

Frequently Asked Questions, Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Halifax Summer Camps

Why are the camps' hours of operation shorter than in previous years?

This year, our day camps will run from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Our team needs the additional time before and after camp sessions to clean and disinfect our Club sites in accordance with public health guidelines.

What kind of activities will my child/ren be participating in?

There will be additional emphasis on outdoor activities. All activities indoors and outdoors will be designed with physical distancing from other groups and people in mind. Each child will have access to their own supplies, projects, etc. There will be no sharing of materials or food. Meals will not be prepared; families are expected to provide lunches and snacks.

Why are there fewer spaces for kids this year?

Due to new health guidelines, we cannot have more than 10 people in a program "bubble," and they must remain in the same room. This changes how we can use our spaces and rooms. We will likely not be able to accommodate everyone's summer camp registration request, as our overall capacity across all of our sites is about 30% of what it was in previous years.

How is the Boys and Girls Club ensuring safe operation of summer programs?

Please refer to our COVID 19 Operational Plan, which we are sharing with you when we send you our registration information. There will be daily health screening for all staff, children and visitors to ensure individuals who are feeling ill are not in the club sites. We have reduced the size of our program groups (no more than two Club staff and eight children in one program "bubble"), and different program groups or bubbles never meet or intermingle during the day. They will be in separate rooms and activities. Children within their program "bubble" will eat, travel, and play together. Our Club staff are undergoing extensive training to ensure our Clubs are properly cleaned, our activities are planned with physical distancing in mind, and that hygiene and frequent hand-washing are the priority. Our Operational Plan is based on the Government of Nova Scotia's own guidelines for safe summer camp operation. We also have collaborated with Boys and Girls Clubs in other provinces, such as New Brunswick and British Columbia, who've hosted programs safely for several weeks now.

As a parent/guardian, can I go into the Club facility?

We are limiting visits from third-party vendors, community members, and Club parents. Your child/ren will be dropped off and picked up at the entrance to the Club. Individual appointments can be made by contacting the Club Manager. Please refer to our Operational Plan to review all health screening and dropoff/pickup guidelines and protocols.

Are there program subsidies available?

We do have a small budget to provide financial aid to eligible families who may need support with the cost of summer camp registration. Contact Lisa at registration@bgcqh.ca for more information.

What options do I have if my child cannot attend in-person programming?

This summer we will be partnering with the Jays Care Foundation to offer a fun and exciting virtual camp for children and youth ages 6-14. Children will have the opportunity to connect with club staff and other children of their own age while playing games and building a strong social connection. Staff are being trained in the safe delivery of this virtual programming. Participants will need access to the Internet and a screen such as a tablet or computer. We will have a small number of devices that can be borrowed and signed out from the Club for children to use during virtual programming.

What about after school program registration for the fall? When will that be happen?

We continue to monitor what the Province of Nova Scotia decides regarding public health and plans for education and schools this fall. This influences the size and scale of our after school and early morning programs, and more information about these programs will be shared with you this summer as it becomes available.