

YLDP 2026 – Information Package

RIM Park – 2001 University Avenue East
Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex (WMRC) – 101 Father David Bauer Drive
Albert McCormick Community Centre (AMCC) – 500 Parkside Dr

We hope this information is helpful as you prepare for camp. We are excited to meet you and look forward to a great summer together!

For information about City of Waterloo YLDP, visit waterloo.ca

This information package is for the following camp programs:

- Youth Leadership Development Program Year 1, 2 & 3

Questions or feedback?

Call: 519-886-1177, ext. 27280

Email: camp@waterloo.ca



General Information

We are committed to encouraging and enhancing youth leadership skills as they relate to the role of a camp leader. Individuals also benefit from transferable skills taught in this program including organization skills, teamwork and communication.

Beginners and returning participants take part in training. This allows past participants to share their experiences and take a leadership role within the group. Training is mandatory and 100% attendance is required.

YLDPs will be partnered with a Camp Leader who will mentor them throughout the week and help them both set and achieve their individual goals in the camp environment. This might include connecting and building relationships with campers, leading a craft or game, or designing an activity of their own.

There are three levels of the Youth Leadership Development Program (YLDP).

YLDP 1:

New YLDP participants learn leadership skills, with an emphasis on the skills required to be a future camp counsellor. Topics include communication, teamwork, program planning, leading activities, child development, resume writing and more. They will complete a mandatory two-week camp placement at one of the City of Waterloo summer camps. You must complete YLDP 1 before transitioning to YLDP 2.

YLDP 2:

Past YLDP participants expand on topics from the Year 1 program and increase their leadership skills during training. They will complete a mandatory two-week camp placement at one of the City of Waterloo summer camps.

YLDP 3:

Participate in leader training and are trained in advanced areas such as healthy child development, programming planning and first aid. YLDP 3 participants must be at least 15 years of age by June 1 and have completed at least one year of YLDP prior to registering for YLDP 3.

YLDP 3s: Employment Opportunity

Near the end of their camp placements, YLDP 3s will have an opportunity to interview for a role as an August-only summer camp leader. Employment as an August-only leader is not guaranteed and is subject to placement performance, interview status and meeting minimum registration numbers for camp programs.

YLDP 3 participants will require a clear vulnerable sector reference check at the participants' cost prior to beginning any camp employment, as well as the HIGH FIVE Principles of Healthy Child Development certification and valid Standard First Aid and CPR. The employment opportunity starts in August and is applied to by interested candidates.

**YLDP 3 participants do not require a police records check for their placement, only for employment. **

Consent Form

All participants are required to submit a consent form prior to attending camp. Please complete the consent form by May 16, 2026. You can access a link to the consent form through the City's [website](#).

YLDP Expectations

- A genuine interest in developing the skills needed to work with children in a camp setting.
- It is preferred that the YLDP Coordinator be able to communicate directly with the participant as much as possible as part of this leadership opportunity.
- Treat others with kindness and respect, including fellow YLDPs, campers, leaders, coordinators, caregivers and all facility staff.
- Attend all training, listen attentively and participate fully
- Phones should be put away at training and during camp hours.
- Be professional, present yourself in a way that reflects positively on the City of Waterloo, including using appropriate language around staff, campers, and the public.

Camp Rules to Know & Follow

Each day at camp, we will review the following camp expectations:

- Keep your hands and feet to yourself.
- Speak nicely and positively to each other.
- Touch only what belongs to you.
- Stay within the activity area.
- Listen to your leaders.

Program Readiness

All YLDP's must be program ready. To be program ready, YLDP's must be able to:

- Take directions and instructions from a staff person.
- Interact and participate within the camp environment (based on the YLDP's abilities).
- Interact and participate in a way that is safe for themselves and others.

To support the success and safety of all individuals registered and participating in City of Waterloo summer camps, it is important that all participants are program ready. Should YLDP's demonstrate they are not program ready additional steps and conversations with families will be put in place.

Inclusion Support Workers

Inclusion support workers can be arranged through City of Waterloo Inclusion Services to provide one-on-one support to YLDP's with a special need or disability. If your youth requires accommodation to participate in YLDP and you would like to arrange the support of an inclusion support worker, please call 519-886-1177 x27249 and complete an inclusion membership application online. Please do so in a timely manner as support requests for camp fill up quickly.

Placement Locations

YLDPs aged 13 years are placed at Fun Centre locations only.

YLDPs aged 14+ may be placed at either a Fun Centre or Day Camp locations.

Important Dates

Week	Dates	Hours
Training YLDPs 1 & 2	June 19	4-8pm
Training YLDPs 1 & 2	June 20	9am-5pm
Training YLDPs 1 & 2	June 22	4-8pm
Training YLDP 3	June 6	9am-5pm
Training YLDP 3	June 7	9am-5pm
Training YLDP 3	June 19	4-8pm
Training YLDP 3	June 20	9am-5pm
Training YLDP 3	June 22	4-8pm
Training YLDP 3	July 15	6-8pm
Camp Week 1	June 29-July 3	YLDP Camp Hours: 8:30am-4:30pm
Camp Week 2	July 6-10	
Camp Week 3	July 13-17	
Camp Week 4	July 20-24	
Camp Week 5	July 27-31	YLDP 1s: 2 Weeks of Placement
Camp Week 6	Aug 4-7	
Camp Week 7	Aug 10-14	
Camp Week 8	Aug 17-21	YLDP 2s: 2 Weeks of Placement
Camp Week 9	Aug 24-28	
		YLDP 3s: 4 Weeks of Placement

Nut Allergies

We are a peanut and nut-free camp; however, our facilities are not peanut and nut-free. Concessions and vending machines may contain peanuts or nut products and patrons of our facilities may bring in peanuts and nut products.

YLDP's and campers are asked to bring nut-free lunches. Should peanut or nut products be present, camp staff will do their best to ensure they are kept away from YLDP's and campers with nut allergies and that everyone thoroughly washes their hands and disposes of garbage in a separate bag.

Child in Need of Protection

City of Waterloo staff and volunteers are legally obligated to observe the terms listed in Section 125 of [*The Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017 \(CYFSA\)*](#) and must report a child in need of protecting.

Illness

When a YLDP is not feeling well, please keep them at home and notify the YLDP coordinator that they will be absent. If you are unsure if you should send your YLDP to camp, please do not hesitate to reach out to the YLDP coordinator.

Cell Phones, Money & Valuables

Cell phones are not permitted during program time. Participants may check their cell phones during break time only. Please leave all valuables and electronic devices at home.

The City of Waterloo is not responsible for any lost money or valuables.

Fee Assistance

The City of Waterloo has fee assistance programs available. For more information on these programs and eligibility, please visit our summer camps [website](#).

Withdrawals, Refunds and Credits

Refunds and credits on account are pro-rated and subject to an administrative fee of 10%. Refunds of \$25 or less will only be available as a credit on account. To receive a refund or credit on account, withdrawal requests must be made 14 days prior to the first program date. Please see the chart below for a summary of those dates in 2026.

YLDP	Training dates	No refund given as of (14 day timeframe)
1 & 2	June 19, 20, 22	June 6
3	June 6	May 24

Appreciation Party

YLDP participants are invited to attend an appreciation party near the end of the summer. More details will be available closer to the date.

Thank you for choosing the Youth Leadership Development Program with the City of Waterloo! We hope you have a wonderful experience!