



## **Welcome to Urban Adventure Camp Summer 2022**

Thank you for choosing our camp and welcome to the summer adventures. We hope that you find everything that you need in here to help you prepare for your child's time with us. If not, we appreciate any questions that you may have, so please do drop us an email and we will get back to you within two to three business days.

### **Forest School Ethos**

For some this may be your first introduction to Forest School, so here is a brief description to get things rolling:

*We define Forest/Nature School as an educational ethos and practice that centres the Land and the child-at-play. Children and educators build a relationship with the Land through regular and repeated access to the same outdoor space over an extended period of time. Educators support learning through a pedagogical framework that is rooted in place and play, directed and inspired by the child (emergent curriculum), and driven by a process of inquiry.*

[Child and Nature Alliance Canada](#)

See this booklet for further information: [Forest School Principles](#)



## **Policies:**

### **Child Protection...**

All of our instructors have clear vulnerable persons criminal records checks and thorough reference checks. Safeguarding children is a continuous process for an education setting. For further information on our organisation's Child Protection policy, please contact us and we would be happy to send you a copy.

### **Covid-19...**

During the camps we will strive to provide an environment whereby the children can take a break from the stressors and anxiety of the pandemic.

By this point, we are all adept at knowing the basic covid norms. Before attending camp each day, we ask that you assess your child for common Covid-19 symptoms. If a child does present with symptoms, we will ask them to return home. During the day, we encourage strong hand hygiene practices, stressing the importance of washing with soap and water. Mask wearing is at the discretion of the parent. If you would like your child to wear a mask, our instructors will support this. **Please notify us in writing if you would like your child to wear a mask either outdoors or indoors.**

### **By the river...**

Living along the South Saskatchewan we at Wild Sky believe that we need to educate children on how to play safely along the water. Along with the Saskatoon Fire Department, we stress the importance of playing safely along the water's edge. The banks of the South Saskatchewan River are teeming with wildlife, learning opportunities and the chance to become absorbed in the tranquility of water. When we play beside the water we encourage the following:

- Observe the water flow (is it moving or still?)
- Check the rocks to see if they are slippery
- Look for the drop off, do not wade in the water beyond your shins

When we talk about visiting the river, we always stress the importance of visiting water with an adult.



Wild Sky encourages you to visit the water with your children, to experience this yourself. We believe that this alleviates some of the fear that we feel as parents and supports your children to become further engaged in their summer adventures with us.

**In the heat...**

Summers in Saskatoon are hot. Please ensure that your children are able to apply sunscreen themselves; are willing to wear a hat and are learning about when their bodies need water and food. These are the best ways that you can prepare for the heat. We will use the shade, splash parks/paddling pools and rest periods in hammocks to help their bodies adjust during any heat waves.

**Toileting...**

Our programs take place outdoors in and around the community. We will be using public washrooms, and children will be asked to do so in pairs. We encourage you to practice using public washrooms with them, so that they are not reluctant when away from you.



## FAQs

Where will my child spend the day?

Your child(ren) will be spending the day exploring the natural, man made parks/ structures and outdoor classrooms along the Saskatchewan River.

What sorts of activities do you do with the children?

This summer at camp, the children will be exploring water ecology, animal habitats, learning how to safely use a knife and small woodworking tools to create wood crafts, fishing, biking, hiking, swimming, forest games, orienteering, risk management, first aid and water safety.

How long do the children spend out in the sunshine?

The children will be spending the full day outside, rain or shine. The children will and can be in the sun for up to 2 hours at a time so please remember to pack a hat and sunscreen if needed. On rainy days, children will be spending up to 3 hours in the elements so please pack a waterproof jacket, splash pants and boots.

What happens when there is lightning?

In the case of severe weather, the program leaders will escort the group to the nearest building or facility to seek shelter. If the weather becomes a danger or lasts for more than several hours, parents will be notified and an "extraction" location will be determined by the lead programmer of the group.

Do the children need to bring a bike?

"Bike days" will be arranged by the lead programmers once a week, usually. Please consult with your children's lead programmer as to when your group bike days will be. The rest of the week we will be exploring on foot.