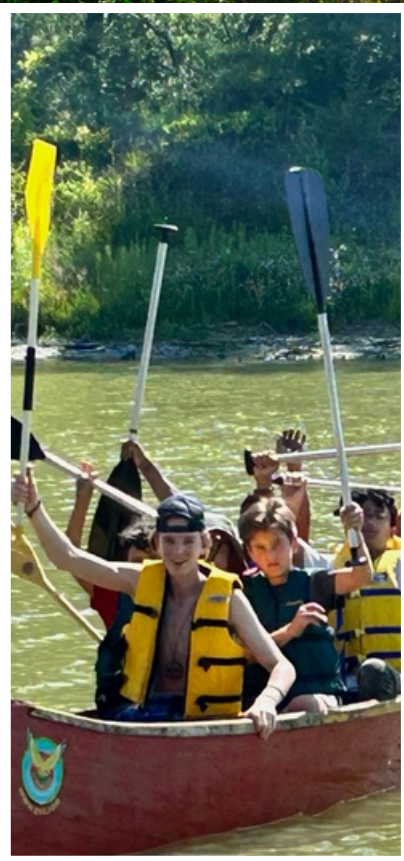




# 2026 Parent Guide

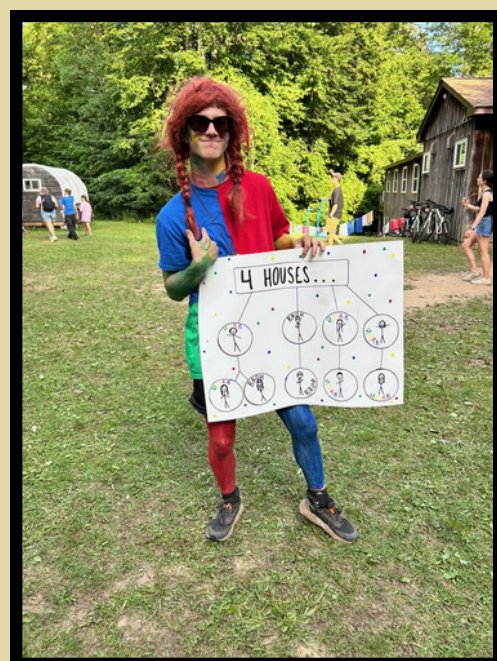
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Youth Leadership Camps Canada





# What you'll find in this guide

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**Celebrating 34 years of  
Leadership Development**

## Who are we?

We are a family-run, private overnight summer camp. With more than 30 years experience. We believe that smaller camps equal a more personalized, family-like and impactful experience. Small group sizes are important to us – groups range from 8-12 campers each, depending on age. Our staff to camper ratio is 4:1. We average 80 campers per session.

## Leadership is What We Do

Sending your camper to YLCC gives them a tangible, measurable advantage. When your camper applies what they learned at YLCC, they will do better in school, socially and academically. Our campers graduate from each program with confidence and an enthusiasm to lead and learn more.

## A Brief History

Youth Leadership Camps Canada started in 1992 with an idea. Could we create a program for teens that introduced them to deeper leadership skills than they were learning in school? We wanted to provide them with the opportunity to get out into the great outdoors and away from the challenges of the peer pressures faced at home.

Each year we grew, from 50 campers that first year to our biggest summer of more than 1600 in 2019. The camp was closed in 2022, due to the impact of Covid affecting us for 2 years.

Although we are much smaller than we were in our last full summer in 2022, we still have the same camp energy that has always been a trade mark of YLCC. The camp is now run mostly by a new generation of enthusiastic leaders who work every day to make camp memories a reality!





# A message from Stu

## Camp Director and Head Gardener



*Dear Camp Family,*

*As I sit here reflecting on my 50th year of camping, I can't help but feel as though I'm on a genuine emotional roller coaster.*

*Over the last 50 years, from my first summer as a six-year-old camper at Y-MA-WA-CA Day Camp, to becoming a camp counsellor, a camp director, and eventually a camp owner, it has been a lifetime of learning, growth, and gratitude.*

*The lessons I have learned from the mistakes I have made, the genuine joy I felt from discoveries that I have experienced to the satisfaction I feel when I see a camper or staff go on to do STUpendous things is immeasurable.*

*At the end of each summer, I often ask myself: If this were the last one, would I be okay? Would I feel like I had done all I could do? The answer is usually a modest yes.*

*I don't mean that in a negative way. Rather, it comes from wishing that even more young people could have the opportunities I have been fortunate enough to experience. I wish we could do this forever. The value of a summer camp experience is so profound that there is truly no metric that can measure it.*

