

Summer camp 2024 Parents common questions and answers (As of Thursday, April 11th, 2024)

New or updated programming/notes

1. Camp is from Tuesday, July 2nd to Friday, August 9th (6 weeks). Camp is from 9am to 4pm.
2. Daycare hours at your child’s respective centers are from 7am - 9am and 4pm - 6pm.
3. You can sign up for more weeks during the summer (you can add weeks online through your Amilia account).
4. Please note that the center locations may change for the following reasons:
 - a. Unexpected renovations decided by the EMSB
 - b. More or less camper registrations for a particular grade level.
 - c. If anything changes, we will let you know (by the end of May).
5. Your child’s grade will be the grade that he or she graduated from in June 2024.
6. Registration will take place online, we are available to help register by phone and in person by appointment only.
7. We have hired a Special Needs Coordinator to assist in the intergration and evaluation of campers in our care.
8. We are introducing a “Life Skills” program for grade 6 and Teen Spirit (this will include weekly workshops such as, cooking, self-care, basic repairs, mental health support, communication, etc.).
9. **We are looking for tshirt sponsors! Income tax receipt and other publicity incentives included (from 1000\$ to 5000\$).**

Grade level (completed in June 2024)	Center	Address
Smiley Bunch prek + Kindergarten	East Hill Elementary School	10350 Boulevard Perras Montreal, QC, Canada H1C 2H1
Grades 1	Leonardo Da Vinci Academy	12025 André-Dumas Montreal, QC, Canada H1E 4G2
Grades 2+3	YLC 2 nd floor	11991 Pierre Baillargeon Montreal, Quebec H1E 2E5
Grades 4+5+6	YLC 3 rd floor	11991 Pierre Baillargeon Montreal, Quebec H1E 2E5
Teen Spirit (sec 1+2+3)	Michelangelo school	9360 5e rue, R.D.P. Montreal, QC, Canada H1E 1K1

Camp office/YLC: 514-648-6421 (ask for Amy or Davide) info@dbylc.com

YLC team: Theo Vecera / Amy El-Zammar / Davide Clemente

Note: All information is subject to change

SUMMER CAMP 2024 COMMON QUESTIONS ASKED BY PARENTS!

Please note:

1. On the first day of camp, you will receive a parent information booklet that has the program calendar and other information. This information will also be online a week before camp starts.
2. Your child's camp T-shirt will be given out during the first week and should be worn only on outings or special events.
3. Parents, don't see your question? Please contact us at 514-648-6421 (please leave a message) or info@dbylc.com
4. **We are always looking for sponsorship and donations! We can offer income tax receipts and publicity incentives for cash sponsorship. Please reach out to us info@dbylc.com for more information!**

ALL INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE (UPDATED ON April 4, 2024)

Question 1: Where does my child go?

- For Smiley Bunch kindergarten camp, the center will be at East Hill school.
- For grade 1: It will be at Leonardo Da Vinci Academy.
- For grades 2 and 3: It will be at the YLC 2nd floor.
- For grades 4, 5, 6: It will be at the YLC 3rd floor.
- For Teen Spirit (Secondary 1 and 2 and 3), it will be at Michelangelo school.
- Please note that entrance to the YLC's camp centers is by the parking lot.
- **There is no air conditioning at the schools. Even during the school year.**



Question 2: How does Daycare work?

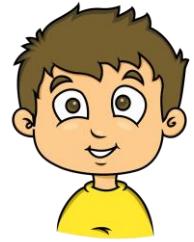
- Daycare is from 7am to 9am and 4pm to 6pm.
- It is supervised by the animators of your child's center. You can sign up for daycare anytime during the summer.
- Consistent lateness or not respecting the daycare hours registered, results in a higher daycare rate.
- You must sign-in and out your child at the "daycare desk".
- Daycare will be at your child's center.
- **If you have 2 or 3 children at camp, we recommend picking up the younger one first and then head to the other center(s). Don't worry, we will never leave a child alone outside.**

Question 3: What should my child bring every day?

