



2026 Camp Muskoka Parent & Camper Handbook

DAY CAMP

Welcome to Camp Muskoka Summer Camp!

Whether this is your first summer with us or you're a returning camper family, we're thrilled to have you as part of our camp community. This handbook contains everything you need to prepare for an amazing summer with us.

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Communication with Camp Muskoka Office:

If you need to connect with us at camp, please call or email using the details below:

Registrar: Laura "Lolly" Hamel

Phone: 705-645-6000

Email: registrar@campmuskoka.com

Address: Camp Muskoka, 1745 Fraserburg Road, Bracebridge, Ontario P1L 1X3

If you reach voicemail, please leave a detailed message at ext. 1 or email

registrar@campmuskoka.com. A Director is always on-site, and we'll respond as soon as possible based on urgency.

Summer Office Hours:

- Monday–Friday: 8am–4pm
- Saturday & Sunday: 9am – 3pm

Fall/Winter/Spring Office Hours:

- Monday–Friday: 8am–4pm

Parent Daily BUS Drop off Location and Procedure:

Shuttle Location from Monck Public School to Camp Muskoka

Departure Time from Lot 8:45am

Arrival Time at Camp Muskoka 9:00am (approximate)

Monck Public School, Bracebridge. Please arrive at the parking lot between 8:15am – 8:30 am. This will allow our staff to greet you and your camper. We will need to collect their medications, do lice checks and confirm parent ID. You can then say our goodbyes! Staff and campers will then head to Camp Muskoka.

To keep things running smoothly, we ask that you follow these steps when arriving at Monck Public School to meet our staff for your campers' bus transportation to Camp Muskoka:

- **Where we will be located at Monck Public School**

Our staff will be located at the back parking lot of the school to meet and greet you and your camper, for daily drop off.

- **Check-In**

Please park your vehicle, gather your campers' belongings, and come and meet our Camp Staff to sign in your camper.

- **Medical Screening**

During the Check-In, please communicate any health concerns, if any, and let us know if there is anything we need to know to set your camper up for a great day with us! They will also receive a head lice check. Any medication should be given to our staff, in its original packaging, with clear instructions on the medication label. Please hand over all medication in a zip-lock bag with your camper's name written in permanent marker on the outside of the bag. Unlabeled or repackaged medications will NOT be dispensed.



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- **Camper hop on the Bus**

After check-in and medical screening, you'll be directed to the bus. Here's where you say your goodbyes! Your camper and their Counsellors will get ready to depart for camp.

Don't forget to check for water bottles left in the car.

- **Camper and Staff Meet & Greet at Camp**

Counsellors will escort campers to the Day Camp home base, located on the camp property, fondly called 'Little Green Space', where they will connect with day campers and day camp staff, drop off their personal belongings, and get ready for a fun filled day.

Late Arrivals & Early Departures: Please arrange in advance by emailing registrar@campmuskoka.com. The more notice we have, the better we can support your camper's transition.

Parent Daily BUS Pick-up Location and Procedure:

Shuttle Location from Camp Muskoka to Monck Public School

Departure Time from Camp Muskoka 4:00pm

Arrival Time at Monck Public School 4:15pm (approximately)

Monck Public School, Bracebridge. Please arrive at the parking lot between 4:00pm – 4:15pm. Bus will always leave on time. PLEASE BRING GOVERNMENT ISSUED PHOTO I.D. If you are later than 4:30pm there will be a charge to your account.

- **Where we will be located at Monck Public School**

Our staff will be located at the back parking lot of the school to meet and greet you with your camper, for daily pick up.

- **Check-Out**

Please park your vehicle and come and meet our Camp Staff to sign out your camper.

- **Bring Photo ID**

All individuals signing out a camper—including parents—**must show government-issued photo ID**. This is for the safety of your camper.

- **Sign-Out with the Counsellor**

You'll meet your camper's Counsellor, who will check your ID and ask you to sign out your camper for pickup. **If you're picking up multiple campers, be sure to sign out each camper.**

- **Medications**

Any remaining medications will be packed in your camper's luggage.

Who Can Pick Up My Camper?

For your camper's safety, **only individuals who have been pre-authorized in writing**—either on your camp application or by an email to our Registrar at registrar@campmuskoka.com—will be allowed to sign out your camper.



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- Please ensure that **everyone authorized to pick up your camper (including parents)** are listed in advance.
- Staff will review your list with you during arrival check-in, and any changes or additions must be made **in writing by emailing registrar@campmuskoka.com**

All individuals picking up a camper must present valid photo ID, including parents.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep Camp Muskoka safe for all campers.

