

MORRELL NATURE SANCTUARY Summer Camp 2026

Welcome To Nature, Adventure & Fun!



JUNE 29 - SEPT 3

787 Nanaimo Lakes Rd

Questions and/or More Information

Office: (250) 753-5811

Cell: (236) 953-3031

Email: summercamp@morrellnaturesanctuary.ca

ABOUT MORRELL SANCTUARY

Morrell Sanctuary Society for Environmental Education or commonly referred to as Morrell Nature Sanctuary is a registered Non-Profit Society and operates primarily on membership fees and donations. As well, we receive funding from the Canada Summer Jobs program whenever possible.

Bill Morrell donated the 111-hectare property to the Nature Trust of BC in 1973 and the Society incorporated in 1984 with the mission of preservation and education. Additionally, the maintenance and protection of the Sanctuary is carried out strictly by a dedicated community of amazing volunteers and community support on special projects.

The society employs a part time Office Manager and contracts a part time Bookkeeper year round. Our Day Camp Supervisor and Camp Leaders are hired as full time employees from the last week of June to the last week of August.

We aim to provide our participants with a fun, rewarding, skill developing, and nature immersive experience exclusively within the Sanctuary. Participants can expect to engage in outdoor activities such as hikes, games, fort building, and more. Plus, they can look forward to learning and getting creative with exciting crafts and STEM activities. We invite you to think of the Sanctuary as an exciting, intriguing, and colourful outdoor classroom with so many possibilities for learning and growing through adventure!

Mission Statement

To preserve and promote the essential character of Morrell Sanctuary's evolving ecosystem as a model of co-existence and as a source of information, inspiration, awareness and enjoyment of nature.

Opportunity!

If you would like to receive updates on the Society and invitations to special events, please consider joining our community and

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!



CANCELLATION POLICY



Cancellation requests must be in writing and sent to the **Day Camp Supervisor** a minimum of 72-hrs prior to 08:30 on the day of the camp. If the request is received within this timeframe a full refund, less a \$25 administrative fee will be issued. The admin fee is a one-time fee per participant, regardless of how many days are cancelled.



When the cancellation request is received after the 72-hr window has passed a refund will not be issued. Morrell Nature Sanctuary will make every effort to fill the vacant spot and if another participant is registered prior to 08:30 on the day of the camp, a full refund less the \$25 admin fee will be issued.



In the event of an emergency or unforeseeable circumstance occurring after the 72-hr window has passed a cancellation request must be sent in writing to the **Day Camp Supervisor**. The request must provide a basic summary of the emergency (no personal details need to be disclosed) and will be subject to the Supervisor's discretion and not guaranteed. If the cancellation request is approved, a full refund will be issued less the \$25 admin fee, regardless of whether the vacant spot has been filled.



If a camp day is cancelled by Morrell Nature Sanctuary all fees will be refunded, and no admin fee will be charged.

Please send all cancellation requests to the following email address with the subject line, "**Cancellation Request**":
summercamp@morrellnaturesanctuary.ca

DROP-OFF & PICK-UP



Drop-off is the Woods Room walk way/ front door between **09:00 and 09:30**. Please no early drop-off. A parent or caregiver **must** be present for drop-off. Participants must be in an appropriate emotional state. A bit of nervousness is okay, but if there is extreme emotional distress or an inability to self-regulate, Camp Leaders may suggest the participant return to camp another day.



Pick-up is the Woods Room walk way/ front door between **14:30 and 15:00** this time is **non-negotiable**. Camp Leaders will continue to supervise participants on site past 15:00, however, a **late fee of \$10/ participant** will be charged. Payment is due by the start of the next camp day or immediately depending on whether the participant is registered for more days or not.



Participants **must** remain at the Woods Room front entrance until their parent or other authorized person is present to sign them out. Please do not instruct participants to meet for pick-up in the parking lot, office etc...



Participants are required to assist with cleaning up equipment and/or materials they have used **prior to leaving for the day**.