*It is important that your child brings the following items **on a daily basis** in a durable backpack.*

- Sunscreen (SPF 50 or higher) You must apply sunscreen before arriving at camp each day. We will reapply during the day for the younger levels. Older children are expected to apply it on themselves (with our assistance if needed).
- A healthy lunch and snacks. **NO PRODUCTS WITH NUTS.** We do not use microwaves. Please make sure your child(ren) lunches are tightly sealed and kept fresh (put an ice pack in the lunch bag if necessary).
- If a lunch is forgotten, we will contact you to purchase some food for your child. You will then reimburse your coordinator.
- A lock for public pool changing room lockers.
- Pool sandals/ water shoes for water activities.
- Bathing suit and towel.
- Water bottle.
- Cap/sun hat
- Running shoes **WITH** socks. **NO SANDALS/ETC.**
- Your center coordinator will provide you with a list of specific items that you need per age level.

- **For grades 4+5+6 and Teen Spirit: 2 bus tickets (for long walks and/or outings) that will be left with the animator.**
- Please keep in mind that we are not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items.
- Most of the day will be spent outside with activities ranging from quiet to active geared towards that age group. They will take breaks throughout the day and where possible, in the shade. It's summer after all!



Question 4: Can parents volunteer on outings?

- Yes! Providing there is a need or space for extra supervision. Give your name to your child's coordinator. If there is a need, we will contact you.
- **Please keep in mind that parents will NOT be put in the same group as their child.**
- This is based on experience that we sometimes need to "supervise" the parent.
- No snacks can be purchased by the parent on outings.
- Please notify your child's coordinator if you are interested.

Question 5: Where will the campers go swimming?

- "Smiley Bunch" K-camp for the majority of time, will use the splash pads at East Hill school.
- Grades 1 and 2 will go swimming at the indoor Centre Aquatique of RDP in the "kiddie section" (right beside Jean Grou High school) **OR** the Don Bosco park (former Alexis Carrel park) outside **kiddie pool** providing we have the proper supervision (ratio 1:4). The water will never be higher than the knees of a standing child.
- If the pools are not available or we can't reach our ratio, water activities will be planned at the YLC or local parks. From our experience, children of this age group just enjoy "getting wet".
- The older levels (grades 3 and up) will for most of the time, go to the Don Bosco (former Alexis Carrel park) outdoor pool or have an outing to another pool in the Montreal.

Question 6: How is the day / week structured?

- The day will range from quiet to semi-active to active activities according to the physical and social development of the age group/center.
- **The week is comprised of theme days, sports, outings, dance, "life skills", games, songs, FaithSpace (optional), center events, "universal special events", special animation programming, swimming, and sports activities.**
- Most of the activities will take place at your child's respective center and immediate surroundings.
- Activities range from social, leisure, educational, moral, cultural and recreational programming.
- Animators will follow an approved daily plan from the coordinator for the day.
- You will receive a Parent Information booklet with the camp calendar and other important information describing your child's summer experience and expectations on the first day of camp. Please see online at dbylc.com for last year's programs.
- Usually, the new Parent Information booklet will be available online the week before camp starts.
- Friday mornings are usually a child geared church celebration at Maria Ausiliatrice parish (optional).
- Friday afternoons are usually "universal" camper events (Carnival day, Walk a thon, Derby race, etc).

Question 7: How do outings work?

- There will be 3-4 outings during the camp program (2 universal outings which means all the centers go to that outing and 1-2 center major outing. Subject to change).
- These mini and/or major outings can be "in house" (where an organization/recreation company comes to the center, or the center goes to a particular place (example: Biodome).
- All the outings are incorporated into the registration fee (that means they are free).
- "Major-outings" are by yellow bus and Mini-outings are by city transportation if available.
- Teen Spirit outings are not included in the registration (as the registration is only 50\$/week).

- When by city transportation, the city bus is “reserved” for us and does not do the normal bus stops. The bus will pick up the campers at a certain bus stop and drop them off at a certain bus stop close to the outing. This is not yet confirmed for this year by the City of Montreal. More information to follow.
- You will receive the outing form on the first day of camp. Please check off which outings you would like your child to attend. If anything changes, let us know the latest **TWO DAYS BEFORE THE OUTING**.
- No permission slips for major outings will be accepted on the day of the outing. It is not meant to exclude campers but rather to ensure proper supervision and space in the yellow buses.
- Please follow the procedures on your center’s outing form (that you will receive first day of camp).
- Parents who choose not to send their child on an outing have the option of leaving their child at camp for the day. If there is less than 20% of the campers at a center staying back on a major outing, they will then be put at another center for the day.
- No campers will be allowed to stay back on our “**UNIVERSAL OUTINGS**”. If you choose not to send your child, they will have to stay home as the whole staff will be on these outings. Universal outings are outings that the **WHOLE** camps goes to (from Grade 1 to Teen Spirit).
- Strict rules are applied by the animators and reinforced by the coordinators for all outings and public transportation. A review of safety procedures is also done with the campers.
- If an outing is cancelled or rescheduled (due to circumstances beyond our control) to another camp week, there is no reimbursement.
- We may allow the camper who is not registered for that week to attend the outing providing there is space available.