*Nothing can quantify the value of the lifelong friendships that have been formed at YLCC, the staff members who met at camp and eventually married, or - perhaps most magical of all - the children who exist today because their parents met at summer camp, started a life and a family from their first meeting at Youth Leadership Camps Canada.*

*It is something truly special.*

*As I look ahead to my 34th summer at YLCC, my hope is that we have another incredible season filled with meaningful moments, deeper connections, and opportunities for deeper learning and growth.*

*This letter is simply to say thank you for continuing to believe in our adventure. However many summers remain, this journey has been one for which I will be forever grateful.*

*With leadership and deep gratitude,*

*Stu Saunders  
Founder and Head Gardener  
Youth Leadership Camps Canada*





# A message from ORNJ

## Associate Director, Director of Joy



*Hello to our YLCC families!! And welcome to the summer of 2026!!*

*It's me, ORNJ ... my official title is the Associate Director of YLCC, but pretty much everyone knows that I'm really the Director of Joy!! My entire job at camp is to do whatever I can to make your camper's experience as joyful as possible!!*

*Whether it's taking pictures to use for my end-of-session slideshow or telling unbelievably funny jokes in our Joke-of-the-Day challenge (and yes, thanks for asking ... I am the back-to-back defending champ!!) ... whether it's sharing a magic trick or a thought of the day at Morning Reflection ... whether it's gently waking campers up each morning with my dulcet singing voice or giving out a thousand high-fives over the course of our time together ... I will do whatever it takes to make your camper's YLCC 2026 a celebration of joy!!*

*Now here's the thing ... what some of you don't know is that I am a retired high school Math teacher. I had the privilege of sharing mathematical joy with my students for 33 years. Now I suspect that some of you reading this just groaned ... mathematical joy?? Seriously?? (I also know that some of you smiled when you read it, because you are on Team Math already!!)*

*But let me tell you about some mathematical joy that I discovered today ... 2026 happens to be a HAPPY NUMBER!! That's right ... numbers can be happy!!*

*A Happy Number is discovered by taking the digits 2 0 2 and 6, squaring them individually and adding the answers together. (Remember that squaring something means multiplying it by itself ... so 2 squared is  $2 \times 2 = 4$  and so on.) When we add the sum of the squares, we get*

*$22 + 02 + 22 + 62 = 44$ . Repeating the process on that answer gives us*

*$42 + 42 = 32$ , then  $32 + 22 = 13$ ,  $13 + 32 = 10$  and finally  $12 + 02 = 1$ !! 2026 is considered a Happy Number, because it brings us to 1 ... (Not all numbers do .... some get caught in a loop. I'll leave it to you to investigate!!)*

*To which you might be saying ... SO WHAT??*

*Well, here's the "so what" ... what does it take to make someone happy?? Sometimes it just takes 1 ... 1 caring person, 1 listening friend, 1 hug, 1 silly joke, 1 conversation ... sometimes it just takes 1!!*

*I will be the 1 for some campers this summer. So will Stu. So will Emma and Zoe and Stella and Kev ... So will every single 1 of our incredible staff!! Each of us will have that 1 moment of magic, that 1 moment of joy, that 1 moment of connection when a camper needs it the most. (Of course each of us will have many more than 1 of those moments!!)*

*And your camper will be the 1 for another camper too!! They will make memories and magical moments with one another, and they will inspire each other to reach a little further, to learn a little more, to grow and discover and become more caring, more supportive, more 1-derful!!*

*YLCC 2026 is just around the corner, friends ... let's make it 1 to remember!!*

ORNJ





# Other Pieces of the Puzzle



**Emma Griffin**

***Assistant Camp Director***

Hello everyone, I'm Emma!

I enjoy life spent outside and in good company, which is why I've been part of the YLCC family for 15 years. Based in Victoria, BC, I spend my days running by the ocean, cycling through dense forests, and playing guitar. In my first year of medical school, I continue to meet the world with a curious spirit, and integrate leadership into all that I do. I'm thrilled to be returning to camp, and looking forward to connecting with all of you!



**Christine Fry**

***Office and Registration Director***

Christine Fry joined the YLCC team in the spring of 2012. Her organizational and management skills have been honed through 20 years of small business ownership, and raising three wonderful and engaging children. She is a University of Guelph Alumni, and worked extensively in the Orillia Arts and Culture scene for many years. A camper and counsellor herself through her childhood years, Christine has come full circle and loves her home at YLCC.