MAP

OFFICE & PARKING PICK-UP & DROP OFF



PARTICIPANT
DROP - OFF 9 TO 9:30
NO EARLY ARRIVAL
PICK-UP 2:30 TO 3
LATE PICKUP FEE



OFFICE ??
OFFICE MANAGER
DAY CAMP SUPERVISOR



INFO KIOSK

MAIN PARKING LOT
PAVED, STALL
PARKING



LOWER PARKING LOT
GRAVEL, ANGLE ONLY

ENTRANCE DRIVEWAY

BEFORE CAMP

🌻 When possible, please ensure the participant is interested in the theme of the week. **Alternative activities will not be offered**, and participants are expected to participate in all activities. Participants who refuse to participate in activities may require parent communication and/or early pick-up depending on the situation. If the participant is not interested in the theme and they are registered anyway, **refunds will not be issued should the participant require early pick-up**.

🌻 Please inform participants they are **required** to follow camp guidelines and remind them that **Camp Leaders expect respect and cooperation**.

🌻 Please check the weather each morning and ensure the participant has the **appropriate clothing and/or outer wear for the day**. Given the local climate, intermittent cloud coverage and/or rain is common, even during the summer months. It can get chilly under the forest canopy.

🌻 Please check the weight of the participant's backpack, as they may be required to carry their backpacks on walks periodically throughout the day. Camp Leaders will have their own backpacks/ gear and may not be able to assist with carrying participant's bags if they are too heavy.

🌻 Please **leave electronics & toys at home**. We are not responsible for personal items and we wouldn't want any participant's special items damaged or lost. Participants who arrive with these items can expect Camp Leaders to confiscate them to be stored away for safe keeping for the remainder of the day.



PARENT COMMUNICATION



A parent **must be available for contact during the day** should any emergencies, issues, or concerns arise with your participant. If the parent is unavailable, the Day Camp Supervisor (DCS) will leave a message. If the parent doesn't respond within 30 mins the DCS will contact the next authorized person on the list.



Concerns or feedback regarding camp activities, supervision etc... and/or any Camp Leader **must be sent in writing** to the DCS at summercamp@morrellnaturesanctuary.ca.



Reports on major behaviour concerns (i.e., constant group disruption, violence, foul language), will be communicated by the DCS as required either by email or in person. Minor concerns (i.e., difficulty sharing, inability to resolve disagreements, avoiding certain activities), will be communicated by Camp Leaders at pick-up or drop-off, whichever is more appropriate. Behaviour concerns will always be handled with sensitivity and professionalism by the DCS/ Leaders and all in person discussions will be held in private to **ensure participants and their parent and/or caregiver's privacy is protected.**



All communication must be **respectful** and presented in a **professional manner**. Harassment, abuse, violence, foul language and/or mistreatment of the DCS and/or Camp Leaders will not be tolerated. Any person (including participants) who violate this policy will be asked to leave the property immediately and the participant will not be allowed back on the property to attend camp. **No refund for camp fees will be issued.** If a person refuses to leave the property, the police will be notified.



For participants who have any special needs/ requirements, please inform the DCS **in writing** at summercamp@morrellnaturesanctuary.ca **prior to the start of the camp**. Behaviour plans or management strategies used at home are appreciated but not required. Additionally, if the participant has any support tools, these will need to be identified & approved prior to the camp start date.



CAMPER TIPS



Preparation: Summer camp is your adventure and whenever there is adventure a camper **needs to be prepared**. Depending on your age you may want to ask your parent for help. But if you feel confident **taking the initiative**, we have provided a **checklist** on page 7 for you to follow. **Go For It Camper!**



Gear: Morrell Nature Sanctuary is filled with beautiful trails! You will be walking through many of them throughout the day, **rain or shine**. Please wear your best **outdoor shoes** and bring a **raincoat**, so you stay dry if we are outdoors when it's raining. **Do not overpack your backpack**, as you will be carrying it with you throughout the day.



Special Items: Please **leave toys and/or electronics at home**. We don't want to see any of your important items lost or damaged. If you choose to bring toys and/or electronics they will be **confiscated** by a Camp Leader for safe keeping and **returned to you** at the end of the day. Additionally, a Camp Leader will inform your parent of your decision to not follow camp guidelines.



Positive Attitude: Whether it's your 1st time at Morrell Summer Camp or you've been here before, everyone is expected to be **kind, thoughtful, and helpful**. Please be open to trying activities and give your best effort even if you think you might not like it. We are all responsible for contributing to camp being a fun experience for everyone!



