

2019 CAMP GUIDE



**DIABETES
CANADA**

D CAMPS

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A GUIDE TO DIABETES CANADA'S D-CAMPS...

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A LETTER TO CAMPERS AND FAMILIES

Dear Camper and Family,

You are about to embark on an amazing adventure at camp this summer. We are so excited that you will be joining us! This year, you will have the opportunity to meet new friends, try exciting, new activities and learn more about diabetes management.

Camp is an exciting and fun-filled place, packed with new friends, adventures, songs, campfires, games, and many other unforgettable experiences.

This Camp Guide is going to help you understand the things about D-Camps that are consistent across the country, such as our policies and philosophies. For camp specific information about pick-up times, locations, and packing lists, please visit our [website](#) to review the Camp Information Guide for the camp your child is attending.

It is very common for both children and their parents/guardians to have feelings of anxiety and nervousness prior to the start of camp. This is a normal part of the process. We hope that once you

have read through this Camp Guide and have taken a look at the Camp Information Handbook for the camp your child is attending, you will have a clear picture of what to expect at camp.

If you have any questions or concerns after you have read this guide please do not hesitate to contact us at camps@diabetes.ca.

Sincerely,

The D-Camps Team!

THE GOAL OF D-CAMPS

The goal of the D-Camps program is to create a sense of belonging and community in which children, youth and families living with type 1 diabetes learn skills to manage their condition, while feeling supported and connected.



ABOUT D-CAMPS

DIABETES CANADA'S CAMP PROGRAM

Diabetes Canada's camping tradition began in 1953 in Eastern Ontario. Since that time, our camp program has grown extensively and the organization currently operates nine overnight camp programs across Canada. From the beginning, the focus of Diabetes Canada's camping program has been to provide children living with type 1 diabetes the opportunity to enjoy an authentic camp experience in a medically accommodating environment, with a dedicated team of professionals.

Our campers get the chance to meet and interact with other children and staff living with type 1 diabetes – what a great opportunity! Many of these relationships develop into lifelong friendships with others facing similar challenges. Through attending camp, we are confident your child will gain independence in managing their diabetes and feel empowered to continue the healthy practices they learn at camp and know that they are not alone in living with type 1 diabetes.

At Diabetes Canada, we believe that our camp and youth programs are for all children and youth living with type 1 diabetes regardless of ability, colour, ethnicity, exceptionality, gender identity or expression, race, religion, and/or sexual orientation

If you have any questions about how we can best support your child at our programs, please contact the Camp Director in your region, using the contact information at the end of this Camp Guide. We would be happy to discuss how we can best accommodate you and your camper to have a great experience.



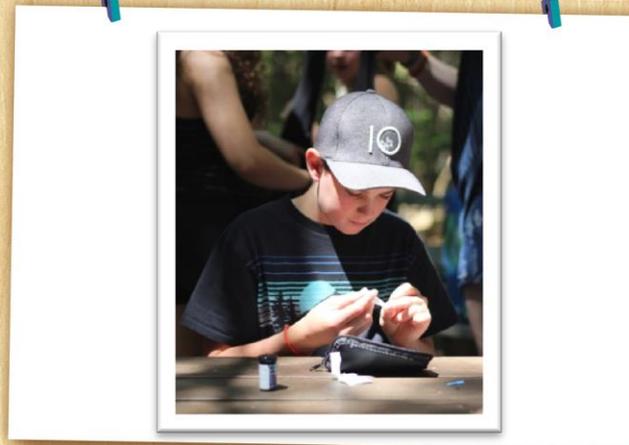
ABOUT OUR STAFF

PROGRAM STAFF

Every year, Diabetes Canada recruits, screens, and trains a staff team focused on ensuring the best possible experience for your camper. Every member of the seasonal staff team has been interviewed by a member of the management team, has two current references on file, has First Aid and CPR training, and has completed a background check with Diabetes Canada. All staff participates in a pre-season training program, led by full-time members of the D-Camps Team. The training program is designed so that all members of the staff team are equipped to teach the program areas at our facilities, are knowledgeable about Diabetes Canada policies and procedures, and are ready to help your camper get the most from their experience attending a D-Camp. Staff are also trained by the Medical Director on type 1 diabetes, how to test blood sugars, and how to recognize and treat low/high blood glucose levels. Many of our staff team live with type 1 diabetes and are living in the cabin group with your camper. As we provide constant supervision, this creates endless opportunities for your camper to learn and relate to a young adult role-model living with type 1 diabetes.