Question 8: How does early dismissal and absence procedure work?

- A note is required by the parent (in advance) to be given **DIRECTLY** to the animator who then discusses it with the coordinator. Campers will only be dismissed at the respective center.
- In **RARE** situations, campers can be dismissed at a different site (park, pool, outing, other center...) providing the coordinator speaks to the person who is picking up the child (is verified on the registration documents) and approves it. No exceptions.
- Please share all personal matters (divorce, custody, other) pertaining to your child's safety and well-being with the respective coordinator and / or with Amy El Zammar or Theo. The more we know, the more we can provide a “SafeFun” experience for your child(ren).
- If you are aware that your child will be absent for the day, please send in a note or contact the animator/coordinator or leave a message at your child’s centers phone number. **NOT THE YLC.**
- **The coordinators only make phone calls to the camper’s home around noon (due to busy mornings at the center)**

Question 9: Is camp from 9am to 4pm?

- Yes. Dismissal is at 4pm. We ask all parents to be present five minutes earlier to notice your child as they leave the centers.
- **DO NOT DOUBLE PARK AT THE YLC OR AT THE SCHOOLS! THIS SELFISH ACT IS VERY DANGEROUS!** The police will be doing check-ups and giving tickets on a regular basis. Blatant and repetitive parents who double park will annul their child's camp registration with no refunds given.

If you're late...

- Some animators will be with the dismissed campers outside as they wait for the child to be picked up. However, please keep in mind that the animators have other duties to attend to after camp and they cannot continue to animate after 4pm.
- If you won't be able to make it for 4pm, please contact your child(ren)’s center. If need be, please pick up your younger child before the older one.
- Make sure to have your child’s center number saved on your phone.
- Please call if you will be late. Consistent lateness will result in a "supervision/daycare" fee to be paid directly to the coordinator. And a recommendation to register for daycare. *(continued next page)*

- If the parent is late, we will bring the child back inside the center (around 4:15pm). We will not leave a child alone to wait outside.
- Make sure you write down on the registration form ALL THE PEOPLE that can pick up your child from camp.

Question 10: Does my child have to wear the camp t-shirt every day?

- No. Camp T-shirts MUST be worn on all outings. This is to enhance identification, safety, and supervision during an outing.
- In some cases, we ask the campers to wear their camp T-shirt on special events (e.g. Walk-a-thon, last day of camp, etc...)
- A t-shirt of the same color may be worn (or one of previous years) if the camp T-shirt of this year is dirty or for other reasons.
- The t-shirt is included in the registration fee. Sizes may be a little big on your child (never smaller). We “guesstimate” the sizes according to age and center. At times, we can replace if we have extras.
- A replacement fee for a lost t-shirt during the camp season is 20\$.

Question 11: What is the Code of Conduct on the registration form?

New for 2024

- The Code of Conduct is the way in which we expect campers to behave while at summer camp. It is also a tool that the camp staff can use to encourage transparent and stronger communication and assistance to parents. In particular with campers who choose not to listen to their animators, who express their frustration with aggressiveness and/or foul language, or who abuse others.
- The YLC, with its limited resources, will do its best to journey with campers who have difficulty following the code of conduct.
- **We are not able to keep any camper we feel we are not equipped to handle, nor can we keep a camper who has repeatedly ignored the code of conduct. You will receive a partial reimbursement.**
- This is to ensure the safety of other campers and the staff as a whole and to not diminish the opportunity for an enjoyable summer camp EXPERIENCE FOR ALL CAMPERS AND STAFF.
- The more we know, the more we can help! This is why we strongly recommend an open and honest communication between parents and staff. Speak to Amy and your child(ren)’s coordinator.

Question 12: Do you accept children with special needs?

