

Broadwing Family Community  
*General Information and Guide to Family Camp*

Please note that this guide is in development and check back for updates.

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# 1. Family Camp Mission Statement & Welcome

At family camp, we strive to create an atmosphere of outdoor rest and recreation for Catholic families, who join together for a shared vacation time. Simple accommodation and well- balanced meals are provided so families can spend their time being with each other. Camp is a place where children can play with physical and moral safety, and parents can learn from each other in their great project of raising their children and growing continually closer to God. Daily Mass, opportunity for Confession and rosary around the campfire facilitate this mission, and family members grow closer to each other through restful time spent together and shared outdoor experiences.

Welcome to Family Camp! All of us are here on a vacation, lived together. Cooperation and collaboration in making it a success becomes everyone’s shared responsibility in an atmosphere of friendship and charity. Activities are optional, but we encourage you as much as possible to be involved. Everyone can thereby be enriched by each other. Parents are responsible for their children at all times.

# 2. General Information about Camp Whonnock



- We have the entire campsite to ourselves for our stay together. You should feel completely safe and secure.
- You will need to bring bedding, pillows, and camping mats for your comfort.
- **Cabins:** A limited number (7) of cabins are available. Each cabin has bunk beds to sleep up to 8 people.
- **Campsites:** Campsites are available for those who wish to stay in a tent.
- **Camper/RV Parking:** Campers or RVs may be parked in the main parking lot (gravel).

- Bathrooms (ie. Toilets, sinks, and showers) are available in the main hall.
  - **Bathing:** there are modern shower facilities (3 showers for each) available in the men's and women's washrooms in the community center.
  - Meals are prepared by staff, but families will be responsible for washing their own re-usable plates, cups, cutlery, etc. between meals. Washing facilities will be provided.
  - Please be aware that there may be wildlife in the area. Do not leave food out in the open or in your tent / cabin.
  - There may be some campers with peanut allergies, so we ask that you bring only peanut-free snacks.
  - Please note that the consumption of alcohol at Camp Whonnock is prohibited by our rental agreement with the camp.
  - Some assistance may be required with basic clean-up duties from families – details to follow.
  - First aid kit locations will be made known at the start of the camp.
  - **Mass:** There is no chapel at the camp, so we will be setting up a temporary chapel to have Mass each day (subject to the availability of a priest). We ask for everyone's cooperation to make our Masses as reverent as possible, even though the setting may make it a bit more challenging. (Reverent does NOT mean no children crying or talking, btw!) As well, we encourage everyone to remain for 10 minutes after Mass in silence to pray and thank God. We ask that conversations be taken outside right after Mass to allow others to have silence.
  - **Confessions:** We try to arrange that a priest be available for Confessions each day as listed on a schedule provided when you arrive at camp. You may also approach him for another suitable time.

## Notes

- We take up a collection as a tip for the kitchen staff and a donation for Father, so bring some cash if you would like to contribute.
- Nearby the camp: there are stores nearby in Maple Ridge and Mission if you need to pick anything up.

## 3. “KIT LIST” - What to Bring

- Bedding – sleeping bags (or sheets and blankets), pillows, camping mats. Bring play pens for little ones.
  - Clothes for hot weather, rainy weather, cool weather, sleepwear (eg. 2 shorts, 2 pants, 4 t-shirts, 2 long sleeves, sweater, jacket). Reminder: this is camp, not a fashion show! Keep it as simple as you want. (give stained / ripped clothing one more wear at camp & then throw out). We are happy to have children just come in their camp clothes to Mass, as well - adults can perhaps wear collared shirts / pants / capri pants instead of shorts, etc., to show more reverence at Mass. It can get cool in the evenings, at nighttime and in the morning – be sure to bring enough warm clothing for everyone.
- Re-usable camping plates, bowls, cups, cutlery, etc.
- Sandals, running shoes, hats for the sun, jackets/sweaters
- Modest swim wear (this just means no bikinis) and swimming towels
- Sunscreen, bug spray, flashlight, camera and extra batteries
- Toiletries, bathroom towels, towels for showers (toilet paper is provided!)
- Any items for activities as suggested elsewhere (strollers etc. for little ones, life jackets and pool toys, young children’s toys, cards, books, board games, ...)
- Rosaries
- Ipods, DVD players, electronic games, etc. are **not** encouraged at camp. If you bring a cell phone with you (and we certainly know that many people have work or family commitments that require them to stay reachable), we ask that any accessing of the internet be done in cabins rather than public areas.

## 4. Host Couple

A camping Host Couple has been assigned to your week of Family Camp. The Host Couple has willingly taken on the role of welcoming families to Family Camp,

overseeing the schedule, as well as facilitating the organized activities and parent discussions. They are not supervisors, nor are they responsible for the family camp, but can be your liaison with the cook, etc.

A positive component of Family Camp is meeting other families and getting to know them as friends. Your Host Couple looks forward to welcoming you to Family Camp and getting to know you and your family.

## 5. Planned Activities

The majority of time at Family Camp is free time ..... time to connect with and enjoy your own family, and get to know others. Co-operation and collaboration in making Family Camp a success becomes everyone's shared interest and responsibility. There is an atmosphere of friendship and charity. Activities are optional, but we encourage each family to be involved as much as possible so as to foster community, and develop deep and lasting friendships. The planned activities are facilitated by your Host Couple.

**Parents are entirely responsible for their children at all times.**

- **Parent discussions:** the topics will be posted with all the other camp info. The gathering is supposed to be fun, informal and practical, with all of us learning from each other.
- We try to arrange for: Men's Campfire, Ladies afternoon excursion.
- Evening rosary and sing along around the campfire.
- Lots of eating good food, visiting with each other, reading, resting, praying, ...!
- Music – bring your instruments if you play!!
- Unplanned activities *may* include: music fun, board games, cards, off site excursions (beach, local tourist attractions), visiting, resting, praying, reading ...etc!

## 6. Daily Schedule

An example of a “typical” Family Camp Day .... Subject to change and flexibility!!

7:30 am	Cold breakfast available for the hungry and early risers Optional outdoor activity such as a hike, run, etc
8:30	BREAKFAST
9:30 - 10:30	Parent Discussion (Rec Hall)
11:30	MASS (unless otherwise rescheduled), Confession
12:00 noon	LUNCH - prepared by cook, in rec hall
Free Time	Naps, swimming, fishing, hikes, games, etc.
6:00 pm	SUPPER - prepared by cook, in rec hall
8:00 pm	Family Rosary at Campfire, songs, snacks.
10:00 pm	(or before) Children to bed, 10:30 or reasonable time
lights out	

## 7. Important information for families with children under 6

**The campsite has been designed for kids, for sure, but not always for *little* kids.**

Here are a few things to consider that should make our days and nights run more smoothly!

- if you own life jackets for younger ones, it would help to bring them along for the pool (or other flotation items).
- there are no high chairs / booster seats for eating, so please bring your own. We will have wipes in the dining hall for cleanup after meals.
- Sleeping: bring whatever play pens you may need to have in your cabin. If you have an extra one and have room in your vehicle, please bring it too. It would be nice to be able to set one up in the main building for little ones sleeping or playing there.
- a stroller would be very helpful - Note, umbrella strollers could be tough to push in some of the more rustic areas.

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