

CAMP **GOODTIMES**



THE BEAN NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024



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We hope you are having a wonderful start to your holiday season. We are happy to present to you our annual Winter Bean Newsletter. It feels like just yesterday we were back at camp hanging out at the lake, making friendship bracelets, and singing songs. With the days getting shorter and the weather feeling colder, next summer can't get here soon enough! We are excited to share what's in store for a milestone summer as in 2025 we will be celebrating our 40th anniversary of Camp Goodtimes!

In this Issue:

- Results from our 2025 summer theme vote
- Summer application launch date with a special announcement
- 40 years of Camp Goodtimes
- Recap of our fall year-round events and what's coming up in the new year

Theme

The results are in! Camp Goodtimes is throwing it back to our roots with one of the most beloved themes of the past, Western! Camp is a place where the spirit of adventure and friendship has ridden strong for four decades, so giddy up and join us as we celebrate 40 unbelievable years of this community. The West is calling, and we're ready to make more memories!



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CAMPER APPLICATION LAUNCH

All our camp dates are now on [our website](#) and applications will open on **Wednesday, January 8, 2025**. Staff and Volunteer applications will open on Monday, December 16, 2024. Staff applications will remain open until Friday, January 31, 2025, and volunteer applications until Monday, March 31, 2025.

Family Camp

- Family Camp 1 at Loon Lake – July 1 to July 4
- Family Camp 2 at Loon Lake – July 13 to July 16
- Family Camp 3 at Loon Lake – July 16 to July 19
- Family Camp 4 at Camp Pringle – August 10 to August 13
- Family Camp 5 at Camp Pringle – August 22 to August 25
- Family Camp 6 at Camp Pringle – August 25 to August 28

Kids Camp

- Kids Camp 1 at Loon Lake – July 6 to July 11
- Kids Camp 2 at Loon Lake – July 21 to July 26
- Kids Camp 3 at Loon Lake – July 28 to August 2

Leader in Training Programs (16 to 18 years old)

- LIT Venture 1 at Loon Lake – July 6 to July 11
- LIT Discovery at Loon Lake – July 21 to July 26
- LIT Venture 2 at Loon Lake – July 28 to August 2

Teen Camp (15 to 18 years old)

- Teen Camp at Camp Pringle – August 15 to August 20

The Exploration Project (18 to 21 years old)

- The Exploration Project at Loon Lake – July 13 to July 16



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FALL 2024 RECAP

Youth Events

For our first year-round youth event we invited teens in the Lower Mainland for an afternoon of gaming with our Nintendo Switch Party! We had a blast with epic teamwork in Overcooked 2, fierce racing in Mario Kart, and plenty of other classic games during this relaxing afternoon of fun and connection!



Family Fun and Bonding Events

The beginning of Fall kicked off our FAB events! Our Lower Mainland families gathered at Greendale Acres, where the endless options of fall festivities included an amazing corn maze, petting zoo, train rides, and making s'mores around a roaring fire. Over on the Island, families gathered at Goldstream Provincial Park. The highlight of the afternoon was painting mini pumpkins, making friendship bracelets and catching up while watching the rain fall!



Youth Council

We launched our 2024/25 Youth Council! Our Youth Council brings together camp youth aged 15 – 18 years old to take part in planning aspects of our youth programs, volunteer in the community, and take part in professional development workshops. Our first volunteer opportunity took place this past October at the 2024 CIBC's Run for the Cure!



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WHAT'S TO COME IN 2025!

Youth Winter Retreat

Our annual Youth Winter Retreat will take place from **January 31 to February 2, 2025**, and is open for youth who have or have had cancer, and their siblings or bereaved siblings aged 15 to 21 years old. Our retreat takes place at the stunning Rockridge Canyon in Princeton where we have an activity filled weekend that includes snow tubing, ziplining, a games room, and much more! Transportation will be provided to and from the lower mainland. The application is now open [on our website](#) and will close on **Friday, January 17**.



Victoria Family Day Event

Camp Goodtimes is looking forward to a new year, and we are inviting families on Vancouver Island to join us for an afternoon of Skating at City Center Park on January 25! This will be a free, in-person opportunity to enjoy a private outdoor skating rink, stay warm by the fire, and connect with other Camp Goodtimes families. Keep an eye on your inbox, as registration for this event will be open in mid-December.



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40 YEARS OF CAMP GOODTIMES!

An idea to create a camp for children with cancer was spearheaded by long-time Canadian Cancer Society volunteer Louis Youngson. In 1985, led by Youngson and an energetic committee of volunteers, a pilot summer camp program called Camp Goodtimes was launched which served 25 children in its first year.

Fast forward 40 years later to 2025, and Camp Goodtimes has grown to serve nearly 600 children, teens, and family members with a workforce of over 100 volunteers each summer!

We have exciting things planned for 2025 to celebrate this very special milestone. To kick things off we are happy to announce our 40 Years of Camp Goodtimes #throwbackthursday campaign! Every Thursday in 2025, we will be posting photos on our social media pages from throughout our 40-year history.

If you have any photos from past summers at camp that you would like to be featured as part of this campaign, you can send your submission to campletters@cancer.ca!

Please be sure to include a short paragraph about the photo as well as the year it was taken!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



On behalf of the Camp Goodtimes team we want to wish you all a wonderful holiday season! We are so grateful to have spent this last year with all of you. Throughout our year-round and summer programs we have been fortunate to see all the memories and connections made and we can't wait to experience with you all that we have planned for 2025! We'll see you later!

As always, if you have any questions for us at Camp Goodtimes, you can reach us by email at gotcamp@cancer.ca.



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