# Drop Off & Registration

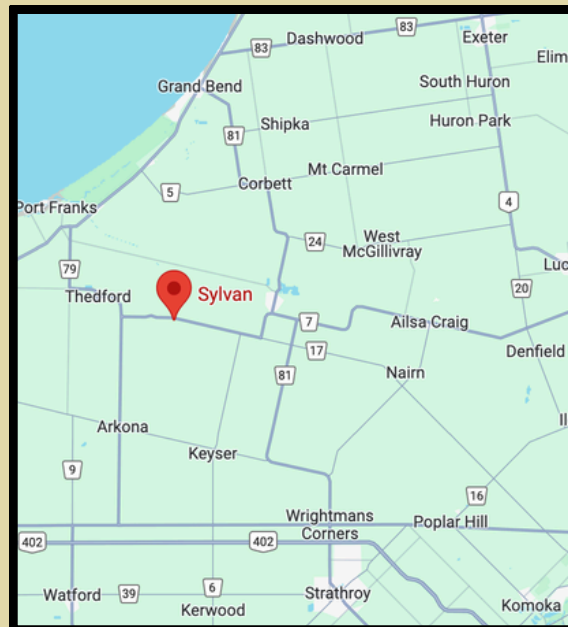
## When

There are **TWO drop off dates** for camp this year.

Senior Camp **Friday, July 3rd from 2:30-4:00 PM**

Junior Camp: **Sunday, July 5th from 2:30-4:00 PM**

***\*Please do not arrive earlier or later. Parents who arrive early will be directed to a coffee shop nearby! Camp activities begin promptly at 4 PM.***



## Where

32098 Scout Road, Thedford Ontario. Or, [follow Google Maps to Camp Sylvan - Frontier Land Site.](#)

## What Parents & Guardians Can Expect

When you arrive with your campers, you will be directed to our registration area to confirm any important information and meet with our camp nurse to hand over any medications. We will help you bring your camper's luggage to a centralized area for a group move-in after arrivals. We like to give every camper an equal chance to choose bunks regardless of their arrival time. Once all of those steps are completed, you can say your goodbyes and wish your camper an amazing week!

## What Campers Can Expect

After you get through the important stuff, you can say goodbye and thank you to the wonderful adult(s) that brought you to camp and get ready to go have an awesome week! You will get a chance to make a nametag, learn some camp songs, and play games with your fellow campers while you wait for everyone else to arrive. Once everyone is at camp, we'll all meet up so you can meet your group for the week. Then, we'll have dinner!





# Graduation & Pick Up

## Graduation Ceremony

Saturday, July 11th - 12:00 - 1:00pm

At the end of every session, all campers will participate in our Graduation Ceremony. This program is incredibly valuable to everyone who has worked hard – learning and growing as an individual and as part of a group. Your camper will stand on stage and share what has impacted them during their time at YLCC.

To be able to look out and see proud parents and grandparents looking back at them is **so** powerful.

That's why we ask that all parents attend this ceremony. It says that you support them and that you hear their new-found inspirations and goals. Please make it a priority to attend the ceremony! **PLEASE** do NOT forget to pack camper lanyards for returning campers.

**We ask that families arrive no earlier than 11:30am to be ready to leave by 1:30 pm after hugs and goodbyes.**







# Packing Guide

Please note that YLCC is not responsible for loss or damage to personal property. If necessary, we can secure your valuables in the camp office, however we recommend leaving high value items at home. **PLEASE** label all camper items!

## BEDDING

- Pillow
- Sleeping bag or comforter
- Extra blanket (fleece recommended)
- A stuffy

## CLOTHING

- Pyjamas
- Adequate supply of undergarments
- Socks (extra in case of wet weather)
- 2-3 Shorts
- 1 -2 Pants
- 3-4 T-shirts
- 1 -2 Long sleeved t-shirts (light colours)
- Sweatshirts or hoodies
- 1 Semi-formal outfit (for our "**BANKIT**")
- Seasonal jacket
- Sun hat
- 1 Bathing suit (we have a pool now)

## FOOTWEAR

- Flip flops for the shower
- Sandals *with* back straps - Crocs are fine
- Closed toed shoes for running/hiking

## OTHER

- Water bottle
- 2 Towels (1 pool, 1 shower)
- Flashlight
- Sunglasses and sunscreen (30 SPF min)
- Insect repellent
- **YLCC ACE medallion/Lanyard** (for returning campers)

## TOILETRIES

- Prescription medication (handed over to our Health Team during registration)
- As-needed medication (handed over to our Health Team during registration)
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Sunscreen

## RAIN GEAR

- Rain jacket
- Rain boots
- Bug Net if you want - it gets a bit buggy especially if you're in Navigators or Pinnacle (Formerly CIT)

