MANITOBA CAMPING ASSOCIATION

MANITOBA CAMPING MEMBERSHIP GUIDE

2027 EDITION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT US	**4 - 5**
MEMBERSHIP TYPES	**6**
BENEFITS	**7**
CAMP MEMBERSHIP	**10 - 15**
ROOKIE CAMP MEMBERSHIP	**16 - 19**
BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP	**20 - 23**

MANITOBA CAMPING ASSOCATION

ABOUT US

The Manitoba Camping Association, including the Sunshine Fund, is a charitable organization that supports and promotes camp, encourages best practices among the camp industry, manages the standards and accreditation of camps program and strives to foster a culture of community among its membership, safety for all campers, user groups and staff.

Research has proven that camp is an important component in childhood development. As such we want to help all camps reach their maximum capacity throughout the year to play a role in the long-term viability and success of camp.

In addition to supporting member camps and connecting camps to corporate members, the MCA fundraises to provide underprivileged children the opportunity to experience the benefits of summer camp through the Sunshine Fund. On average in recent years, we annually sponsor over 600 deserving children from families who need financial assistance to go to a week of summer camp; however we cannot meet the need and demand. We strive to increase our public awareness and financial support in the community through a variety of community, local and provincial initiatives.

MANITOBACAMPING.CA

MISSION

Play a leadership role in promoting and supporting the community of organized camps, encouraging the growth and recreational experiences for children, youth and families.

VISION

To be the recognized leader in the Manitoba camps community.

CORE VALUES

Personal growth & enrichment for children and youth through a camping experience	Collaboration, sharing of information, knowledge and perspectives
Integrity in all aspects of operation	Financial accessibility
Accountability and transparency	Environmental outdoor experience
Safety for all involved	

MEMBERSHIP TYPES

CAMP MEMBER

FEE BASED ON OPERATIONAL REVENUE

Membership in the Manitoba Camping Association is open to all organizations and individuals who support and wish to align with organized children's and family camps, and who share the vision, mission, and values of the MCA.

Camp Members are fully accredited according to the standards established by the MCA and are reassessed every three years to ensure continued excellence, safety, and adherence to best practices in camping.

As active members, accredited camps hold one weighted vote in the affairs of the MCA at the Annual General Meeting.

ROOKIE CAMP MEMBER

FEE BASED ON OPERATIONAL REVENUE

This membership is designated for camps who have chosen to become a full Camp Member. The journey to full membership can take several years, as camps work to meet the standards established by the Manitoba Camping Association. This type of membership reflects a camp's commitment to achieving accreditation and offers access to limited benefits from the MCA until full membership is attained.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBER

FEE $200

This membership is designed for non-profit organizations or agencies that share an interest in supporting the mission and goals of the Manitoba Camping Association and its members. It provides an opportunity to stay connected with the MCA community, access shared resources, and contributes to the growth and advocacy of camping across Manitoba.

Organizational membership is ideal for camps or organizations that may not meet the definition of "organized camping" but still wish to be part of the MCA network and demonstrate their commitment to the values and development of the camping movement.

BUSINESS MEMBER

FEE $250

This membership is for businesses that wish to support and advance the goals and objectives of the Manitoba Camping Association and its members. It provides an opportunity to connect with Manitoba's camping community, build meaningful relationships, and demonstrate your commitment to fostering positive outdoor and camp experiences across the province.

Business members play an important role in strengthening the MCA network by contributing expertise, services, and resources that help camps thrive.

MCA MEMBERSHIP

BENEFITS QUICK VIEW

	CAMP MEMBERSHIP	**ROOKIE** MEMBERSHIP	**ORGANIZATIONAL** MEMBERSHIP	**BUSINESS** MEMBERSHIP
Sunshine Fund	X			
Camp Ping	X	X	X	X
Camping Conference	X	X	X	X
CCA Membership	X			
Marketing	X			
MCA Logo Use	X			X
Networking	X	X	X	X
Website Resources	X	X	X	
Training Events	X	X	X	
Training Discounts	X			
Standards Support	X	X		
Incident Support	X			
Government Advocacy	X			
Promotion	X			X
Access to Camp Directory	X			X

CAMP MEMBER **BENEFITS**

The Manitoba Camping Association (MCA) is dedicated to promoting camping and identifying partnership opportunities to enhance the visibility of the camp experience. Members encompassing vendors, commercial entities, and accredited camps are encouraged to partake in these initiatives when available. We look forward to building a camping industry connection with you.

