

CAMP

SENDING KIDS TO

SUNSHINE FUND INFO GUIDE



GET TO KNOW US

MANITOBA CAMPING.CA

The Manitoba Camping Association (MCA) was established in 1937 and is a nonprofit organization that supports and promotes safe, quality camping experiences in the province of Manitoba, Canada. Its primary focus is on ensuring high standards in camping programs for children, youth, and families.

Camp provides an excellent opportunity for children and youth to develop life skills and an appreciation for the great outdoors. In addition to supporting organized camps and promoting best practices, the MCA provides financial assistance to help children from low-income families attend summer camp through the Sunshine Fund.



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.

6 BENEFITS OF SUMMER CAMP

1. Campers obtain life skills
2. Camp educates the whole child
3. Camp promotes independence
4. Plenty of time for play
5. Camp allows kids to unplug
6. Campers can connect with nature
7. Children can reinvent themselves



WHY
SEND
KIDS
TO
CAMP

OUTDOOR TIME & ACTIVE PLAY

Campers often leave camp with an appreciation of physical activity and outdoor time as they become more aware of how good these activities make them feel.

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Camp provides a vast range of learning experiences. From leadership skills and courage to appreciation of nature and so much more! Campers are given a unique opportunity to learn about themselves and gain confidence.

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Campers experience the opportunity to develop life long friendships and social skills, while also developing resiliency and independence.

THE EQUIGENIC EFFECT





Equigenisis refers to the way exposure to nature improves health outcomes of those who would normally be at risk of negative health complications due to economic factors.

Research shows that enhancing young people's engagement with the outdoors helps to reduce risk of both physical and mental health issues. Equigenisis suggests that the positive effects of enagaging in the outdoors is even greater for youth from low income households, and helps to "level the playing field" with their more privileged counterparts. This can help reduce the risk of both physical and mental health problems in the long term.

CANADIAN SUMMER CAMP RESEARCH PROJECT

DR. TROY GLOVER | 2011 | WATERLOO UNIVERSITY

PHASE 1

Phase one of the study identified 5 personal growth areas in which camp directors expected campers to experience positive outcomes:

- Social integration & citizenship
- Attitudes towards physical activity
- Self-confidence and personal development
- Environmental awareness
- Emotional intelligence

PHASE 2

Phase two revealed that on average, all groups experienced significant growth in all five areas, though female campers, older campers, and returning campers tended to score higher on the observation instrument, indicating even greater development in these areas.

PHASE 3

Phase three of the study revealed positive development experienced at camp transferred to the campers' home environments, as parents/guardians observed growth in all 5 areas.



NOTES FROM THE STUDY

- Older children tended to experience the greatest changes in attitude and behaviour.
- Children who stayed at camp for longer sessions experienced greater positive developmental outcomes.
- Female campers tended to experience significantly greater levels of social integration and citizenship than their male counterparts.
- Returning campers experienced greater positive changes.

APPLICATION PROCESS

SENDINGKIDSTOCAMP.CA

STEP 1

CHOOSE YOUR CAMP SESSION

The first step in applying for the Sunshine Fund, is choosing the camp and week your children would like to attend. The chosen camp must be a camp accredited by the Manitoba Camping Association. The MCA has camps all across Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario. Once you've chosen a camp, you can then register with them through their website.

CONSIDERATIONS IN CHOOSING A CAMP:

1. Location
2. Transportation- do you have your own transportation? Some camps offer transportation to and from camp.
3. Age- ensure you register for the correct aged session.
4. Activities- are there certain activities your child is hoping for? Many camps list their activities on their websites.

STEP 2

APPLY TO THE SUNSHINE FUND

The Sunshine Fund applications are available on our website and open at the start of each year. Visit us at **sendingkidstocamp.ca** to start your application.

1. Apply to your camp of choice first
2. Camp information correctly filled out in Sunshine Fund application
3. Copy of Manitoba Health Card
4. Notice of Assessment/Income verification
5. A letter or drawing indicating how a camp experience will impact your child

**There will be a parent contribution required which will total 20% of total fees.*

STEP 3

PARENT CONTRIBUTION FEE

Sunshine Fund staff will confirm you are registered with the camp and then process your application to ensure all forms are completed. Once this process is complete, you will be notified via email that you can now pay your parent contribution fee.

The parent contribution is a mandatory fee equal to 20% of the total camp cost.

EXAMPLE

If camp fees are \$400 and transportation fee is \$50, you will be required to pay $\$450 \times 20\% = \90 .

SCAN TO VISIT
US ONLINE