## PROGRAM-SPECIFIC

- Paddle (Navigators)
- Life jacket (Navigators)
- Blank journal and pen (Pinnacle/CIT)

## OPTIONAL THINGS

- Musical instrument
- Books for reading
- Letter writing supplies

## PROHIBITED

- Chewing gum
- Tablets, screens and cellphones
- Alcoholic beverages
- Cannabis, tobacco and vapes
- Weapons (knives, hatchets, etc.)
- Clothing or items with offensive messaging
- Mobile Phones (we know we already said it)
- Money (tuck packages were offered at the time of registration. If you aren't sure if your camper(s) doesn't have one please just contact us to confirm)

**Tip:** Label everything!  
It'll help us get things  
back to your camper!  
*Try Mabel's Labels*



## Healthy Campers

Camp is a place with close contact and busy schedules. In the event that your child contracts a communicable illness or other condition before camp, please contact our team at [info@ylcc.com](mailto:info@ylcc.com). Campers with communicable illnesses may be asked to delay their arrival at camp.

## Medication

All medication, excluding epi-pens and asthma puffers, must be handed in at registration. These will be secured by the Camp Nurse. **All medications must be in a blister pack.** Blister packs are available from your pharmacists and are essential for our Health Team. Over-the-counter medications must arrive in a clear zip lock bag labeled with the camper's name which will be handed to our health team at registration.

## Head Lice

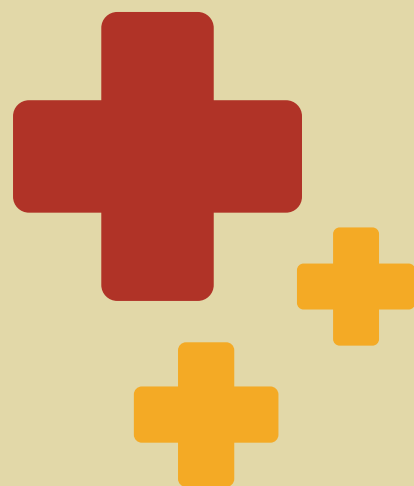
YLCC has a nit-free policy. We ask parents to check their camper personally or have them visit their family doctor prior to arrival. The Ontario Camps Association (OCA) requires that overnight camps check for lice. If your camper has head lice upon arrival at camp, they will be treated at the cost of the parents.

## Medical Attention

Any minor injuries or ailments will be treated by a First-Aid certified staff member or our on-site nurse.

In the event that your child needs additional medical attention, our staff will provide immediate transportation to the Exeter or London Health Science Centre. An ambulance will be called in for critical emergency situations.

We will make every effort to contact you as soon as possible should medical treatment be necessary, and will stay with your camper until the situation is resolved. If any prescription drugs are necessary as a result of consultation with the doctor, you will be contacted and billed for the amount after camp. All medical expenses are the responsibility of the parent or guardian of the camper.





# While at Camp



## Tuck Shop

The Tuck Shop is the YLCC camp store. Campers will be able to visit the tuck shop once per day to select their treats of choice. When you first registered for camp, you would have selected a tuck package.

**Basic tuck:** 2 treats per day, plus a 2026 camper t-shirt.

**Regular tuck:** everything in basic, plus a house t-shirt

**Deluxe tuck:** everything in regular, plus a hoodie

There *may* be a limited number of sweaters and house t-shirts available for purchase for those that opted into the basic package.

## Meals

Due to the small kitchen size and short nature of our camp program, we have a caterer that supplies our meals throughout the session. Our team works carefully with the caterer to ensure campers have all the food they need in nutritious, family-style meals. No outside food, candy or snacks are allowed. Any food items sent with campers will be donated to the local food bank. Chewing gum is strictly forbidden.

YLCC is able to accommodate most dietary concerns. Please be sure to submit such requests to our office in advance. If you require a consultation with our team, please let us know as soon as possible so we can work together to make sure your camper is set up for success at camp.

## Accommodations

YLCC will happily accept cabin-mate requests as indicated on our registration form. We will try to honour 1 mutual request for campers of the same age whenever possible.

All campers sleep in a variety of different accommodations. In our main camp area, and closest to the bathroom complex, our youngest campers (Junior + Intermediates) sleep in the bunk house where each room has 2 bunk beds (4 beds). Our Seniors and Trailblazers will sleep in our covered wagons that sleep 4 per wagon. Navigators, LITs and Senior campers will sleep in the Cabooses or the Hidden Springs, each area containing several bunk beds per room, running water, and a composting toilet. These are a 10 minute hike from the main camp.



