



CAMP SQUEAH

Teachers Guide



Planning your trip

Whatever type of school you are with, we want to help you with your goals in running a successful Outdoor Education experience for your students. This guide is meant to be a resource with some helpful ideas on thinking through the different aspects of putting together an OE retreat at Camp Squeah. If you've got more questions, please feel free to call or e-mail us (oedirector@squeah.com) and we'd be happy to help!

If you are hoping to rally support for your trip idea or would like to speak with us directly to your parents about your trip, let us know and we'll make a trip to your school to answer questions and assist in supporting your vision.

Booking your retreat

Booking is pretty simple with Camp Squeah. Once you've settled on dates and would like to formally book your retreat, let us know and we'll send the rental agreement and booking information. A first and second deposit will guarantee your spot!

Length of stay

One of the first things you'll likely consider is how long to do a trip for. At Camp Squeah you can stay for as short or long a stay as you wish. The availability of accommodations may be limited because of other bookings but otherwise it's up to you! The majority of schools book a 3 days / 2 nights retreat. But many also book day trips, 2 days / 1 night or 4 days / 3 nights. Obviously your budget will be a determining factor in this but also the longer you stay at Squeah, the better the deal is!

Most schools arrive mid-morning (when staying overnight) and leave on their last day after lunch but the timing is completely up to you and when you're able or need to return to school. If you're coming for only a day, we like to have as many hours as needed to rotate your school through scheduled activities so arriving early is usually key.

Also if your school is wanting a weekend retreat, note that most weekends at Squeah are booked throughout the year so asking well in advance if this is possible is key in determining availability and suitability.

Transportation

Getting your students to camp is sometimes the most onerous or expensive aspect of your trip. Every school district seems to have different limitations when it comes to their school bus usage. If you are unable to secure the use of your district's busses, or their bussing schedule (or cost) is prohibitive, consider a charter bus or some other companies who might be competitive. Some schools pool parent cars for their students to come, rent private busses or vans, charter busses or employ their own school busses for transportation.

Also if the cost of transportation is prohibitive in planning your OE trip, consider applying for Squeah's OE Transportation Subsidy Fund which offers assistance to schools to bring their students to Squeah for an OE retreat. Transportation should not be a limiting factor in our opinion!

Orientation

When your group first arrives at Squeah your host will meet you and give your group a few minutes' oral orientation to the site outlining boundaries, expectations and facilities before settling in. If you would like a physical tour with your students when you arrive please request this prior to arrival.

Supervision

Providing adequate supervision for your students while on site at Squeah is key to an excellent experience. Getting parents whose children are attending camp to come is a great way of supporting your trip, as well as encouraging other teachers who have a heart for Outdoor Education.

Squeah does not set the requirement for supervision numbers for any retreat. Each school group is responsible for the supervision of their students at all times while at camp. Squeah requests at least an adult for every activity rotation we run and we ask that you adequately supervise them as best as you know how. Every school supervises night time accommodations a little differently – some have adults in cabins with students, some have them nearby in other accommodations.

We understand the great amount of energy and effort required to pull a retreat together. In acknowledgement of that, Camp Squeah offers supervising adults complimentary stay while on site at a ratio of 1 supervising adult for every 5 elementary students or 7 secondary students.

Camp Squeah does not require a waiver form to be filled out to come.

Scheduling

Putting a schedule together is something we can assist you with if you like. If your retreat is catered, we have preferred meal times for kitchen efficiency or your meal times may match another groups' schedule. Otherwise, you can schedule your own programming and activities utilizing our grounds as you want (craft room, gym, field, etc.). If you'd like Squeah to run activities for you, we can put together an activity schedule that suits your desires you have for your students' experience together.

Some schools prefer a full schedule where the students are busy all day and into the evening. Others like a more relaxed schedule with some scheduled free time. Most schools prefer rotating all their students through all the same activities to give an equal experience. Some schools bring different grades and decide to give each group a different activity experience while here.

Evening activities may be limited by lack of daylight but we can run our activities then too. We have nearly 30 different facilitated or contracted activity options to choose from! Ask for an activity rate sheet for a list of options – activity availability is dependent on other groups' schedules (unless you book first – then you get your pick!).

