



# FRESH ROOTS

## Extreme Weather Policies

# Extreme Weather at Camp

Camp Fresh Roots is an all-outdoor program, and the safety of our campers, volunteers, and staff comes first. Because we have limited access to indoor space in case of emergencies, our programming may need to change or be cancelled outright if weather conditions are hazardous.

We understand that families may be relying on programs to provide supervision for their children. We will notify families of any changes in our programming as soon as possible, preferably the day before, or immediately if programming plans change during the program day.

If we need to shorten or cancel a day of camp due to extreme weather, families will receive a credit equivalent to that portion of their registration fee. All credits must be used by the end of the following summer. Credits can be used for camps, or can be put toward Market Credits, Veggie Boxes, or other products sold through our Amilia store.

Read on to learn how we make programming decisions for rain, thunder and lightning, heat, and smoke.

## Rain

Rain in the Lower Mainland in summer is not typically enough to cancel camp, however it can put a damper on our plans!

If rain is forecast, please send your camper with appropriate rain gear and extra layers- rain coat with hood at minimum; rain pants and boots are a great choice. An extra sweatshirt or pair of pants really helps as well! We will do our best to make sure your campers wear their rain gear, but we cannot force them to do so. Please speak to them about the importance of staying dry!

If rain is very heavy, we may move some activities indoors.

## Thunder & Lightning

We follow the Government of Canada's Lightning Safety guidance. (available at <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/lightning/safety/overview.html>)

If thunder is heard, all campers and staff will enter the school building and remain indoors and remain there for 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder is heard before resuming our outdoor activities.

If significant thunderstorms are forecast, we may choose to shorten or cancel programming that day.

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### Extreme Heat

While our camp sites have plenty of shade and access to clean water for drinking and cooling down, we do not have access to air-conditioned buildings in case of extreme heat.

The temperatures below will be based on the forecasted highs from Environment Canada for the city the camp is in, and heat plans will be decided and communicated to families by noon the day before. In cases of high humidity or poor air quality in addition to high temperatures, we may shorten or cancel camp at lower temperatures.

#### **For high temperatures between 30–32°C:**

Camp will continue as planned, with more time spent in shaded spots and more frequent water breaks. More strenuous activities will happen in the morning when temperatures are coolest. Parents may choose not to send their campers to camp, or to pick them up early, but no credit will be provided.

#### **For high temperatures between 33–35°C:**

Camp activities will be modified to stay in the shade as much as possible, with frequent water breaks, and lower-energy activities, especially in the afternoon. Campers may wish to bring a book or other quiet activity from home. Camp families will have the option of picking campers up after lunch (pick-up time 12:30–1:00). If you pick up your camper early, you will receive a credit for a 1/2 camp day.

#### **For high temperatures between 36–37°C:**

The camp day will end at 1:00 (pick up from 12:30–1:00) and families will receive a 1/2 day credit. Morning camp activities will be lower energy activities that can be done in the shade. Campers may wish to bring a book or other quiet activity from home.

#### **For high temperatures 38+°C:**

Camp will be cancelled and families will receive a full day credit.

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## Smoke/Air Quality

Decisions to modify or cancel programs will be based on Air Quality Health Index forecast for the Metro Vancouver NW regions. Forecasted conditions are available at

<https://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/bcairquality/data/aqi-table.html>

Air quality can change significantly and with little warning. If actual conditions change, we will use data from the nearest measuring station listed on [iqair.com](http://iqair.com).

Air Quality Health Index	Recommendations for at risk groups	Camp programs
0-3: Low	Enjoy your usual outdoor activities.	Run as planned
4-6: Moderate	Consider reducing or rescheduling strenuous activities outdoors if you are experiencing symptoms.	Run as planned with extra breaks or decrease intensity of physical activity. Masks suggested. Campers at high risk (5 or under or with breathing or other medical conditions) may opt to stay home and receive a credit.
7-8: High	Reduce or reschedule strenuous activities outdoors. Children and the elderly should also take it easy.	All families may opt to stay home or pick up early for credit. Low intensity activities only. Lunch/rest breaks to be taken indoors; other activities may be indoors. Masks strongly recommended.
9-10+: Very High	Avoid strenuous activities outdoors. Children and the elderly should also avoid outdoor physical exertion.	Camp cancelled. Families will receive a credit.

Recommendations are from Environment Canada