Late Arrivals & Early Departures: Please arrange in advance by emailing registrar@campmuskoka.com. The more notice we have, the better we can support your camper's transition.

Health & Safety

Medical Forms & Medications

- **All medications must be included on your medical form**
- Pack medications in a **sealed, transparent bag** (e.g., ziplock) in **original packaging**, clearly labeled with your camper's name and dosage
- **Unlabeled or repackaged medications will NOT be dispensed**
- If you need to add medications or update health information, email registrar@campmuskoka.com

Special Dietary Needs & Food Allergies: Our Executive Chef reviews all dietary information. If there have been changes since you submitted your form, email registrar@campmuskoka.com immediately. We may contact you with questions or ask you to send supplementary food items.

Club Med (Health Centre): Our on-site Health Centre is staffed 24/7 by a physician, nurses, and nursing students. We're 12 minutes from South Muskoka Memorial Hospital with 8-minute EMS response time if needed.

Head Lice Policy: Please have your camper checked by a doctor before camp. Every camper will be checked upon arrival. Campers may be dismissed for treatment and welcomed to a later session if lice are found.

Health Insurance: All campers must have valid health insurance (e.g., OHIP). International and out-of-province campers need travel insurance. Medical expenses will be charged to your account—a valid credit card must be on file.

Infectious Diseases: If your camper has been exposed to measles, COVID-19, chicken pox, flu, or other infectious diseases, please email registrar@campmuskoka.com before arrival.

Swimming Safety: Every camper's swimming ability is assessed at the start of each session based on Ontario Camps Association standards. Some campers may be required to wear a



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Personal Flotation Device (PFD) at the waterfront. All swimmers must wear PFDs when using inflatable water toys or boats.

Camp Policies

Nut Safe Policy: Camp Muskoka is a **Nut Safe facility**. Do not send any food, snacks, gum, or nut-containing hygiene products. Any or unsafe items will be confiscated and disposed of.

Behaviour Policy: Camp Muskoka takes physical violence and bullying very seriously. We thoroughly investigate each situation involving harmful behaviour. Campers who engage in physical violence or bullying, or demonstrate intent to harm others and or themselves, may face consequences up to and including immediate dismissal from camp without refund.

Prohibited Items & Substances:

- **Smoking, vaping, cannabis, alcohol, and drugs** are prohibited. Any camper found possessing or using these will be sent home immediately without refund.
- **Cell phones and electronic devices** are prohibited (except for medical needs). Devices brought to camp will be stored in the office and returned at the end of the session. Camp Muskoka is not responsible for lost or damaged items.
- **Cash** is not needed as 2 treats (candy/chips/pop) from our tuck shop is provided daily.
- **Theft** — Any camper caught stealing will be dismissed immediately with no refund.

Dress Code: Campers should wear clothing suitable for active, outdoor fun. Leave expensive or favorite outfits at home—clothes may get dirty or stained. Camp Muskoka is not responsible for lost or damaged items. A suggested packing list is on Page 8 of this handbook.

Communication with your Camper- Staying Connected

Phone calls to and from campers are not permitted. Camp is a chance for independence and making new friends. Being away from home is an important part of the camp experience.

Visitors: Visitors during camp sessions are not permitted.

Camp Life

Typical Daily Schedule: *Schedule may change without notice.*

- 8:15 – 9:00 am — Bus Pick up and Arrival
- 9:00 – 10:30 am — 1st Activity Period
- 10:30 – 11:00 am – Fresh Fruit & Water & Washroom Break
- 11:00 am – 12:30 pm — 2nd Activity Period
- 12:30 – 1:30 pm — Lunch & Change for Waterfront & Swimming
- 1:30 – 3:00 pm — 3rd Activity Period
- 3:00 – 3:15 pm — Snack, Water & Washroom Break
- 3:15 – 4:00 pm — 4th Activity Period & last 15 min. packing up for the day
- 4:00 — Bus Departure



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Tuck Shop: After lunch Monday–Friday, campers can choose up to TWO treats per day (chips, chocolate, candy, freezies, ice cream, or pop). Tuck is included in camp fees. If you want your camper to opt out of tuck, please email registrar@campmuskoka.com.

