

ACC-VI Summer Camp General Information Guide - 2020

Purpose and Intent of the Summer Camps

The purpose and intent of the ACC-VI fly-in summer camps is to provide a variety of remote mountain experiences and opportunities to club members. Activities may include mountaineering, glacier travel, rock climbing, hiking, and scrambling, within a social, supportive, team-oriented environment.

Predominantly, the ACC-VI looks for a combination of good mountaineering and hiking opportunities in choosing a camp location; however, no particular activity is certain to be available given the remote location and uncertainty of actual conditions on the ground.

The fly-in summer camps are more than a 'helicopter ticket into a remote spot'. They require considerable planning, budgeting and preparation ahead of time, and represent a collective effort to bring together a team for each week's camp. In this respect, interested members are expected to understand and respect all summer camp policies outlined in this General Information Guide.

Contributing to Camp Organization

It is expected that all summer camp participants contribute in some way to the considerable work of preparation and cleanup/maintenance of the communal camp gear. Contributions include: checking gear and erecting tents beforehand, shopping for consumables, packing the trailer, cleanup and post camp inventory and maintenance.

Basic Camp format

- The fly-in summer camps allow for 15 people to fly into a remote area for one week (Sunday to Sunday), to be replaced by another 15 members, for up to four consecutive weeks depending on registration. Members are expected to get themselves to a designated staging area, ready to fly by early Sunday morning, which usually means being close to or at the staging area by the Saturday evening.
- A camp manager (and possibly assistant camp manager) is assigned to oversee each week's camp and will contact participants beforehand to go over gear, travel, food, and a host of other details.
- Members bring their own personal gear, food (see below), tent and sleeping bag. **A strict weight allowance will be provided for each participant.**
- The ACC-VI provides two large dome tents: one as a shelter and social tent; the other as a mess tent. All kitchen prep, cooking, eating and washing up utensils, stove, fuel, tables and seating are provided.

- The first week members set up base camp with the dome tents, dig waste-water holes and biffies, and may set up a shower stall. This takes several hours on the first day. The last week members take down the camp and pack it up for return. This takes several hours on the last evening and last morning.
- Each day, groups assemble for different trips based on recreational interest. Each group signs out in a log book, and takes an FRS radio. Each evening people come together to share stories, relax and eat before retiring to individual tents.

Food and eating considerations

- Participants bring their own breakfasts, lunches, snacks, and drinks, and pair with another member to bring **the makings of one dinner for all 15 people**.
- Participants should NOT count on refrigeration at camp, although we make every attempt to use the snow pack or a cold creek where possible. Bear canisters are provided for non-perishables.
- The camp does NOT provide water treatment or filtration – bring your own treatment or filter if you deem this necessary.
- Camp policy is that **two people each night cook a dinner for all** (three people on the last night, when some packing up is required). **No exceptions** (not least because any deviation from this policy throws the whole week out, and requires more fuel and line-ups for cooking).
- Cooking for the group provides flexibility for all members to make the most of every day, with the exception of a single cooking evening, and provides the opportunity for all members to creatively consider and contribute to others' pleasure and dietary needs. This is part of the social interaction and team effort of these camps.
- People with extreme allergies or food sensitivities may bring supplemental food of their own while participating in the communal meals to the degree possible (most allergies and sensitivities will be addressed in the camp planning process).

Safety considerations

- All participants are expected to sign an ACC Summer Camp waiver form. Your Camp Manager will bring these forms to the rendezvous site and each participant must sign the form prior to boarding the helicopter for transport to camp.
- The Summer Camp Committee believes that adequate personal safety considerations have been incorporated into the guidance and materials for the camps, available through the Camp Manager.
- Camp members (as members of the ACC) already understand what is required in terms of physical fitness and ability.
- Everyone is expected to carry their own personal first aid kit and medications.
- A satellite phone is rented for each week of the camp, for emergency use.
- Please note: The satellite phone is NOT for members to call out. This is a wilderness camp and constant contact is not expected or desired. If you feel that your family may need to contact

you in the case of emergency, then provide them with contact information for the helicopter company, in the event you need to be picked up and flown out, at your own expense. (Flying time includes the helicopter coming to and from base, and is approximately \$2800 per hour).