New for 2024

- As with the code of conduct, you will see on the registration form a section to fill out if you know or feel that your child has a special need or requires special attentiveness.
- Your honesty and assistance helps to ensure a safer and more enjoyable camp experience for your child and the center as a whole.
- We are aware of the challenges and difficulties it is to secure and ensure a safe space for your child during the summer. But it is important that you do not mislead the camp directors and coordinators.
- We will do our best to accommodate and assist if we feel we’re able to ensure a “SafeFun” experience for all involved.
- We receive a limited grant of 5000\$ (not guaranteed for this summer yet) by a city/government organization. This pays for 2 “shadows” whose primary role is the integration of children into the group and daily activities.
- We have hired this summer (through fundraising) a Special Needs Coordinator who will assess the camper, help the animators with tips and suggestions and have an open and honest communication with parents. Remember, we are on your side.
- **It is not a “one on one” service.** We cannot provide that unfortunately. So certain levels of autism and other conditions may not be able to be safely secured in an outdoor camp program. The “shadows” are also not GIVEN OR FIXED to one camper during the summer. They go where the need is.
- If you have a specialized/experienced special needs animator that can work with your child at camp, we will certainly consider it. However, they must be **paid by you** or



through your school, city, CLSC, government agency, personal or another type of grant.

- If this is the situation, we kindly ask you to look at other camp organizations that may be better suited to provide a good experience for your child. One resource is montrealfamilies.com or Autism Montreal.
- Please speak/email the camp directors for further questions and information or situation.
info@dbylc.com

Question 13: Do we get an official camp receipt?

- You will receive a Releve-24 if your invoice has been paid that you've provided your Social Insurance Number at the time of registration.
- In January of the following camp year we will send out a reminder to make sure that your information is up-to-date at which point we will issue your RL-24's through Amilia, our registration platform. If you do not provide your information or you have not paid your camp fees then we will not be able to issue your RL-24.

Question 14: What is SAFEFUN and who are the animators?

- This is the philosophy of our camp. Our objective is to make sure that the safety of our campers will never be compromised for the sake of fun.
- All our animators go through a 2-month city certified training, participate, and agree to our "Safe Environment" protocols. All are first aid certified and the majority are known to us through our programming and go through a police check (18 years and over).
- We are also accredited from the Quebec Camp Association.
- We have been organizing's camps since 1984.
- Theo Vecera has been leading the camp structure and overall programming since 1997. We welcome over 550+ campers every summer and hire most of our staff from RDP (Fun Fact: Many were once campers and participants at the YLC!).

Need info on all that we do? Visit also dbylc.com

YLC hours: Monday to Thursday 3pm to 9pm and Saturday morning from 9am to Noon.
(Tel) 514.648.6421 (Fax) 514.648.6404 info@dbylc.com



WHAT IS THE YLC?

The Don Bosco Youth Leadership Centre was founded in 1997.

It is a non-profit youth centre that reaches out annually to over 1000 children, youth and families in the East end of Montreal. Named after Saint John Bosco, a universally recognized educator and evangelizer of the young, the DBYLC strives to follow in his footsteps.

The mission of the DBYLC is to foster the development of honest citizens, good and kind youth and positive leaders. This mission is carried out through a variety of youth activities that have as their finality education, prevention, and leadership training.

Don Bosco used to say: "Give the most to those who have the least." The DBYLC is particularly attentive to needier youth: those from poorer families, in dysfunctional family settings, or influenced by negative and harmful peer influences. We welcome all languages and cultures in our programming.

The DBYLC receives some financial support from the Municipal, Provincial & Federal Governments and benefits from free rent in its locale.

But the DBYLC is not sufficiently financed to cover its annual operating costs. In the name of the young we thank you for any financial help you can offer us. Please speak to Theo Vecera at ylctheo@hotmail.com for how you can help and information on charity tax receipts (50\$ and more).



Meet Theo Vecera

Known affectionately by the children and teenagers as the “Big Cheese”, Theo has been actively involved in the community since 1990 and is the founder (Est: 1997) and Program Director of the Don Bosco Youth Leadership Centre (YLC).

He welcomes over 1000 children and teenagers every year through various programs, services and summer camp. Theo is a resident of RDP (since 1980). He has four beautiful teenagers (ages 13 to 18). Theo's passion is with youth and young adults; offering them different types of activities, developing their leadership potential, and helping them to express their skills and talents.

His personal philosophy is that "No young person is invisible. Everyone is someone." He is an active promoter and advocate of the RDP community and works with city and government officials to construct new facilities and develop services for youth and the community. And at the same time to make sure they remain accountable to its citizens. His goal remains to highlight RDP/east-end district of Montreal as a valuable and healthy environment to raise a family and for its business investment potential.