Birthdays at Camp: We prepare a fun birthday treat for your camper's cabin group. To send a card or small gift, leave it at the Office during check-in, clearly labeled with camper's name, cabin name, and birthday. **Do not include food, candy, gum, or snacks. (No Nut Products)**

Practical Information

What to Pack: Please review the Camper Packing List on Page 8 of this document.

- **Label everything** with your camper's full name
- Send enough bug repellent & sunscreen for the entire stay

What NOT to Pack

- Nut-containing products
- Food, snacks, candy, gum, etc.
- Cash
- Cell phones or electronic devices
- Expensive or favorite clothing or sentimental or valuable items

Lost & Found

- We do our best to ensure no items are left behind.
- Shipping costs will be charged if you request items be mailed.
- Unclaimed items are donated 7 days after departure.
- **Label everything to help us return items quickly**

Camp Muskoka Clothing Store: Shop online at www.campmuskokaclothing.com for t-shirts, sweatshirts, and souvenirs. Order before or during your camper's session to avoid shipping fees— we'll deliver items to your camper before they leave. Be sure you fill in what your campers name is, their cabin, and what session they are attending.

Photos & Social Media: Every family will be emailed a camper cabin photo at the session end.

Follow us for camp highlights:

- Instagram: @CampMuskoka
- TikTok: @campmuskoka
- Facebook: Camp Muskoka

Helpful Tips

Sun Protection: Encourage your camper to wear hats, loose-fitting light-colored clothing, and apply sunscreen regularly. Talk with them before camp about the importance of sun safety.



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Bug Protection: Mosquitoes and black flies are part of outdoor life. Pack enough labeled bug repellent for the entire stay. Light-colored clothing and non-perfumed toiletries help keep bugs away.

Helping with Homesickness: Homesickness is common regardless of age or experience. You can help by:

- Speaking positively about camp before arrival
- Focusing on fun activities and new friendships
- Avoiding questions like "Will you miss me?" or "What if you get homesick?"
- Not telling your camper they can "come home if it's hard"
- Writing a cheerful letter to arrive in the first few days

At camp, our trained staff provide support, normalize feelings, and keep campers active and engaged with extra attention to ensure they're eating, maintaining hygiene, and connecting socially.

Camper Code of Conduct

At Camp Muskoka, we're building a community where everyone feels welcome, safe, and respected. As members of this community, all campers agree to:

Safety & Respect:

- Follow all Public Health and government safety guidelines
- Adhere to Camp Muskoka's guidelines and philosophies
- Respect themselves, fellow campers, staff, the environment, facilities, and camp property
- Refrain from using or possessing alcohol, drugs, cannabis, cigarettes, vapes, or misusing prescription/non-prescription drugs

Everyone at Camp Muskoka has the right to:

- Feel safe and included regardless of race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, or ability
- Be themselves without fear of judgment or harassment
- Participate fully in all camp activities
- Be treated with kindness, respect, and dignity

Our Approach to Behavior:

We recognize that campers are children who are still learning to navigate social situations. Minor conflicts and mistakes are normal parts of growing up, and we work with campers to help them learn, apologize, and improve. We believe in teaching moments, accountability, and second chances.

Behavior Policy:

Camp Muskoka takes physical violence and bullying very seriously. We thoroughly investigate each situation involving harmful behaviour. Campers who engage in physical violence or



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bullying, or demonstrate intent to harm others and or themselves, may face consequences up to and including immediate dismissal from camp without refund.

Additionally, campers may face serious consequences, including dismissal, for:

- Threats of violence
- Racism, homophobia, transphobia, or discrimination based on gender, religion, ability, or background
- Harassment or intentional exclusion designed to harm others
- Hate speech or slurs targeting any individual or group

When we all follow these guidelines and stand up for one another, Camp Muskoka remains the greatest, most fun, and welcoming place to spend summer!

Camper Packing List

Below is a recommended list of items to bring to camp, daily:

BEST PRACTICE: PACK IN A BACKPACK for easy carrying to and from Camp Muskoka

Clothing **Check the daily weather:

- 1 Sweater/ sweatshirt
- 1 Raincoat
- 1 Bathing suit
- 1 Bath towel
- 1 Pair of closed toe shoes (running shoes)
- 1 hat

Equipment:

- Reusable water bottle
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent

Daily Medications:

- Pack medications in a **sealed, transparent bag**.
- **Keep all meds in original packaging**, clearly labeled with your camper's name and dosage.
- **Unlabeled or repackaged medications will NOT be dispensed.**

Please make sure ALL clothing and equipment is clearly labelled with camper's first and last names