MEDICAL STAFF

Our medical staff team consists of physicians, nurses, and registered dietitians. These professionals provide top-notch medical care to the campers and staff, and are a key part of the operation of D-Camps; they are always on hand for your camper. Whether you are new to diagnosis, or your camper is approaching adulthood, they are a great resource.



MEDICAL SUPERVISION AT CAMP

Your child's health is one of our key priorities at camp. Our team of Doctors, Diabetes Educators, Registered Nurses, and Registered Dietitians are dedicated to the wellbeing of your child. This includes helping your child to manage their diabetes, as well as looking after other medical needs as required.

BLOOD GLUCOSE MONITORING

Generally speaking, campers are much more active at camp than when they are at school or home. This new schedule may make it more challenging to maintain blood glucose levels.

Please note that **all blood glucose monitoring supplies are provided for campers while at camp**. Campers will monitor their blood glucose using meters, single-use lancets, and test strips that are all provided by D-Camps. We are able to provide these supplies through the generous support of our industry partners. This allows for the highest level of blood glucose reading consistency while at camp. Blood checks are supervised by D-Camps staff members and any assistance required by your camper will be accommodated.

NIGHT-TIME BLOOD GLUCOSE TESTING

Your child's blood glucose is checked before bed, and children whose blood glucose is out of a safe range will be checked and treated throughout the night by trained staff. We recognize campers' need for quality sleep, and our medical team works very hard to minimize any disruption to campers' sleep. Our staff makes every attempt to complete night time checking and treatment in cabin and without waking campers. There may be situations where campers must be woken up to be checked or treated, and isolated situations where campers may have to spend time in the Health Centre to ensure blood glucose levels stabilize to be within a safe range.

MEDICATIONS

If your child uses any medication other than insulin, please be sure to send the necessary amount for their stay at camp. All medication **MUST** be in its original container, with a clear label identifying the medication, medication dose and your child's name on it. Upon arrival at camp, please check in all your campers' medication with the Medical Staff Team.



DIABETES EDUCATION

The opportunity to meet, learn, and play with other people living with type 1 diabetes is of enormous benefit. Older campers and staff members living with type 1 provide role models for younger campers who are developing confidence in managing their diabetes.

Learning opportunities happen everywhere at camp - whether it's a doctor discussing insulin dosages, a dietician ensuring a meal plan is just right, or a cabin group discussing different types of insulin pumps. The sense of community created by being surrounded by people with type 1 diabetes is an amazing aspect of the D-Camps experience.

BEDWETTING

Bed-wetting is a common occurrence at camp. As our counselors sleep in the same cabin as their campers, there is always a friendly face available to help change bedding in the middle of the night. In the morning, bedding will be bundled up discreetly and taken to our laundry area for washing. If your child has a history of bed-wetting, talk to your child about what to do if they wet the bed while at camp. Please send extra sheets and blankets for bedding, as they are much easier to wash than a sleeping bag, and consider sending pull-ups if this is a strategy you would like us to use for your child while at camp.

MISSING HOME

Missing home is a common experience for many children. While at camp, your camper will be supported by excellent staff who are trained to work with your camper around their anxieties of being away from home and help them to be more comfortable at camp. If you suspect that your child may become homesick while at camp, please consider these helpful hints:

- **Encourage your child's independence throughout the year.** Before camp, try to have your child sleep over at a friend or family member's house.
- If your child thinks that you are unsure about camp, they will become unsure themselves.
Be confident!
- Acknowledge that you will miss your child but **emphasize the fun they will have while away.** For example, you can say "I am going to miss you, but I know that you will have a good time at camp. We are so excited you get to go to camp".
- **Don't bribe.** Linking a successful stay at camp to a material object sends the wrong message. The reward should be your child's new found confidence and independence.
- **Pack a personal item from home,** such as a stuffed animal.
- Generally we discourage campers from calling home. In the vast majority of cases, this only increases the feeling of homesickness that campers experience. **Please do not promise your child that they can call home from camp.**
- **Our D-Camps Family Camp program may be a good introduction** to our camping program and may give your child a better understanding of what they will do at camp for week while possibly making new camp friends. It is also great for adults who are nervous about sending their child to camp for all the same reasons!