SUNSHINE FUNDING

Provides funding for campers to attend MCA accredited summer camp programs. The fund will support low-income families in need of financial assistance, offsetting the cost of summer camp.

LINKED CONFERENCE

A multi-day camp conference in partnership with CCI-Manitoba. This is an annual event hosted by different camps throughout Manitoba.

Members receive a discounted rate.

CAMP PING

Access to the MCA biweekly digital newsletter. This is our main communication tool for grants, government updates, standards updates, training and special events, significant notices, resources and ongoing developments within the MCA.

CCA MEMBERSHIP

Camp members will recieve a free full membership to the Canadian Camping Association. This membership includes other benefits and discounts. *www.ccamping.org*

MARKETING & PROMOTION

Marketing efforts are focused on increasing awareness of the Sunshine Fund and promoting attendance of Camp Members of the MCA.

- **Access granted for Camp Members to use the Accredited Badge on their website and print materials**
- Radio, Billboard and Bus Bench Advertising
- Sunshine Fund Cookie Day
- Winnipeg Free Press - collaboration with the MCA sharing stories through the eyes of Sunshine Fund Campers
- Camp Members listed and promoted on the MCA website
- MCA Team continually exploring awareness opportunities for camp members

WEBSITE RESOURCES

Our website provides easy access to other benefits such as:

- Accredited camps map and directory
- Job board for camps open job listings
- Resource page for camps staff
- Listings for training opportunities
- Resource Toolbox

SCAN CODE
to visit our online Resource Toolbox

TRAINING EVENTS

We provide annual training events to support camp programs that require training and certifications.

- MCA hosted training events
- Promote other members programs that offer helpful training events

TRAINING DISCOUNTS

We offer financial supports through Camp Member discounts and subsidizing other members' programs when possible.

NETWORKING

Networking will look different from year to year, but here are some events to ensure the Manitoba camp world has an opportunity to stay connected.

- MCA Virtual Coffee Breaks
- Annual General Meeting
- Linked: Camp Conference

STANDARDS SUPPORT

We recognize that comprehending and implementing the standards set by both the MCA and provincial regulations can be a significant task. The MCA is available to provide support to help camps succeed by reaching out to the Standards & Accreditation Coordinator.

INCIDENT SUPPORT

We provide support to member camps in the event of critical incidents such as fire, drowning, death, or other unforeseen emergencies. Our team is available to offer guidance, resources, and assistance to help camps respond effectively and with care during difficult situations.

GOVERMENT ADVOCACY

We advocate on behalf of summer camps through partnerships with the government and other key organizations, lobbying, and ensuring the interests of camps are represented and supported at all levels.

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

CAMP MEMBER

ABOUT

Membership in the Manitoba Camping Association is open to all organizations and individuals who support and wish to align with organized children's and family camps, and who share the vision, mission, and values of the MCA.

Camp Members are fully accredited according to the standards established by the MCA and are evaluated on a tri-annual basis to ensure continued excellence, safety, and adherence to best practices in camping.

As active members, accredited camps hold one weighted vote in the affairs of the MCA at the Annual General Meeting.

DEFINING ORGANIZED CAMPING

The Manitoba Camping Association defines organized camping as a sustained group experience of no less than 30 hours over a minimum of 4 consecutive days with at least fifty percent of the time consisting of outdoor activities taking place in one of the following formats: overnight, wilderness, family or day camp, based on the following principles:

- Fostering the physical, mental, social, spiritual, emotional and moral welfare of the participants
- Dedicated and committed to an environmental ethic that preserves the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community

CONTACTING THE MCA

At times, a camp may face changes, uncertainty, or unexpected challenges that impact its staff, campers, or operations. During these moments, the MCA is here to stand with you, to offer guidance, care, and practical support for your camp and team.

We also cherish the opportunity to celebrate your milestones, successes, and growth along the way. Through both the highs and the hardships, we want to walk beside you. Please keep us informed and reach out, as you're not alone, and the MCA is here to help.

WHEN TO REACH OUT

accreditation@manitobacamping.ca

- Informal coffee meetings or phone calls
- Program or activity change or addition
- Removal of an activity area
- Site changes or new facility additions
- Senior staffing or staffing structure changes
- Major accident or incident
- Situation prompting media involvement with your camp
- Site or facility fire
- Death or serious incident

UNDERSTANDING **ACCREDITATION**

To become a Camp Member, camps must earn and keep their accreditation by following guidelines set by the MCA Standards Manual. Camps that embrace these values and standards can easily maintain their accreditation over the years.