Responsibility: Camp Leaders can be supportive, but you are **always responsible for your choices**. Mistakes happen. This is how we learn and grow to become our best self! Making good decisions and encouraging others to do the same is an important responsibility. If you see a fellow camper making bad decisions, kindly try reminding them to be responsible. If your attempt to help the camper stay out of trouble fails, find a Camp Leader and **ask for help right away!**



Be Respectful: Camp Leaders are there to ensure you have fun and enjoy the day by leading activities and helping when needed. Although Camp Leaders are friendly and caring, they are responsible for everyone's safety. **Listen, respond to direction, and take initiative to be helpful - respect is always expected.**



CAMPER CHECKLIST

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>LUNCH & SNACKS</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>CHANGE OF CLOTHES</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>SUNSCREEN</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>RAIN COAT</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>RUNNING SHOES</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>BRIMMED HAT</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>BUG SPRAY</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>SMALL COMPOSTABLE OR PLASTIC BAG</u> |

NO TRASH BIN ON SITE - PLEASE
REMOVE TRASH WITH BAG OR
INSIDE YOUR LUNCH KIT



CAMP GUIDELINES & BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

ALL PARTICIPANTS **MUST FOLLOW** THESE BASIC RULES

1 Morrell is a hands/ feet to yourself and no contact with wildlife environment. This means do no harm to yourself, other campers, Camp Leaders, wildlife, and/or nature. Physical violence will not be tolerated.

2 Always stay on the trails (unless directed otherwise). The forest is a delicate home for many plants and animals - we need to be respectful and keep them safe.

3 Follow instructions and directions of the Camp Leaders at all times. This means sitting or standing quietly and using your best listening ears.

4 Remain with the group and stay on the property at all times. If you think you would like to go somewhere, talk to a Camp Leader immediately.

5 Foul language or threats (verbal or physical) will not be tolerated.



CONSEQUENCES

Participants who choose to leave the property/ group and/or use threatening language/ physically harm another participant, Camp Leader, wildlife and/or nature may create a danger for themselves, others, and Morrell Nature Sanctuary. Those who behave this way will be given one warning. If the behaviour continues, the participant will require an early pick-up and will not be allowed to return for any upcoming camp days they are registered for.

*Kindness
MATTERS!*

Participants who have difficulty following the other rules, will receive a warning first, followed by a time-out. If three time-outs are given in one day, the participant will require an early pick-up and will not be allowed to return for any upcoming camp days they are registered for.

****No refunds will be issued if a participant is asked to leave****



JUNIOR LEADERS

Our Camp Leaders (CL) are always grateful to have kind and caring participants who are willing to take their camp experience to the next level as a Junior Leader (JL). We are excited to offer this unique opportunity for participants aged 10-12 to develop their leadership skills in a safe, collaborative, and welcoming environment.

This program generates a lot of interest and we receive many inquiries from qualified candidates prior to registration opening. However, we only accept 2 JL's on site per day and although the fee is the same as the regular camp fee we expect JL's to assist our CL's in delivering a fun and rewarding experience for everyone.

If you have registered a participant for this program, please ensure they have reviewed our expectations and agree to try their best to meet or exceed these guidelines. It is a privilege to be selected for this program and failure to meet these expectations may result in CL's giving you less responsibilities and a certificate may not be issued.

JUNIOR LEADERS **MUST MEET** THE FOLLOWING EXPECTATIONS

BEFORE CAMP

- ✓ Arrive at 08:45 to help CL's prepare for the day.
- ✓ Be ready to lead and be a positive role model with a great attitude, striving to make camp fun for everyone.
- ✓ Brainstorm and write down a few ideas for games, crafts and/or activities to suggest to CL. Be sure to remember the theme of the week.
- ✓ Take a moment to reflect on what you hope to learn or a skill you'd like to develop. I.e., practice speaking in front of others, or leading an activity. Write down 1 goal you would like to achieve for the day.

DURING CAMP

- ✓ Treat all campers with respect. Bring a sense of curiosity. Practice patience and be kind.
- ✓ Give your best effort and participate meaningfully in all activities aiming to inspire participation from other campers.
- ✓ Take initiative when you see an opportunity to lead.
- ✓ Engage with other campers by making conversation, playing games, and helping others.
- ✓ CL will provide tasks as needed but don't be afraid to take action when it is appropriate.
- ✓ Don't be afraid to make mistakes. Reflect on what happened, how you would do things differently next time and keep moving forward with a can do attitude!