



## Family Nature Camp 2018 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (Kinship Care)



# Participant Package

Dear grandfamilies/kinship care families,

We are excited to welcome you to the **GRG Family Nature Camp** that will be facilitated in partnership with **Parent Support Services Society of BC** & the **Galiano Conservancy Association**. The camp will be take place on **July 31<sup>st</sup> –August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018** on **Galiano Island**. This will be a great opportunity for grandparents and grandchildren you are raising (and other kinship care families & their children) to connect with each other, with other families and nature. Participants will be staying at Bodega Ridge, which is located about 30 minutes north of the ferry terminal.

Accommodation, food and fun will be provided for 3 days and 2 nights, with time for games, music, stories, and free exploration. This package will assist you in preparing for this exciting adventure!

The purpose of the excursion is to experience summer camp with others who share the challenges and rewards of a unique family structure. Grandparents and kinship caregivers will enjoy some time on the beach while your grandchildren play, laugh and learn about the local ecosystems and the creatures that call Galiano Island home. It's a chance to get outside and explore and share our knowledge of how to survive and thrive with each other.



### Travel

Participants will travel to Galiano Island as foot passengers on BC Ferries from either the Swartz Bay terminal (Vancouver Island) or the Tsawwassen terminal (mainland). On the day of travel (**July 31, 2018**) participants travelling from Vancouver Island must be at the Swartz Bay ferry terminal no later than 10:00 am. Those travelling from the mainland must be at the Tsawwassen ferry terminal no later than 9:40 am. A staff member from Parent Support Services will meet you inside the terminal.

You are responsible to get to the ferry terminal on time and cover the long term parking costs if parking is required.

The return ferry to **Swartz Bay** leaves **Galiano Island** at **6:25 pm** and a ferry leaves for **Tsawwassen** at **5:40 pm**. on **Thursday, August 2, 2018**.

## Accommodation

Bodega Ridge's log cabins, have three bedrooms, living room, full kitchen and bath. Each cabin sleeps six comfortably, and all bedrooms have a queen-size bed. We also have a small supply of air mattresses for younger children to support the maximum number of families being able to attend. Please note that the cabins are spread out and the ground is quite hilly.

*In order to maximize the amount of people who can attend cabins may be shared; however, families will be matched to ensure everyone has adequate privacy.*

Please limit the amount of disposable items you bring to Galiano Island. There is no landfill on the island, and it is very expensive to dispose of the garbage. Composting and recycling will available. ***Families are asked to bring a non-disposable water bottle, clearly labelled for each member of your family.*** The water at Bodega Ridge is perfectly safe to drink and so we will be filling up before we go on our outings.

## Food

**Grandparents/care providers will be responsible to provide a bagged lunch for themselves and their grandchildren on the first day July 31<sup>st</sup>.**

Parent Support Services staff will prepare simple, healthy family friendly foods for the remainder of the trip. There will be healthy snacks each day along with breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Families can help with cleaning up after meals. Everyone will be responsible for cleaning their own dishes and returning them to the cabins.

Please note that the Bodega Ridge property and the Galiano conservancy owned property are **non-smoking** properties. Also, we ask that due to the family friendly nature of this camp that you **do not** bring any alcohol.

Please fill out a health form for each member of your family including yourself, to alert us to any potential allergies or dietary restrictions. The health forms are included in our online application.

## Equipment

During the Nature Camp we request that you **disconnect to connect**. This camp is an opportunity to connect with each other, meet new people and enjoy nature. Not to mention that there is a lot of water and rocks on the island. While there is excellent internet and cell phone coverage at Bodega Ridge, we ask that cell phones, tablets and other gaming devices are left at home. (We acknowledge that caregivers may need to have access to their cell phone for emergency contact or to make use as a camera.) The Conservancy will provide a shelter in case of inclement weather along with chairs for grandparents to relax in on the beach. Raincoats are available for children, as well as 2 lifejackets for any younger children to use while we are at the beach.



## Supervision

Highly qualified and experienced Galiano Conservancy and Parent Support Services staff will be facilitating the camp to ensure everything runs smoothly and that participants are having a comfortable, meaningful and enjoyable experience. Conservancy staff are trained in first aid and will ensure health and safety at the gathering, as well as access to emergency services. During all programs we will have two first aid kits available. There is also a walk in clinic on the island.

## Children's Programs

The **Galiano Conservancy Association** will be offering environmental education programs for the children - for a half-day on July 31<sup>st</sup>, and full days on August 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Programs will include hiking on uneven terrain and slight inclines. The distance of most hiking trails will be about 1 km. If your children or you have mobility issues, please consider this in your planning. We will also be offering evening programs at Bodega Ridge that will include outdoor games (weather permitting).

It is important to note that, for safety and insurance reasons, there will be **no swimming** while at the camp. We ask that you please let the children know ahead of time so as to minimize any confusion or disappointment that may occur when we arrive at the water.

**Programs are suitable for children aged 5 and up.** All children are expected to participate in the programming and stay with the group. We ask that if at all possible you let your children participate in the programming on their own. We understand that some children may need you to accompany them. Conservancy staff will be facilitating programs. While the children are busy with their activities, this is a wonderful time for grandparents and other kinship caregivers to connect, share challenges, and just let go and relax.

**This camp is organized by the Parent Support Services Society of BC.** PSS is a charitable non-profit established in 1974. PSS provides Support Circles, educational workshops, referrals for those in parenting roles – as well as a Support Line for Kinship Caregivers. For more info: <http://parentsupportbc.ca>

### What is the Galiano Conservancy Association?

The Galiano Conservancy Association is a community-based non-profit society and registered charity dedicated to protecting and enhancing the natural and human environment of Galiano Island, British Columbia. For more info: <http://galianoconservancy.ca/>

*And remember that if you are 65+ bring your Gold Card for a reduced fee on to the ferry!*

*The last thing that you might want to consider before completing is that by completing the application form you are confirming that have the legal authority to bring you grandchildren to Galiano Island. If you are unsure, or do not have the authority, please call us 1-855-474-9777 or email [galianotrip@parentsupportbc.ca](mailto:galianotrip@parentsupportbc.ca) . Often we can provide a waiver form that can be signed in advance to allow your grandchildren to participate.*

Please fill out the on-line application: <https://goo.gl/forms/ePJ2un9lcOPzXIK13>