By maintaining their membership and accreditation, camps show the community and stakeholders that they prioritize safety. This is achieved by adopting best practices and managing risks effectively. The MCA is recognized as a leader in the camping industry, with support from government agencies and organizations that provide benefits exclusively to accredited member camps that meet the required standards. This highlights the importance of the accreditation process.

MAINTAINING MEMBERSHIP

Camp Members will have their accreditation status reassessed at minimum every three years through a document review and a camp visit during their summer program. This review will ensure they are upholding these standards and providing the best experiences for their campers and programs.

The MCA Board will approve the reaccreditation of camps, thus confirming their continued membership before the end of the visitation year.

ADDITIONAL CAMP VISITS

Standard reassessment visits are done every 3 years. Additional visits within this period can occur for various reasons, such as:

- If your camp requires follow-up from the accreditation visit
- If your camp hires a new director
- If your camp implements a new activity

UNDERSTANDING **STANDARDS**

The MCA Standards Manual is a document created by a committee and approved by the MCA Board to lay a foundation for an exceptional camping experience with a focus on safety and processes. Our team is dedicated to thoroughness and consistency in standards, reviews, and updates to ensure our standards always fit within the context of the current Manitoba camping industry.

The standards are reviewed annually by the standards committee based on any regulation changes, general improvements and feedback received from Camp Members. Upon the release of the latest edition, Camp Members are expected to meet the requirements outlined.

In commitment to this process, our Standards and Accreditation Coordinator works closely with Camp Members to ensure a smooth experience and successful outcomes while also assisting those on their way to membership to provide support and understanding throughout the whole process.

CODE OF ETHICS

EXEMPLARY ETHICAL PRACTICES FOR **ALL MEMBERS OF THE MCA**

This Code of Ethics identifies principles that guide the conduct of the MCA and member camps, underscoring our commitment to integrity, truthfulness and understanding in both professional and personal roles.

1. Will behave in a way that reflects the values of the MCA to serve organized camps, affiliated programs, and the public by promoting better outdoor camping for all.
2. Will take responsibility for the well-being of others in their care.
3. Will abide by and comply with the laws of the community.
4. Will speak for the MCA only with authorization and will otherwise indicate that views and actions are personal.
5. Will respect the privacy of MCA staff, camps and the larger camp community, and will hold members accountable to the code of ethics by sharing relevant information with the MCA executive director (president or vice president).

EXEMPLARY ETHICAL PRACTICES FOR **CAMP OWNERS, DIRECTORS & EXECUTIVES**

The association recognizes the camp owner, director, board, and executive as primary professional persons assuming the greatest responsibility for actual camp practices. Therefore, in addition to the Code of Ethics for all members, an accredited camp operator or affiliate agrees to the following:

1. Will endeavour to provide an environment conducive to promoting and protecting the physical and emotional well-being of the campers and staff.
2. Shall seek to instill in staff and campers respect for the environment and campsite.
3. Shall follow equality, inclusivity and diversity practices for employment application and camper registration.
4. Shall employ individuals based on qualifications essential to job performance and camp operations.
5. Shall be truthful and fair in all dealings with campers, parents/guardians and staff.
6. Shall provide a registration policy including fees, payment schedules, discounts, dates of arrival and departure, and a clearly stated refund policy.
7. Shall provide for each staff member a written job description and employment agreement, including period of employment, compensation, benefits and exceptions.
8. Shall promptly consult with parents/guardians if a camper is not benefitting from the camp experience or if the camper's actions make removal necessary.
9. Shall pay the fees established by the MCA Board of Directors, which in turn pays the established fees by the CCA National Board of Directors.
10. Will respond to complaints received and make a good faith effort to resolve them in accordance with generally accepted good business practices.

LOGO USE

The “Accredited Member” badge is a way for our members to showcase their achievement of accreditation by the MCA and their dedication to high standards within the camping industry. Camp Members are allowed to use this badge on both digital and print materials.

Camp Members may also use the MCA logo, provided it is used in accordance with the written approval granted by our Marketing & Communications Coordinator.

If you have questions about using the MCA logo, please reach out to communications@manitobacamping.ca.

