

How do I register as a Camper?

- Registration opens at **6 pm, February 5th, 2024** on our website.
- Double-check your dates before you register! We have four camp themes offered in July and a second time in August.
- From our payment portal, you will be linked to our online waivers and registration forms. **Your registration in VMM Summer Camps is not complete until you submit these waivers and forms.** Please double-check to ensure you include all the correct information and any additional details you would like us to know about your child.

What will you do at camp?

Camp activities will span from individual craft projects, such as drawing field guides, and designing submarines, to collaborative experiments such as making 'oobleck' or constructing weight-bearing boats.

Each week campers will get to participate in a guided tour of the museum, board the St. Roch, explore our local beach and have a guest education team from a local community partner, (such as OceanWise, Parks Canada, The Canadian Coastguard, or the Vancouver Port Authority), to lead them through engaging workshops.

Our camps are predominantly outdoors, and though we are not a sports camp, we will ensure a good balance of physical activity and exercise for the campers. Such activities can include running games and obstacle courses.

What does Camp not include?

VMM Camps **do not include lunch or morning snacks for our campers.** Please ensure your child comes prepared with an adequate amount of food to fuel their body and brain for the day. **We do supply a nut-free snack each afternoon.** Please inform us if you do not want your child to receive this afternoon snack.

To ensure the safety of all campers **NO Swimming is permitted** during camp hours. While campers will explore the shoreline and beaches, we do not allow any campers to go further than ankle-deep.

EXAMPLE WEEK SCHEDULE

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00 – 9:30	Arrival & Games	Arrival & Games	Arrival & Games	Arrival & Games	Arrival & Games
9:30 – 10:00	Activity: Museum Scavenger Hunt	Activity: Buoyancy Experiment	Activity: Knot tying	GUEST WORKSHOP	Activity: Making Oobleck
10:00 – 10:30	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack
10:30 – 11:00	Activity: Map Making	Activity: Beach Clean-up	Activity: Sextant making	Activity: Beach quadrat sampling	GUEST WORKSHOP
11:00 – 12:00	Physical Game: Wax museum	Physical Game: Water Bucket Relay	Physical Game: Layers of the deep team game	Physical Game: Obstacle Course	Heritage Harbour: Lead Line Activity
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00 – 2:00	Museum Tour and Children's Gallery	Craft: Seaweed pressing	Craft: Flashlight in the Deep	Craft: Jellyfish	Craft: Painting the Layers of our Oceans
2:30 – 3:00	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack
3:00 – 3:30	Explore: St. Roch	Reflect/Winddown Activity	Explore: Beach	Reflect/Winddown Activity	Explore: Beach
3:30 – 4:00	Pick Up	Pick Up	Pick Up	Pick Up	Pick Up

What qualifications do camp staff have?

All summer camp staff and volunteers are subject to an interview and training process led by experienced children and youth professionals to ensure they are qualified and able to care for your child.

All summer camp staff will be required to have Standard First Aid certification and CPR-C as well as supply a valid criminal record check.

Will camps be affected or cancelled due to weather?

Yes. If there is an extreme weather warning issued in the City of Vancouver and Lower Mainland, VMM will monitor the warning, make necessary changes, and keep guardians informed. These potential changes include cancellations of activities, providing indoor activities, half-days of camp or camp cancellations. 1 -2 days of camp cancellations due to extreme weather will not result in any refunds. Staff will monitor the weather regularly and keep all staff informed of necessary actions.

Heat and Extreme Weather:

Through the summer, we anticipate some days with extreme heat conditions. If you know your child/camp participant is easily impacted by the heat, please notify our staff to best accommodate and monitor your child. We have several adjustments and safety measures to help combat high temperatures and keep our campers and staff safe from the sun. These include:

- Provision of a misting tent for cooling down and shelter.
- Ice is available to add to water bottles or to use as a cooling strategy.
- Scheduled breaks/times to fill up water bottles and reapply sunscreen.
- Whenever possible, move camps into shaded or indoor locations at the museum.
- Adjustments to daily activities to reduce physical activity and exertion.

Air Quality:

Should your child's camp be affected by air quality, we will do our best to inform you of changes to facilities, activities, or field trips. If your child has asthma, a respiratory or other medical condition that may affect their health and well-being while at camp, please inform our staff.