Amenities

Here is some information on amenities and answers to common questions:

- WIFI: Camp Squeah does not provide WIFI internet access to guest groups as we are on an expensive and unreliable system. If you have an adult with an emergency need, let our office know and we may be able to help.
- There is cell service here for most cell phone providers.
- Camp Squeah's Outdoor Education director (Tim Larson) hosts your group while you're here and also lives on site and is able to assist with any needs you may have.
- Camp Squeah does not provide first aid for groups and does not require any specific level of first aid for your trip (though we suggest it's wise to have one!). We do have emergency procedures we utilize for groups.
- We provide some field and gym equipment as part of the deal on a trip. Other facilities included in the price are: Ga-Ga pit and ball, 9 Square in the Air, Cage Ball, Tether Ball, life sized chess & checker set, playground, horseshoe pits, field equipment (soccer nets, balls, baseball equipment, Frisbee, football, etc.), sand volleyball court and volleyball, gym with basketball and hockey equipment, games room (foosball, air hockey, ping pong, billiards and shuffle board).
- Camp Squeah has LCD projectors and screens available for rent should you wish to show some media as part of your programming.
- Your package includes the use of a meeting space that suits the size of group you bring which you can use as needed with your students.
- If you book with Squeah and wish to return in the same calendar space to following year, you receive first right of refusal for that booking.
- We have a small Candy shop (the Canteen) that, upon request, your group can purchase items from.

Catering & Dietary

Camp Squeah prides itself on providing fantastic catered options to schools. Typically, Squeah will set the menu for the schools coming and if you would like to see the menu, our kitchen team can send it to you. We offer a wide range of meal options every day that are delicious and nutritious!

Camp Squeah requests dietary and allergy information 2 weeks before you arrive so we have adequate time to prepare the meals for your group. Squeah is well versed in working with students (and supervisors) whose dietary restrictions are severe or restrictive. Just let us know what your needs are and we're happy to help provide supplementary dishes for you. If you have particularly concerned parents who are wondering how Squeah may provide for their children, they are more than welcome to communicate with our kitchen team ahead of time to be assured we will take good care of them. We want every parent and teacher comfortable with the experience knowing they will be well cared for.

There is a small fridge in our lodge which you can use to store extra food you might wish to bring. Some schools bring extra snacks in the day if their students seem particularly voracious. Squeah does provide a snack (usually served in the evening) as part of the meal package.

We serve our guests cafeteria style and include table and dish clean up as well as dining hall sweeping as a part of the dining experience for your students.

There are also a few self-catered retreat options to consider: utilizing our Edelweiss Hall which seats up to 40 people and has a well stocked kitchen for you to use. For smaller groups, our Outtrip Inn building is great for groups wishing to rough it in tents – there's a BBQ and burner stove top there as well as fire pits, fridge and sink to use in this scenario.

Sharing the site

If your group has 120 people or more, exclusive use of our camp is likely. We can accommodate up to 180 people maximum (catering in our dining hall and sleeping in our accommodations). More commonly schools are on average 40 – 60 people and sometimes will share the site together. What this means is you will eat together at meal times; while using cabins the large common bathroom facility will service all groups using cabins. Some facility spaces would need to be shared through the days (gym, games room, field, etc.). Otherwise you'd have use of your own accommodations, meeting space and activity schedule. We have developed great relationships with all kinds of schools who come at the same time – public schools, private schools, religious schools and everything in between.

Safety

Safety is our priority at Camp Squeah. Our young adult staff are trained well in providing quality activity experiences and building loving connections. Our kitchen is concerned with meeting the dietary needs of your group. Our site is kept clean and facilities running properly. We have a generator for power outages and emergency procedures. There's a hospital 20 minutes down the road. We are a British Columbia Camping Association accredited member.

Our Kitchen, pool and water are health inspected and our chef's are Food Safe certified. Our lifeguards are NLS certified and our High Ropes staff are trained by a High Ropes certified staff member. Our canoe instructors have flatwater level certification and all our staff are trained to care for students with a 'Challenge by choice' philosophy which encourages them to take manageable risks and to stretch themselves to achieve and experience something new while always leaving the choice to participate with the child.

We are Christians who love others

Camp Squeah is a Christian organization run by the Mennonite Church British Columbia. From September to June we serve the public by offering our facilities to any groups that wish to retreat with us and enjoy the place where we live.

While we love Jesus whole heartedly, we do not proselytize our faith and simply love everyone well who comes to join our community. If you have any questions or concerns about the life and faith of those at Camp Squeah, please don't hesitate to ask!

If you have any questions about planning an outdoor education retreat, please call!



We look forward to welcoming you!