BEHAVIOUR AT CAMP

AWESOME BEHAVIOUR AT CAMP

The focus of our camp is on teaching independence and self-management of type 1 diabetes, facilitating friendships, and improving the self-esteem of our campers, all in a safe, fun, and educational setting. To ensure all campers get the most out of camp, we expect everybody to:

- ✓ Cooperate with staff and fellow campers
- ✓ Treat everybody at camp with respect
- ✓ Have a positive attitude
- ✓ Try new things
- ✓ Follow camp rules, including activity rules, cabin rules and all camp rules

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR AT CAMP

In order to ensure a positive experience for all campers, inappropriate, aggressive or abusive behavior is unacceptable while at camp. Campers who display any of the following behaviour will be asked to stop. If the behavior continues after being spoken to by their counselor, the Camp Director will speak with the camper. The Camp Director may call home to consult parents/guardians about the behavior, and every effort will be taken to coach positive behavior. If a camper is unwilling to change their behavior, the Camp Director may have to ask the camper to leave the program. No refunds will be provided for campers who are asked to leave due to behavioural concerns, and guardians are responsible for picking up their camper if this occurs.



D-CAMPS POLICIES

BULLYING AT CAMP

At camp, bullying is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

Unfortunately, people who are bullied may not have the same opportunity to get the most out of their camp experience. Our camp staff is trained to deal with bullying, and will work with campers to prevent it at camp. If bullying does occur while at camp, we will treat the situation seriously. If a camper bullies another camper, they will be asked to stop, and provided strategies to change their behaviour. If their behaviour does not change after our staff team employs various strategies, the Camp Director may ask the camper to leave the program. In this scenario, the Camp Director will coordinate pick up logistics with the parent/guardian of the camper. No refunds will be provided for campers who are asked to leave due to behavioural concerns, and guardians are responsible for picking up their camper if this occurs.

CAMP IS AN UN-PLUGGED COMMUNITY

And we are proud of it!

We believe strongly that part of a healthy camp experience is providing campers with the opportunity to strengthen their sense of independence. D-Camp programs emphasize community living in a supportive and healthy natural setting. Electronic devices often remove or detach a camper from this community and natural setting.

Our experience is that campers thrive best at D-Camps when they learn to develop relationships and negotiate challenges with those around them. We believe that the success of each child at D-Camps is greatly enhanced through the absence of electronic devices.

"The artificial needs created by new electronic technologies – to see and hear everything the instant it happens – are not always developmentally appropriate needs for our children. To wait a few days for a traditional letter to arrive gives parents and children alike the time to reflect, form new relationships, solve problems independently and understand their emotions. In these ways, unplugging the digital umbilical promotes health growth and self-reliance."

Dr. Christopher Thurber, Child Psychologist

Digital Cameras are the **only** non-medical electronic devices permitted at camp. iPhones, Blackberries, Android phones and other smartphones **cannot** be used as digital cameras while at camp.



At camp, non-medical electronic devices are **not permitted**. These include:

- × Cell phones
- × iPhones, Blackberries, Android phones other smartphones
- × Hand-held gaming devices and laptops
- × iPods or MP3 players
- × Any other non-medical electronic device
- × Electronic devices will be removed from campers and held in the Camp Office until the end of camp. D-Camps and Diabetes Canada will not be responsible for damage or loss of electronic devices at camp.

CONTINUOUS GLUCOSE MONITORING POLICY

We welcome CGM (continuous glucose monitoring) and FGM (flash glucose monitoring) devices which are approved by Health Canada at D-Camps. Campers on CGMs and FGMs will do the same scheduled 'finger pokes' as other campers in order to maintain the feeling of community while at camp. Medical staff will incorporate the information obtained from CGM and FGM devices as we make ongoing treatment decisions during camp. Campers will be required to change their sensors as per the guidelines outlined by Health Canada; please pack appropriately.

As camp is an un-plugged community, it is important to note that all broadcasting features or pairing to caregiver functions are not allowed (ex: Night Scout technology, Dario's, Dexcom Follow App, iPhones with multiple recipient featured enabled, etc).

Campers who use iPhone technology with their Dexcom devices will be required to take out their SIM card at check in.

D-Camps and Diabetes Canada will not be responsible for damaged or lost transmitters or receivers.

WHAT NOT TO BRING TO CAMP

The following items are not allowed at camp:

- × Alcohol, non-prescriptions drugs, drugs not prescribed to the camper, tobacco products
- × Knives, including camping or Swiss army knives
- × Valuable or precious items
- × Matches or lighters
- × Food
- × Non-medical electronics with the exception of digital cameras.

VISITOR'S POLICY

We discourage families from visiting their children while at camp. Camp is a unique opportunity for your camper to develop independence in a supportive environment. It may be tempting to visit your child while they are at camp, but in our experience this can be disruptive and create more challenges than benefits for your camper and those around them. If a visit to camp is required due to unforeseen circumstances, please contact the D-Camps team prior to your arrival, in order for us to prepare appropriately.





