

British Columbia Camps Association

Membership Information



www.bccamps.org



BRITISH COLUMBIA CAMPS ASSOCIATION

OUR WHAT

We support, equip, promote, and accredit summer camps in BC.

OUR WHY

We see a thriving camping community in BC where people are challenged and equipped to be the best version of themselves.

OUR GUIDE

These values, alongside OUR WHY, guide and direct our decision making and behaviour.

Development

There are many layers to development and they are all important. Social, ethical, emotional, physical, cognitive, and leadership competencies are developed in a wide spectrum of ways among camps.

Community

Camps in BC understand that there is a bigger picture. As such, we see other camps as family, rather than competitors, while we work together towards a common goal.

Quality

We want camps to continue to push the threshold of excellence whether it be bolstering weaknesses or leaning into strengths.

Safety

It is important for participants to be safe both physically and emotionally. Camps must mitigate and resolve dangerous scenarios as well as foster acceptance, inclusivity, and comradery.

PROMOTING SAFE AND QUALITY CAMPS IN BC



BCCA ACCREDITATION

Purposes of Accreditation

The purpose of the accreditation process is to provide the operators of overnight camps in British Columbia, and those individuals or agencies planning such services, with materials to aid in developing and improving camp services in British Columbia. The BCCA accreditation standards provide guidelines for best practice in all areas of camp based on industry standard. We provide a means for camp professionals to evaluate their operations and to request a formal evaluation by, and consultation from, fellow BCCA Members.

Benefits of Accreditation

- External review of safety standards and practices
- Networking with peers
- Recognized by parents
- Industry stamp of excellence
- Opportunity to improve operations
- Access to resources and mentorship
- Benefit for insurance coverage
- Feature on BCCA website
- Use of BCCA logo on your camps' website



THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS

1. Become a BCCA Aspiring Member

If you think accreditation is right for you and have the approval of your board or agency to pursue accreditation, contact the BCCA to create a membership profile in our database and to be invoiced for membership.

2. Prepare for Accreditation

After one year of aspiring membership, you can submit a request for an accreditation visit (requests are due March 31). The scheduling process begins in early spring- visitors arrange with the camp director to choose a date that works for all involved. Camps should work through the accreditation package to ensure standards are met and paperwork is prepared.

3. Undergo Accreditation Visit

Accreditation visits occur during the summer season, onsite, while camp is in session. The BCCA will arrange for two volunteer visitors from other BCCA member camps to conduct the audit. The camp director and any other integral leaders should be available for the entire visit.

4. Visit Follow-up

Following the visit, the lead visitor will submit the visit report and supporting documents to the BCCA. The BCCA will contact the camp to address any items that need to be clarified or corrected. Once corrections are submitted, the BCCA Board of Directors will vote on an accreditation term (between one and four years, depending on accreditation history), notify the camp and award a letter of accreditation.



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership Levels & Fees

Aspiring Membership: \$285

Member camps who are not yet accredited pay \$260 for yearly membership.

Accredited Membership: \$285-\$990

Once a camp has been granted accreditation, membership dues are charged based on the camp's yearly operating budget and will be adjusted and invoiced annually.

Applying for Membership

Please contact the BCCA at info@bccamping.org to create your membership profile and to be invoiced for your annual membership.

Frequently Asked Questions

Would the BCCA accredit my camp?

The BCCA primarily accredits overnight children's summer camps. Camps seeking accreditation are dedicated to providing safe and quality camp experiences and strive to maintain BCCA standards.

How long does it take to gain accreditation?

Camps can request an accreditation visit after one year of aspiring membership. If standards are met, the accreditation term would start the following summer. Accreditation terms start on a one year basis and graduate by one year increments up to four year terms.

Is the accreditation visit like an inspection?

While accreditation is extensive and thorough, your accreditation team will consist of camp professionals who are helpful, supportive, and knowledgeable about camp. Their primary focus is to identify and work with camp directors to find realistic strategies for meeting BCCA standards to assure the safest and highest quality experience to campers.

BRITISH COLUMBIA CAMPING CONFERENCE

The BC Camping Conference is an annual gathering for people passionate about camps in British Columbia.

Each year near the end of January, camp professionals from all over the province gather for workshops, networking, amazing food, fun and games. Camp staff, board members, owners and operators won't want to miss the BC Camping Conference!

Former keynotes have included Michael Brandwein and Dr. Jim Cain.

The conference is hosted in partnership by the BC Camps Association (BCCA) and the Fellowship of Christian Camps in BC (FCC)

For more information, visit:

bccampingconference.ca



CONTACT US

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