# Staying In Touch



## Care Packages

Since YLCC is only 7 or 9 days long, it will be hard to get any mail to your camper. YLCC Sylvan also has no wi-fi, so email isn't an option. If you would like a care-package delivered to your camper during the week, it can be dropped off to our staff at registration. Please read the guidelines below, if you are intending to provide a care package.

### If you are leaving a care package:

- Please do not send food packages to your child. We want to be cautious of allergens (eg. nut products) and we want to avoid having food in sleeping spaces to keep critters away.
- All care packages are to be opened in the presence of a staff member and all food or otherwise prohibited items will be removed and disposed of.
- Some popular care package items include: books, letter writing supplies, crossword puzzles or stuffed animals. Have fun & be creative!

## Homesickness

Camp is an exciting and fun-filled place with new friends and new experiences. It's also a very different place- a different bed, different washrooms, food, schedule and people. When campers are away from home, it is reasonable to expect that until they become adjusted to the camp environment, they may go through a period of homesickness. It is important that parents realize, however, that this is something that a child may need to experience and see through in order to reach a higher degree of independence. Our counsellors receive training on how to help children feel comfortable at camp and how to respond to their individual needs. Campers are not typically permitted to call home as we have found this usually increases the level of homesickness.

## Phones

Campers do not have access to the camp phone. However, in extenuating circumstances, a call can be arranged. All outgoing calls made are done under the supervision of our Camp Director or Assistant Director. **Cell phones and other screens are not permitted at YLCC.** We encourage Camp to be a place where kids can unplug and reconnect with their peers and the outdoors. This policy is in place to prioritize your child's safety and privacy. In case of an emergency situation during camp where you need to get ahold of your child, please contact our directors.







# Expectations & Policies

## Camper Expectations

At Youth Leadership Camps Canada, we strive to teach each camper valuable skills and leadership qualities. One of them is respect: respect for the camp, nature, yourself, and others. Please encourage your camper to come to camp with an open mind and a willingness to learn. While camp offers opportunities for close friendships and new group skills, young people can react to these changes in many different ways. At YLCC, it is our goal to provide a safe, comfortable and supportive environment. There will be zero tolerance for bullying of any kind. Please discuss appropriate behaviour expectations with your child prior to arrival.

On registration day, every camper and parent must sign the YLCC Code of Conduct. Our staff are trained and experienced in providing high quality care for our campers and ensuring that the needs of each individual are met. If a situation arises where a camper threatens the safety or security of another camper, or themselves, we will make every appropriate effort to inform the parent involved, correct the behaviour and provide a positive camp experience for everyone. However, should disruptive behaviour continue, the child may be dismissed from camp at the discretion of the Camp Director. The camp will not provide a refund or be held responsible for any costs associated with a camper's dismissal.

We have a zero tolerance policy for theft. If any camper is caught stealing or suspected of theft of any item from camp or a fellow camper, they will be sent home at their own expense. We reserve the right to search any camper's bag without their permission as long as two staff are present with the camper.

## Policies

### Tax receipt

We will provide a tax receipt shortly after camp is completed if needed. Please contact Christine at [christine.fry@ylcc.com](mailto:christine.fry@ylcc.com) once camp has been completed.

### Other Policies

All other camp policies can be found online at [www.ylcc.com/policies](http://www.ylcc.com/policies) or by contacting our office at [info@ylcc.com](mailto:info@ylcc.com). All of our policies are designed around the health and safety of all campers with all OCA standards put into place.



# Sun Safety



We commit to making sun safety a part of our camp culture. We will:

- Ensure that all staff complete sun safety training and hold themselves as sun safety role models
- Sell broad spectrum SPF 30 sunscreen in our tuck shop
- Conduct activities in the shade during peak UV Ray hours (11 am - 3pm) when possible.
- Encourage re-application and constant sunscreen reminders and breaks throughout the day

As parents, we ask that you:

- Pack 30 SPF sunscreen or higher for all campers
- Pack Sun shirts and UPF rated clothing
- Pack wide-brimmed hats
- Talk about the importance of sun-safety and sun-safe behaviour setting at home, prior to coming to camp.



## Come to camp ready for fun & adventure!

One of the best ways to prepare for camp is to label your stuff!



mabel's labels

Go to [camps.mabelslabels.com](https://camps.mabelslabels.com)  
and choose our camp from the list!

**Search Youth Leadership Camps Canada  
under "fundraiser" at checkout**





# Anything we're missing?

If you or your campers have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. A member of our team would be happy to answer questions by email or over the phone. We want you and your campers to feel comfortable at camp and have this feel like a home away from home.



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