When we picked up our son he was the happiest we have seen him in a year, he had a smile on his face for days. He also doesn't care if people know he has diabetes which has been a struggle since diagnosis 3 years ago.

CAMP REGISTRATION POLICY

To ensure that we can serve as many children with type 1 diabetes as possible during our summer camp programs, children will only be able to register to attend one summer camp program.

Should a child register at one summer camp program and then also register for others, they will be moved into a waitlist for the subsequent programs and given a spot if one should become available.

Why?

We are excited to see that our programs are popular and that children want to attend multiple types of the same program. However, we want as many children as possible to experience the benefits of D-Camps. As such, we'd like to see spots filled by children that have not yet had an opportunity to attend a program.

CAMP FEES

The cost for one week of a D-Camp is approximately \$2500. We do not ask you to pay that cost. D-Camps offers every camper a fee that is below our cost to operate because Diabetes Canada strongly believes in the value of our D-Camps programs for those living with type 1 diabetes.

We know that our camp fees can be a barrier for some families. In order to assist those who cannot pay the camp fee we have a financial assistance program. When registering online please check the 'Requesting Financial Assistance' box in the payment field. You will then be asked to provide some information about your financial circumstances and to send us some supporting documentation. This allows Diabetes Canada to ensure we are providing appropriate support when it is needed in a consistent way across the country.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY

To help make camp a possibility for as many families as possible, we are only able to offer a subsidy for one of each type of program. *Example: One summer camp and one family camp.*

If there should there be an opportunity to attend more than one of the same program, a camper/family would not be eligible to receive a subsidy for the second program.

Why?

This policy enables Diabetes Canada to provide financial assistance to more individual families and help get as many people to camp as possible.

CAMP PAYMENT POLICY

All D-Camp Registrations must be paid for or have an established payment plan in place prior to the first day of camp.

For the 2019 season, any new program registrations with balances owing on the account from 2018 will be transferred to the waitlist until the balance is paid off.

Why?

It is important that Diabetes Canada uses donated dollars as prudently as possible. This includes having a very clear sense of the financial assistance required for the D-Camps community. Outstanding balances add time, work and uncertainty for our staff.

CANCELLATION/REFUND POLICY

Camp fees (less deposit) are fully refundable. Notification of cancellation is required in writing or via email, and must be received by the **Camp Registrar** no later than four weeks prior to the camp start date in order to receive a refund. Cancellation requests made later than four weeks prior to camp will be considered on a case by case basis. If a child has to leave camp for unforeseen circumstances, please discuss refund options with the D-Camps staff team.

Please note that cancellations must be made directly through the Camp Registrar and cannot be made through area branch offices or other organization staff. Families who do not cancel will still be required to pay the balance of their camp fees.





D-CAMPS STORE

D-Camps clothing and merchandise is created in order for campers and their families to show their support year-round for D-Camps, and demonstrates the culture of type 1 diabetes-related confidence and empowerment that we encourage at camps. The 2019 D-Camps merchandise and clothing will be emailed and posted ahead of time on our social media platforms in order to provide families with an opportunity to see what is available. We do our best to provide a variety of options that cater to all styles, preferences and price points.

There will be an opportunity to try on, test out, and purchase camp clothing and merchandise onsite at camp when you drop-off and pick-up your camper.

Credit cards are the accepted methods of payment when purchasing items on drop-off or pick-up days.

WHY D-CAMPS?

Type 1 diabetes introduces kids to a new reality, one that often makes them feel different from their friends. For many kids, there is no one else in their school or community who has type 1, and it can be a struggle to acknowledge diabetes openly.

At D-Camps however, campers get a break from being different. Camp is one of the few places where everyone just “gets it”, where the world runs on “diabetes time” and nothing has to be explained. Campers will meet other children who share a personal understanding of the challenges that come from living with type 1, and many of these relationships develop into lifelong friendships. When children leave camp, they will have gained a new level of independence in managing their diabetes, and feel empowered to continue the healthy practices they learned at camp.

The goal of the Diabetes Canada D-Camps program is to create a sense of belonging and community in which children, youth and families living with type 1 diabetes learn skills to manage their condition, while feeling supported and connected.

We look forward to connecting with you and your family at D-Camps this 2019 season!

If you have any questions about what to expect at your Diabetes Canada D-Camp, please feel free to reach out to our Camp Directors.

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