camp Elphinstone in Gibsons, British Columbia. Camp is accessible by personal participant vehicle only, and you will need to take a ferry. You will not be allowed to bring recreational vehicles for personal accommodation while on site. Please plan to arrive and depart at the listed times below. Additionally, if you plan to be late, please contact the Camp Director or Manager. We encourage folks to book their ferry in advance as end of summer travel can lead to full ferries. Reserving your ferry in advance can support for an easier travel day for the start of Family Camp!

Arrival

Wednesday, August 28th, 2024, between 3 – 4:30pm

*Ferry from Horseshoe Bay at either 2:20pm or 3:15pm

Departure

Saturday, August 31st, 2024, 10:00am

*Ferry from Langdale at 10:55am

Directions

Camp Kakhamela at Camp Elphinstone is only a five-minute drive from the Langdale ferry terminal. Please plan to arrive no earlier than 3:00pm on your first day, and to be out of your cabins no later than 10:30am on your last day of camp. This allows the YMCA staff appropriate time to clean and prepare the cabins and lodges; both for your stay, and for the group who will be arriving after our departure. Once you arrive at camp, please park in the visitor's parking lot (third turn off on the right after passing Camp Elphinstone sign) and check in with the D-Camps Staff in front of Makenzie Hall.

Please click [here](#) for directions to YMCA Camp Elphinstone from Google Maps.

Please click [here](#) for the BC Ferries Schedule from Horseshoe Bay to Langdale.



Healthcare at Camp

Your family's continuing good health is important to us. Registered Nurses and a Registered Dietitian will be available throughout Family Camp for consultation however, **parents and guardians are responsible for the diabetes management in their family throughout the camp program.**

For most children, camp provides much more physical activity than usual and therefore changes in blood glucose levels should be expected. In case of emergencies, camp staff members are certified in Standard First Aid and CPR-C. Remember that one of the best ways for your family to stay healthy is for each person to wash their hands before every meal and not to share food or drinks.

Please ensure that you have also packed adequate supplies of any other non-diabetes medications with you for your Family Camp session. While we do have extra diabetes supplies available, some items are limited. A fridge will always be available, typically in the main dining hall, for insulin storage during the program. We always encourage our child participants living with diabetes to have their glucometers on them/available during activities.

D-Camps staff members are always available and happy to carry any items for you, or you can also bring along a small daypack for these items as we move through the busy days!

What to Expect at Family Camp

Over the course of your Family Camp experience, adults and children will have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities and experiences. In everything we do at Family Camp, we emphasize creativity, skill development, and relationship-building in a safe, fun-filled atmosphere designed to encourage growth, learning, and the development of self-confidence.

Throughout your time, much of the camp program will be divided into three streams. One stream will be for children and youth, the second stream will be for adults, parents, and caregivers, and the last stream is for families as a whole!

Family Activities

Archery, Art, Canoeing & Kayaking, Music, Static Course, Low Ropes, High Ropes Elements, Mountain Biking, Outdoor Living Skills, Pottery, Swimming, Nature Hikes, Land Sports, Field Games

Adult Seminars (Determined by availability of speakers)

Our Adult seminars will be confirmed and e-mailed to you with the program schedules closer to the program start dates once speakers have been confirmed.

Evening Program

Every night at Family Camp, the whole camp community comes together to take part in activities like capture the flag campfires, camp-wide games and many other themed activities.



Meals and Accommodations

Accommodations will be in dorm style lodges. There are two sets of bunk beds in each room with shared washroom facilities. Families will have their own bedroom spaces but will share washroom and shower facilities. The dorms are heated; however, bedding is not provided – be sure to bring enough for the weekend! Camp prepares three nutritious meals, which have been reviewed by our dietitian, as well as snacks each day. All meals are served family style, and families are encouraged to sit with each other. YMCA staff also wash the dishes and clean the washrooms and other common areas. Staff and volunteers from Diabetes Canada will be available throughout your stay to assist you as well.

We provide three nutritious meals, which have been reviewed by our dietitian, as well as snacks each day. All meals are served family-style, and families are encouraged to sit with each other. Carb counts will be available for all meals. Additionally, low supplies will be provided. Staff also wash the dishes and clean the washrooms and other common areas. Staff and volunteers from Diabetes Canada will be available throughout your stay to assist you as well.

Plenty of food is provided for families over the course of the weekend. We encourage families to avoid packing lots of extra food for the weekend, as it should not be needed. However, if you feel it is necessary to pack some extra food, we ask that it is packed in a sealed Rubbermaid container and is locked in your vehicle. Please dispose of food wrappers and packaging in main dining area only. All our sites are nut-free facilities that discourage participants from bringing outside food.

Food, Nutrition, and Allergy Policy

For our camps, we aim to offer a healthy, balanced diet throughout your time at camp. The Dietitians and kitchen staff work hard to ensure that meals and snacks are nutritionally balanced, carb counted, as well as delicious and satisfying.

We understand that some participants have dietary restrictions or concerns. At D-Camps, in support with our rental facilities, we try to accommodate most dietary needs to the best of our ability.

Nut Allergies

Kakhamela is a nut free camp. We do not allow or serve foods/snacks that “contain” nuts and greatly monitor our products that say, “may contain” or “made in a facility”. We have found that over the years that products that were once free of nuts have now changed their labeling to “made in a facility”. We do not have peanut butter on-site or other nut products and use soy butter as an alternative where appropriate. Some of our food items may be manufactured in a “nut containing facility”, and we cannot guarantee that our food is delivered in a nut-free vehicle. Our food service provider is also committed to being an “allergy-aware” space.