His dreams continue to evolve as Theo is constantly looking at how we as a community can reach out to more youth, adults, and families. Not only in program planning but in creating awareness that all of us can make a positive impact by sharing our resources, skills, and talents. He has also created the Facebook group “RDP Neighborhood watch and community information exchange” (12 000+ members).

You can find him online as “Theo Vecera”.

Theo Vecera also received from the Parliament of Quebec, a medal of recognition and merit for his 25 years of community service. With much gratitude, he has been presented other leadership and community awards. Theo has been featured on various TV segments, interviews and newsprint for his community involvement and impact.





I'm Amy 
El-Zammar

Assistant Program Director



Amy grew up in RDP and began her journey with the YLC as a Happy Days camper and then as an animator! An "original teenager" @ the YLC in 1997 not only gave Amy a place to hang out after school, but also a sense of belonging within a community of love and acceptance.

As a university student, she was a YLC coordinator of the Girls Club and "Musicpalooza" programs and sang at some of our Youth Festival's!

Amy has a bachelor's degree in Human Relations and a graduate diploma in Journalism. She is also a mom of two young children. Setting a positive example for them is her top priority.

Find her many pictures on the YLC's walls and win a free Nutella sandwich :) Amy is also responsible for the tutoring program, family services and the wellness of our youth and staff.

Her dream is that her children will also have "a home away from home" @ the YLC!

amy@dbylc.com



514-648-6421



Can you sponsor one of our non-profit prevention projects?

*Celebrating 25 years of positive community action here in RDP!
We welcome over 1000 kids & teens in prevention, leadership and education and summer camp programs!
Many of our volunteer leaders (16-25yrs) were once kids/teens in our programs! Many incentives possible!*



CONTACT: THEO OR DAVIDE OR AMY

514-648-6421 (leave message)

info@dbylc.com or theo@dbylc.com

11991 PIERRE BAILLARGEON * H1E-2E5 * MTL



"DON BOSCO YLC"



Sponsor online! dbylc.com

Income tax receipt & various publicity incentives!



Sports programs

Friday nights for kids and teens. Something to do and keeps them out of trouble. Looking to buy equipment and find a jersey sponsor.



NEW

Music project

A great way for teens to express themselves and have a place to jam and perform at special events. Looking to buy equipment.



Girls Club

Friday nights for girls. Safe place to be with their friends and make friends. Looking for help to sponsor workshops and activities.



NEW

Moms + Tots

Starting in early March! Twice a week! Baby activities and sharing/outings with stay at home moms. Looking for sponsorship for materials and supplies and snacks.



Coffeehouse project

A safe place to hang out for older teens! Karaoke, snacks and a cool vibe that promotes healthy living. Looking for equipment and sponsorship.



Summer camps!

For 4yrs to 14yrs! Over 500 children enjoy a "SafeFun" summer. Always looking for equipment and supplies. And sponsorship for our special events!



NEW

25th Gala Party!

Looking for sponsorship for our tables, raffle prizes and a major sponsor. This event is for past and present leaders. A family event will be held in the summer. Please help!



NEW

Mental health

We're starting up a network of workshops and events and support services for today's youth culture. Sponsorship and equipment is needed.



Youth Festival

Lookin for sponsors and raffle prizes for our May show. Will be sold out! Celebrating YLC goodness! Dance! Music! Skits! More!



One less Starbucks coffee a month makes a big difference for the YLC!
Please contribute 5\$ (min) per month and help make a big impact!

1. Go to "canadahelps.org"
2. Type in "Don Bosco Youth Leadership centre"
3. And then click on white box on the left to donate!
4. Income tax receipt will be issued online!



Looking also for the following for our youth teen programming. Free or low cost!
Speak to Theo or Amy at info@dbylc.com

1. Teen clothing (only) or young adult (only) used or new clothing for a new project to help teens in our community (drop off anytime).
2. PS4
3. Laptop or computer
4. 55 inch TV or bigger
5. Board games (teens and older)
6. Arts and craft supplies
7. Sports supplies
8. Sponsor for our new sport jerseys
9. Music equipment
10. Raffle prize gifts for our 25th anniversary events (Youth Festival and Family Day)

Thank you for any assistance you can provide!
Theo and Amy!