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

ROOKIE CAMP MEMBERSHIP

BECOMING A **CAMP MEMBER**

Joining the Manitoba Camping Association (MCA) as a Camp Member is more than just signing up, it's a commitment to excellence. Camps go through a multi-year accreditation process designed to ensure that their programs, facilities, and operations meet MCA's established standards of safety, quality, and care.

During this process, camps will become a Rookie Camp Member which is a provisional membership with limited benefits as they work toward full accreditation and membership. Once accreditation is achieved, the camp gains full access to all MCA member benefits, including Sunshine Fund support for campers and other exclusive resources.

ROOKIE MEMBERS **PATH TO MEMBERSHIP**

ASSESTMENT VISIT
COMPLIMENTARY VISIT TO PROVIDE GENERAL FEEDBACK ON MEMBERSHIP PROSPECT

FIRST YEAR

PRE VISIT

As part of the accreditation process, a pre-addredidation visit will be conducted while your camp program is in operation. This visit allows MCA representatives to observe your facilities and activities in action and to provide constructive feedback on areas that may require further development to meet MCA accreditation standards. The goal of this visit is to guide and support your camp in building safe, high-quality programs aligned with MCA's values and best practices.

YEAR 1
PRE-ACCREDIDATION VISIT
VISIT TAKES PLACE DURING SUMMER PROGRAMING

SECOND YEAR

ACCREDITATION VISIT

In the second year, a formal accreditation visit takes place. During this visit, MCA evaluates your camp against the full set of accreditation standards, ensuring that your facilities, programs, and policies meet the required benchmarks.

YEAR 2
ACCREDIDATION VISIT
VISIT TAKES PLACE DURING SUMMER PROGRAMING

MCA BOARD APPROVAL

Following your summer visit, the MCA Board will meet to review your camp. Upon successful completion of this visit and other factors, the board will grant full accreditation status, granting your camp access to the full range of MCA Member benefits and recognition as an accredited Manitoba summer camp.