Celiac/Gluten-Free

We do our best to accommodate for gluten sensitivity and allergies. We offer gluten free (GF) substitutes at each meal and snack. We take steps to reduce cross-contamination; however, we cannot guarantee this due to limited cooking facilities at camp. We have a designated GF toaster, wash surfaces between use and keep GF foods separate from gluten-containing foods when storing, refrigerating, and serving. Where possible we serve certified gluten free food and have taken significant steps to conduct our baking off site.



Vegetarian/Vegan

If you or your camper requires a vegetarian/vegan diet, non-meat options are available at every meal. This must be indicated on camp forms to ensure the kitchen prepares enough of the vegetarian/vegan food.

Other (Kosher, Halal, Other Dietary Needs)

Other dietary concerns may be accommodated upon request. Please indicate dietary concerns on intake forms. We will work with you and your camper to ensure the best possible eating experience while at camp!

Packing List

Please see the following page for a suggested packing list. However, you know your family better than anyone so please use the included list as a guideline to help in your preparations!

Medical

- Insulin, pens/syringes or pump supplies
- CGM/FGM supplies
- Meters and strips
- Other medications (must be in original container)

Camp Stuff

- Sleeping bag (or sheets/blankets)
- If bringing Sheets make sure they are for a single bed
- Pillow
- Flashlight & extra batteries
- Insect repellent
- Toiletry kit (soap, facecloth, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, deodorant, etc.)
- 1-2 lightweight towels (easy drying for showers)
- Books to read
- Camera (digital cameras are okay)
- Daypack
- Sunscreen (for all seasons)



Clothing

- 3 pairs of socks
- 3 pairs of underwear
- 1 pair of pants/sweatpants
- 2 – 3 t-shirts
- 2 sweatshirts/long-sleeve shirts
- Waterproof rain jacket
- Rubber boots
- 2 pairs of shoes
- Sandals
- Pajamas
- 1-2 swimsuits (if swimming is available)
- 2 pairs of shorts/lightweight pants

Please do not bring any of the following items with you for the weekend:

- Alcohol, Non-prescription drugs, drugs not prescribed to the camper (Over the counter medications will be provided by camp) Tobacco products, or any electronic smoking devices
- Weapons, Knives, including camping or Swiss army knives
- Valuable or precious items (i.e. jewelry)

Diabetes Canada is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

We recommend packing belongings in suitcases/luggage or storage containers that can be identified by your camper. We suggest avoiding large garbage bags as they can rip or easily be mixed up during transport!

Luggage Protocol – IMPORTANT

YMCA Camp Elphinstone has an important procedure for all participant and staff luggage. With the widespread issue of bed bugs in the lower mainland, Camp Elphinstone has built a 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, like a sauna, will heat camper luggage to ensure that any bedbugs and eggs will be killed prior to moving into cabins. This will eliminate any concerns of bed bugs spreading to camp cabins, or back to your home. To allow for bags to be heated, we will need you to ensure that all items that should not be heated are separated from the rest of your family's luggage. This is essential for the efficiency of the drop off procedure.

Please pack all diabetes supplies, toiletries, medications, and electronic items in a separate bag. As everyone's luggage will be moved in and out of the heat room by staff, please label your luggage to ensure you collect your family's belongings.



Bedding

Beds with mattresses are provided, however sheets, pillows, blankets, and sleeping bags are not. Please be sure that you have enough bedding for your family, appropriate for the season with the possibility of cool nights. All beds will be single sized so please bring appropriate bedding.

Electronics Policy

Participants are welcome to bring electronic devices to Family Camp. We do ask that if you choose to use your cell phone, please step away from the group to not disturb the other participants. As well, there are many apps, websites and programs that participants can use to help manage their diabetes, and we encourage participants to share their favourite apps with others.

We cannot guarantee that there will be cell service on site, nor can we guarantee that each family cabin will have access to a charging plug (although there will be plugs available in the main buildings). We expect that all participants will use electronics responsibly, behave in a way that is respectful to others, and ask other's permission before sharing any information, photos or videos online. Additionally, there is wifi access in the welcome centre for those who may need access.

Pet Policy

No pets, except for certified service animals, are permitted at camp. Please contact the Camp Coordinator if you have any questions.

Camp clothing sales

You will have the opportunity to purchase camp clothing and merchandise throughout the duration of Family Camp. Cash, credit card, or cheque are the accepted methods of payment.

Serving diverse participants

At Diabetes Canada and D-Camps, we believe that our camps and youth programs are for all children and youth living with type 1 diabetes, regardless of ancestry, colour, race, ethnicity, religion, creed, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ability, or exceptionality.

To ensure that we can provide the best experience to all our participants, we ask that families complete registration forms as fully and truthfully as possible. The more we know about our participants, the better we can support their needs.

If you have any questions about the fit of your child for our programs, please contact our Camp Director or Manager to discuss the support we can provide.



Cancellation/Refund Policy

BEFORE FEBRUARY 29, 2024 – Full refund of all fees less a **\$25 cancellation fee** (per program).

Following March 1 until 5 weeks prior to the start of program: Full refund of all fees less a **\$100 cancellation fee** (per household).

AFTER 5 weeks prior to the start of program – All fees are non-refundable.

Diabetes Canada, D-Camps reserves the right to collect any outstanding household balances and/or cancellation fees by processing the credit card on file. If at any time you would like to check your household balance, you may do so by logging into your CampBrain Registration [HERE](#). Additionally, you can contact our Camps Administrative Coordinator at 647-800-9837.

Contact Information

If you have specific questions about the Kakhamela Family Camp program or will be arriving late to Camp, please contact Cale Allen, Camp Director at Cale.allen@diabetes.ca. Questions about your registration can be directed to camps@diabetes.ca



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