- Camp batteries/ battery chargers/solar chargers are NOT for personal use: they are required for the radios and satellite phone. Bring your own supplies. SPOT devices are NOT provided – bring your own if desired. The Camp Managers' Manual includes emergency numbers and procedures.
- It is likely that each camp week will include some members who have first aid training.
- If you are coming from another Province or country, please check your medical coverage. Emergency evacuation by Search and Rescue is free of charge in BC.
- The backcountry is 'home' to backpackers and hikers as well as technical climbers. Summer camps often include some mentoring within the bounds of safety, and members are encouraged to sign up for trips within their comfort level.
- Each trip leader carries an FRS radio or several if the hiking group is larger, and check-ins are every two hours.
- Camp members are a team which, in the case of sickness or emergency, is expected to pull together to ensure the safety of all. **"We come back alive; we come back friends"**.

Camp Registration

- **Initial registration is limited to ACCVI-affiliated members with Vancouver Island and adjacent islands home addresses and postal codes.** The rationale behind this is that our local members contribute to and manage a host of local programs, whereas more distant, affiliated members are not usually in a position to contribute to these many club activities.
- Registration is on a 'first-come, first served' basis.
- All fees for campers in Weeks 1, 2 and 4, and adult fees for adults attending Family Camp in Week 3 are due in full at the time of registration*. **Electronic transfer is preferred** (Security Question: What is the name of the summer camp? Security Answer: Griswold), OR cheques may be made out to 'Alpine Club of Canada – Vancouver Island Section' and sent to Jeff Beddoes, 4078C Cedar Hill Road, Victoria, BC V8N 3C3.
- ***Note that fees for youth** attending Family Camp are not due until the amount of the youth bursary is decided. See discussion below on Family Camp, guidelines on payment for youth and a link to the youth Bursary Application form.
- **At a later date, if there are still spaces, registration will be opened to non-local affiliated members.** Non-local members are welcome to send their registration form but NO FEE until registration can be confirmed.
- In the event you have to withdraw, the ACC-VI will assist in advertising your place, however, a refund will only be provided if and when a replacement is confirmed.
- Participants under 19 years of age will need an accompanying parent or guardian.

Youth Bursaries

Youth under 18 years of age attending Family Camp may apply for a bursary by completing a [Youth Bursary Application Form](#). The deadline for bursary applications is April 15th. The amount of each year's bursary will be confirmed when the number of applicants is determined. The balance of camp fees for youth attending Family Camp is due by April 30th. See the [Youth Bursary Policy](#). (Please note: bursaries to support Family Week are covered by ACCVI general funds, not camp participants).

Notes Regarding Camp Fees

- The cost of the camp covers the costs of the helicopter, the transport of group gear, consumables such as kitchen supplies and a 'rental' contribution for the use of club equipment in base camp.
- We make every effort to budget carefully for these costs, but there are always unknowns especially with helicopter flying time. We have therefore developed the following policies to ensure the final costs are fairly covered:
 - i) if there is a surplus of >5% of the cost paid, participants will be refunded their share of the surplus. These amounts will be calculated and distributed in as timely a manner as possible after the final week of camp.
 - ii) if there is a shortfall, participants will be asked for a contribution to make up the deficit. Again this calculation will be made in as timely a manner as possible after the final week of camp.
- The camp fee is the same for all participants whether or not they feel they can hike into the area. (Helicopter estimates and bookings are based on full occupancy plus the need to fly in all communal gear and private weight allowances).

A Call for Camp Managers and Assistant Camp Managers

Each week of the summer camp requires a Camp Manager and possibly an Assistant Camp Manager. If you have an interest in building your leadership skills and working with the camp participants to ensure a successful experience for all, please read the [Camp Managers' Duties document](#), and contact summercamps@accvi.ca if interested.

Contact

Once you've been confirmed for a spot for the summer camp, and Camp Managers have been designated, you will be on your Camp Manager's contact list. Camp Managers will contact you, provide all relevant materials, and will hold a planning meeting in late spring.

Please direct all questions to your Camp Manager.

The ACC VI Summer Camp Committee