Are VMM Summer Camps Nut-Free?

No. While our Summer camps are Nut-aware and ensure all provided food provisions do not contain nuts, the Vancouver Maritime Museum is not a Nut-free facility. We recognize that many camp participants have food and nut allergies. We are committed to providing a safe environment for all children; however, we do not describe our programs as being nut-free as we cannot guarantee that other camp participants or the public visiting the museum have brought nuts or traces of nuts into our facilities.

Our Safety Precautions include:

- All snacks provided by VMM camps are nut-free.
- VMM Camps ask that guardians and caregivers exercise care when preparing their child(ren)'s lunches and snacks and carefully check labels to avoid sending products that contain nuts or traces of nuts.
- VMM Camps have a no-sharing policy, which means participants are strongly discouraged from sharing or trading snacks and lunches with other campers.
- VMM Camp staff members are trained in Standard First Aid and CPR-C and are trained to recognize the symptoms of an allergic reaction.

Can Camp staff help my child with medication?

VMM staff are Standard First Aid certified, however, they are not medical professionals and **are not authorized to administer medication**. Campers are required to be able to self-administer medication with staff supervision and support.

All medication used at camp must be prescribed by a physician or if it is necessary to support a child's exceptionality. All medication must be securely stored with the VMM Camp Staff and is not to be stored in a child's backpack.

A parent/guardian must discuss medications with the VMM staff before the first day of camp. Please contact camps@vanmaritime.com

Can Camp staff assist my child when using the washroom?

VMM staff cannot assist your child in the washroom. Please only send your child to camp if they can use the washroom independently.

My child requires 1-on-1 support; can they attend VMM Summer Camps?

While our staff continually works to adapt camp programming for participants with exceptionalities, and campers of all abilities, **VMM Summer Camps are not authorized to provide 1-on-1 support.** While staff are Standard First Aid certified, they are not medical professionals or trained support workers. Staff are unable to assist with toileting, changing, lifting, carrying, or administering medication.

Should your child require this type or similar assistance, please contact staff at camps@vanmaritime.com. Please contact staff right away to help create a care plan and determine if the VMM has the resources or capacity to safely provide the care your child requires. **Personal support workers or family members are welcome to attend with a camper.**

Depending on the support required, we may or may not have the resources to properly accommodate your child and still ensure a successful camp experience. As the safety of your child is our top priority, VMM reserves the right to cancel and refund the registration of any child if VMM and the Primary Contact cannot create a plan that ensures the safe participation of the child.

Are English Language Learners Welcome to Camp?

English language learners are welcome to VMM Camps! Campers are required to understand basic English instructions. This is to ensure they remain safe during camp, for their safety they will need to be able to understand key rules, information, and safety measures. We can only guarantee that our educators are fluent in English, and all instructions can only be guaranteed to be delivered in English.

Please indicate this to our camp during the registration process. VMM may contact you to discuss your child's level of English Proficiency and our ability to support them.

What if my Child is sick during their scheduled camp week?

Should your camper become sick and unable to attend camp for 1 or 2 days, no refunds will be issued. Should your camper become sick for 3 or more days and unable to attend camp during the week they are registered for, a refund of 50% (minus a \$50 admin fee) can be issued should you notify the Camp Coordinator the week before the start day of camp.

What is VMM Camp's Behavioral Policy?

All camp participants, staff, and volunteers are expected to treat fellow campers, and all instructors, including those from external partner organizations, with consideration and respect. We have a zero-tolerance policy on discrimination against any individual regarding one's race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, Indigenous identity, political belief, religion, family status, physical or mental abilities, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

If a camp participant has difficulty following our camp rules, staff and administrators will coach participants and remind them of the expectations. Staff will collaborate with or ask for suggestions from parents/caregivers if they encounter consistent behavioural issues from a camper.

At VMM Camps, bullying is inexcusable and will not be tolerated. If a camper continually breaches the rules of camp or acts in extreme behaviour that risks the health or safety of themselves or others, VMM administrators maintain the right to remove the participant from our program, with no refund rewarded.

Have more questions?

Should you have any questions or concerns please contact us at camps@vanmaritime.ca or call (604) 257 8312.