



# GRG/Kinship Family Nature Camp 2019

## Participant Package



Dear GRG/kinship care families,

We are excited to welcome you to the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual GRG/kinship Family Nature Camp that will be co-facilitated by Parent Support Services Society of BC (PSS) & the Galiano Conservancy Association. The camp will take place on July 30<sup>th</sup> – August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 (3days, 2 nights) on Galiano Island.

The purpose of the excursion is to experience the summer camp with other families whom share similar qualities of your unique family structure. Caregivers will enjoy some time on the beach while your children play, laugh and learn about the local ecosystems and the creatures that call Galiano Island home. This package will assist you in preparing for this exciting adventure!

### Travel

Participants from **Mainland BC** will travel to Galiano Island as foot passengers on BC Ferries leaving from the **Tsawwassen** ferry terminal. Participants from **Vancouver Island** will travel to Galiano Island as foot passengers on BC Ferries leaving from the **Swartz Bay** ferry terminal.

You are responsible for:

1. Getting to and from the ferry. PSS will **not** be paying for the cost of travel to and from the ferry, nor pay for the cost of long-term parking.
2. On the day of travel, **July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019**, participants travelling from the:
  - **Lower Mainland must be at the Tsawwassen ferry terminal entrance no later than 9:15 am.**
  - **Vancouver Island must be at the Swartz Bay ferry terminal entrance no later than 9:45 am.**
3. A staff member from PSS will be waiting for you at the entrance of the ferry terminal – **Look out for the PSS T-shirt ☺**
4. Families are asked to **bring a reusable water bottle**, clearly labelled for **each** member of your family.
5. **Bring a packed lunch for you and your family for the first day, July 30<sup>th</sup>.**
6. 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.

PSS & Galiano Conservancy is responsible for:

1. PSS staff will purchase ferry tickets to and from Galiano. **You do not need to buy your ferry ticket.** If you are 65 or older, please bring your Gold card with you so we can obtain a discounted ferry rate for you.
  2. While on Galiano Island, we will be travelling as a group in a school bus owned and operated by the Galiano Conservancy Association.
- **Lower Mainland** participants will take the 5:40 pm ferry to Tsawwassen on Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.
- **Vancouver Island** participants will take the 6:25 pm ferry to Swartz Bay on Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.



## Accommodation

We will be staying at Bodega Ridge. Each log cabin has three bedrooms, a 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. ***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 note that the cabins are spread out and the ground is quite hilly.

\*Please note that the Bodega Ridge 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.

## Food

PSS 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. **Don't forget to bring a packed lunch for the first day.**

## 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.



## Children's Programs

The **Galiano Conservancy Association** will be offering environmental education programs for the children for a half-day on July 30<sup>th</sup>, and full days on July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup>. **Programs will include hiking on uneven terrain and slight inclines. The distance of most hiking trails will be about 1 km. If you or your children have mobility issues, please consider the amount of hiking, getting on and off the school bus, moving up and down the stairs at the cabins in your planning.**

**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. 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.

## Supervision

Highly qualified and experienced Galiano Conservancy and PSS staff will be facilitating the camp to ensure everything runs smoothly and that participants are having a comfortable, meaningful and enjoyable experience. Both Conservancy & PSS 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.

You are responsible for the overall safety of the children in your care during hours where there aren't any scheduled activities. For example on the ferry, in the mornings at the cabin and during the evening.

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.

## Application Form

Now that you have reviewed the Participant Package, you can fill out the application form by clicking [here](#). If you are unable to fill out the application form online, please call our GRG Support Line – with your consent, they can fill out the application form on your behalf via telephone – Call 1-855-474-9777

**\*Please take note that we will confirm we have received your application 2 weeks before the deadline – June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

If you have to cancel for any reason, please contact one of the following PSS staff members to let us know so that we can invite a family from the waiting list. If you or your grandchild has been sick or had a very recent hospital stay, please feel welcome to call and discuss your situation.

- 1) If you are from the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley, Interior, Or Prince George, Contact [Daniela](#) at 604-669-1616 ext 106 OR [sandi.halvorson@parentsupportbc.ca](mailto:sandi.halvorson@parentsupportbc.ca)
- 2) If you are from the Central Island or Victoria, Contact [Sandi](#) at 250-468-9658 OR [daniela.alvarado-torres@parentsupportbc.ca](mailto:daniela.alvarado-torres@parentsupportbc.ca)

*On an ending note, we want to remind you 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 [grgline@parentsupportbc.ca](mailto:grgline@parentsupportbc.ca). Often times we can provide a waiver form that can be signed in advance to allow your grandchildren to participate.*