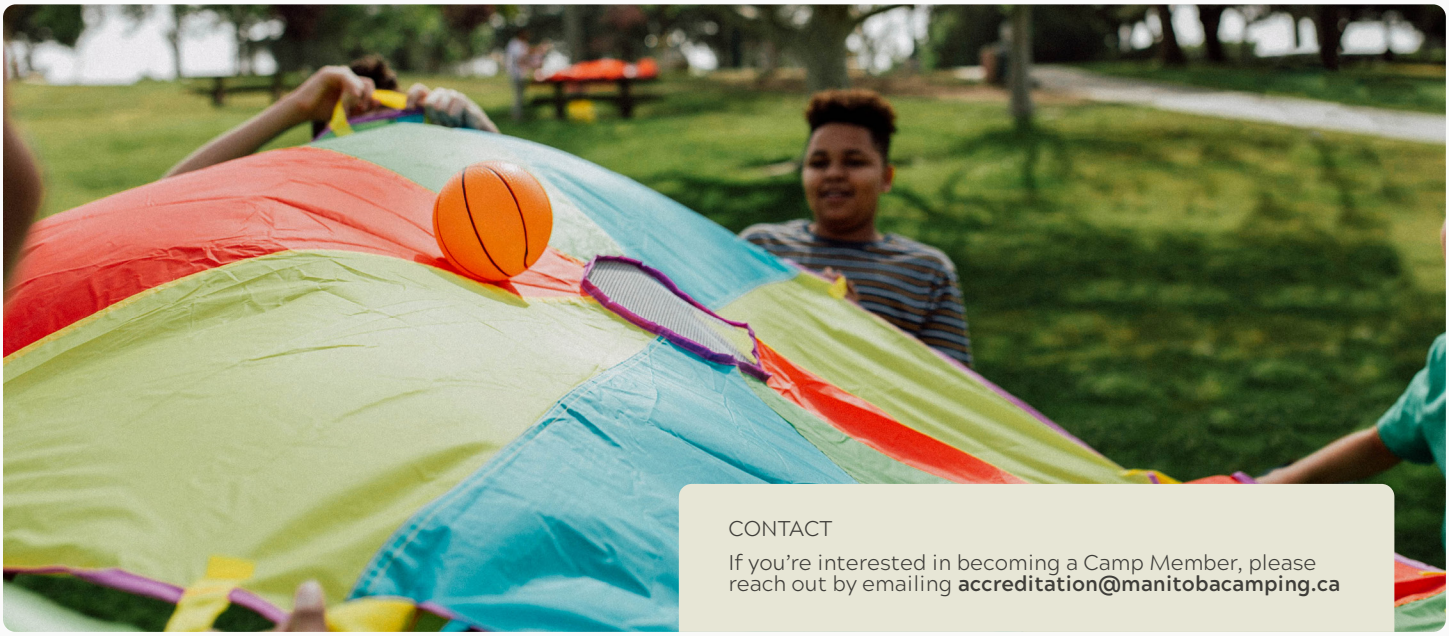
YEAR 2
BOARD APPROVAL
MEMBERSHIP CONFIRMED BEFORE THE END YEAR END

THIRD YEAR

CAMP MEMBER

For the following three years, your camp will hold Camp Member status in good standing with the MCA. Membership fees are renewed annually during this period to maintain accreditation and access to all MCA member benefits.

YEAR 3
YOU'RE A CAMP MEMBER



CONTACT

If you're interested in becoming a Camp Member, please reach out by emailing **accreditation@manitobacamping.ca**

ROOKIE BENEFITS

Rookie Camp Members are valued participants in the Manitoba Camping Association community and receive limited access to MCA benefits while working toward full accreditation. During this stage, Rookie Members have access to all MCA communications, newsletters, and updates, as well as networking opportunities and educational resources available through the MCA website.

However, Rookie Camp Members will not be listed on the MCA website as accredited camps and are not eligible for Sunshine Fund support until full Camp Membership and accreditation are achieved. This structure allows Rookie Members to remain connected and supported as they develop their programs and facilities to meet MCA standards.

ROOKIE MEMBERSHIP FEES

Rookie Camp Members receive a discounted membership rate while working to become a Camp Member. This reduced fee acknowledges the developmental stage of your camp as you work toward meeting MCA accreditation standards.

The annual Rookie Membership fee is determined based on your camp's annual operating budget, ensuring fairness and accessibility for organizations of all sizes. Once full accreditation is achieved, membership fees will transition to the standard Accredited Camp Member rate.

LOGO USE

Rookie Camp Members are **not permitted** to use the Manitoba Camping Association logo on any camp materials, including websites, publications, signage, or promotional content.

Permission to display the MCA logo is granted only to Fully Accredited Camp Members as a mark of meeting MCA's recognized standards of safety, quality, and program excellence. Unauthorized use of the logo is strictly prohibited.

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

BUSINESS MEMBER

PARTNERING TOGETHER TO SERVE MANITOBA & NW ONTARIO CAMPS

ABOUT

This membership is for businesses that wish to support and advance the goals and objectives of the Manitoba Camping Association and its members. It provides an opportunity to connect with Manitoba's camping community, build meaningful relationships, and demonstrate your commitment to fostering positive outdoor and camp experiences across the province.

Business Members play an important role in strengthening the MCA network by contributing expertise, services, and resources that help camps thrive.

APPLYING FOR BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

Businesses interested in supporting the Manitoba camping community are invited to apply for Business Membership. All applicants are vetted through the MCA's online application process to ensure alignment with the Association's values and objectives.

Once an application is submitted, the MCA will review it and notify the applicant of their membership status within two weeks. Upon acceptance, applicants will be required to submit their membership fee to activate their Business Membership. Once confirmed, Business Members gain access to networking opportunities, visibility within the camping community, and the ability to contribute to the growth and success of organized camping in Manitoba.

BUSINESS MEMBER **BENEFITS**

Business Members of MCA enjoy valuable opportunities to connect directly with Manitoba's camping community. One of the key benefits is exclusive access to the MCA contact list, providing a direct line to camp directors and senior staff with purchasing power. This connection allows businesses to build meaningful relationships and promote their products or services to decision-makers within the industry.

In addition, Business Members receive a discounted booth at the MCA Annual Conference, offering prime exposure to camp leaders and professionals from across the province.

Visit the Benefits page to see the full list of benefits offered to your business.

LOGO USE

The “Business Member” badge allows MCA Business Members to proudly display their affiliation with the Manitoba Camping Association and their commitment to supporting the growth and excellence of organized camping in Manitoba.

Business Members may use this badge on both digital and print materials to demonstrate their partnership with the MCA and connection to the camping community.

Business Members may also use the MCA logo, provided it is used in accordance with the written approval granted by the MCA’s Marketing & Communications Coordinator.

IN 2026 THE SUNSHINE FUND PROVIDED OVER $300,000 IN FUNDS TO CAMPERS TO ATTEND MCA MEMBER CAMPS.