

SUMMER CAMPS

AT THE FRASER RIVER DISCOVERY CENTRE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why are the age groups called “FRY” and “SMOLT?”

2019 is the International Year of the Salmon and to celebrate we are naming our two summer camp age groups after phases in the salmon life cycle.

FRY: Our youngest campers are named after the third stage of the salmon life cycle. These salmon have just left the safety of their gravel nests and have begun to explore the river they call home! Just like our campers, salmon fry love to play with their friends and learn everything they can about the world around them.

SMOLT: Our older campers are called “smolts” because they are adventurous, daring, and like to hang out with their friends! Salmon at the smolt stage of their lifecycle head downstream and spend time in the estuary, growing and changing colour before finally entering the ocean.

What will my child be doing at camp?

Summer camps at the FRDC are specially designed to encourage playful learning about all aspects of the Fraser River! Campers will participate in a wide range of activities including crafts, experiments, games, and exploration of the FRDC. Each day will also include a trip to a local outdoor space for fun in the sun!

For more information on your child’s specific camp, please look at the individual camp descriptions.

Who will be looking after my child while they are at camp?

Children will always be well supervised! Each camp will be led by two instructors, with another three staff members available to help when necessary. All staff are First Aid certified and have undergone rigorous training before they set foot in the camp room! In addition, the FRDC has recruited a team of volunteers who are there to lend an extra hand and help the camp run smoothly.

All staff and volunteers have passed a Criminal Record Check.

What should my child bring to camp?

We recommend your child wear weather-appropriate clothing, a hat, comfortable shoes, and bring sunscreen! They should bring a reusable water bottle, snacks, and a brown bag lunch. There is no place for your child to purchase food while at camp.

Please make sure all snacks and lunches are nut-free! Food that includes nuts will be confiscated.

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Where do I drop-off and pick-up my child? How do I get to the Centre?

Children will be signed in and out of camp at the front door of the Fraser River Discovery Centre.

If you are taking transit . . .

Please take the Skytrain or bus to New Westminster Station and exit onto Eighth Street, then head south towards the Fraser River. Cross Columbia Street and take the pedestrian overpass across the train tracks. The Fraser River Discovery Centre is located to your left at the bottom of a spiral staircase.

If you are driving . . .

Parking is located to the east of the FRDC for \$1.50/hour or \$6.50/day. Parents will be given a parking pass that allows them to park in this lot during pick-up and drop-off times only.

Additionally, there is a small pick-up and drop-off area just outside the FRDC which can be used by parents for a maximum of five minutes. Please note that this lot is patrolled by the City of New Westminster and the FRDC is not responsible for cars that are ticketed or towed.

What happens if I am late picking up my child?

While parents are expected to arrive promptly at 3:30pm to pick up their child, we understand that traffic, trains, and transit can sometimes make you late! Children who are still at camp at 3:45pm will be moved to the post-care area, parents will be contacted, and our staff will look after them until a parent or guardian arrives. If you pick up your child later than 3:45pm you will be charged the additional \$5 post-care fee.

What is the cancellation policy?

If you need to cancel your child's summer camp registration you must do so 7 days before the start of your camp to receive a full refund. Cancellations received less than 7 days before the start of camp will not receive a refund.

Cancellations must be made in writing to programs@fraserriverdiscovery.org.

What happens if my child gets sick in the middle of camp? Do I get a partial refund?

We are unable to offer refunds to the parents of sick children, even if they have a doctor's note.

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Why do I need to fill out a photo release form?

During our summer camps we will be taking photos of our campers which may be used on our website or social media pages. We want to ensure that only children with parent permission are included in these photos. Photo release forms allow us to easily identify which children can have their photo taken and which pictures we can use later!

My child has not yet finished kindergarten, can they still come to camp?

Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate children who have not completed kindergarten. Our camp curriculum is designed with certain grades in mind and children who are too young will not be able to keep up with the other campers.

My two children fall into two different age groups. Can I put them in the same camp?

FRDC programs are created to interest, entertain and challenge the children in the camp. Younger campers being put into an older camp group may find themselves struggling to keep up, while older campers could be uninterested in the games and activities we design for younger children. For this reason, we are only able to enroll children in their correct age group.