

## **SUMMER CAMP PARENT Q+A AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION 2020**



While you're waiting to register... go on to our Facebook page (Don Bosco YLC) and Instagram (donboscoylc) and like us!

**YLC hours: Monday to Thursday 3pm to 9pm (Tel) 514.648.6421 (Fax) 514.648.6404**

**info@dbylc.com      ylctheo@hotmail.com  
11991 Pierre Baillargeon. 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. H1E-2E5      dbylc.com**

# What is the YLC?

## Since 1997! Non-profit!

The Don Bosco Youth Leadership Centre was founded in 1997.

It is a non-profit youth community centre located in RDP 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 with good morals that can become positive and impactful leaders for our community and choice of work. 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](mailto:ylctheo@hotmail.com) for how you can help and information on charity tax receipts (100\$ and more).

### **New this year at camp!**

1. Specialized camps! (Sports camp for gr: 3-6 and "Girls only" for grades: 5+6)
2. Optional week of Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup> to Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>!
3. Different center locations!
4. Smiley Bunch K-camp is celebrating 20 years!

# SUMMER CAMP

## Common questions asked by Parents! (2020)

ALL INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE (UPDATED: April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020)

### Parents, don't see your question?

- Please contact us at 514-648-6421 (please leave a message) or [info@dbylc.com](mailto:info@dbylc.com)
- Please note that on your child's first day of camp, you will receive a parent information booklet that has the program calendar and other information.
- It will also be online at [dbylc.com](http://dbylc.com) for the whole summer.
- Your child's camp T-shirt will be given out during the first week and should be worn only on outings or special events. The t-shirt may be a little big as we order in bulk. If it's too small, please contact us.
- The receipt given at registration is a general receipt for services rendered. It can be used for income tax purposes. Replacement receipts result in a 5\$ processing fee (which will go to the YLC's Friday night programming). The YLC business number is (NEQ) 116 020 2231

### Question 1: Where does my child go?

New for 2020

- For Smiley Bunch kindergarten camp, the center will be at Leonardo Da Vinci school.
- For grades 1 and 2, it will be held at the YLC 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.
- For grades 3 and 4, it will be held at the YLC 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.
- For grades 5 and 6, it will be held at Michelangelo school.
- For the specialized sports camp, it will be held at East Hill school.
- For the specialized "Girls only" camp, it will be held at the YLC.
- For Teen Spirit, it will be held at the YLC or the Sisters house at the Laura Vicuna Center (behind Maria Ausiliatrice parish).
- Please note that entrance to the YLC's camp centers is by the parking lot.
- **All information is subject to change depending on factors not under our control.**

### 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.
- Daycare is a flat rate regardless of how many hours you need.

### Question 3: Can parents volunteer on outings?

- Yes! Providing there is a need or space for extra supervision. Give your name to your child's coordinator. The center coordinators will contact you if there is a need.
- 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 must "supervise" the parent.
- No snacks can be purchased by the parent on outings.
- Please notify your child's coordinator if you are interested.



## Question 4: What should my child bring every day?

***It is important that your child brings the following items on a daily basis in a good solid school/backpack.***

- Sun block lotion (30+). You must apply the cream before coming to camp. We will reapply during the day for the younger levels. Older children are expected to put 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).
- A lock for bike and the public pool (grades 3 and up) when it's a bike outing.
- Bathing suit and towel.
- Water bottle. Will be refilled during the day.
- Baseball cap and running shoes WITH socks.
- **Please note that for some of the major outings for the older levels and teenagers, two bus tickets may be required. The city bus will ONLY HAVE OUR CAMPERS and will bring us from one bus stop to the other bus stop that is close to the outing/event.**
- 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.
- Campers will take breaks throughout the day and where possible, in the shade.
- There is no air conditioning at LDV, Michelangelo school or East Hill.
- Despite the sunblock and baseball cap, your child will get some type of sunburn. It is inevitable because of the outdoor activities.

Please read!

## Question 5: Where will the campers go swimming?

- "Smiley Bunch" K-camp, grades 1 and 2 will go swimming at the indoor Centre Aquatique of RDP.
- **OR** the Alexis Carrel outside **kiddie pool** providing we have the proper supervision (ratio 1:4). The water will never be higher than the hips of a standing child.
- For Smiley Bunch and grade 1, water activities will also be planned at water parks.
- From our experience, children of this age group just enjoy "getting wet".
- The older levels (grades 3 and up) will go to Alexis Carrel outdoor pool or the pool at Pointes aux Trembles or the indoor pool at Jean Grou high school.
- The same rule applies for them. No deep-water swimming or jumping of the diving board.
- Please let the animator know of your child's swimming skills.

## 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 particular age group.
- **The week is comprised of theme days, planned and varied workshops, sports, outings, games, songs, FaithSpace (catholic activities that are optional), center events, "Universal special events", special animation programming, Friday morning church celebrations (optional), swimming and sport activities.**
- Most of the activities will take place at your child's respective center and immediate surroundings. Activities range from social, educational, moral, cultural to 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 the moment) at [dbylc.com](http://dbylc.com) last year's programs.
- You can add additional weeks during the summer (providing there is space in a particular group for a particular week).

Please read



### Question 7: Is camp from 9am to 4pm?

- Yes. Dismissal is at 4pm OUTSIDE. We ask all parents to be present five minutes earlier to notice your child as they leave the centers.
- **DO NOT DOUBLE PARK! 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.
- 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/supervise after 4pm.
- If you won't be able to make it for 4pm, please contact the coordinator. If need be, please pick up your younger child before the older one.
- 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.
- **If the parent is late, we will bring the child back into the center (around 4:15pm). Late fees will eventually be applied if it is consistent.**

Please read

### Question 8: How do outings work?

- There will be 4-5 outings during the camp program (2 universal outings which means all the centers go to that particular outing and 2 center major outing.)
- **All the outings are incorporated into the registration fee (they are free). "Major-outings" are by yellow bus OR by city transportation if available. These city buses only accept campers.**
- Some outings may be done at the respective center.
- You will receive the outing form on the first day of camp. Please check 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 that particular form.
- 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 all the camps and staff will be on these outings. Universal outings are outings that the WHOLE camps go to (from Smiley Bunch 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.

Please read

Please read

### Question 9: 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 particular 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 and approves it.
- Please share all personal matters (divorce, custody, other) pertaining to your child's safety and well-being with the respective coordinator and / or with Theo Vecera and Marysia Kasprzak.
- If you are aware that your child will be absent for the day, please send in a note or contact the animator/coordinator (leave a message).

Please read





### 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. A replacement fee for a lost t-shirt during the camp season is 15\$.

### Question 11: What is SAFEFUN?

- 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.
- We take constructive and loving steps to curtail certain behavioural or social problems with our campers. However, we are not obliged to keep any child we feel we are not equipped to handle.
- This is to ensure the safety of other campers and the staff as a whole and to not diminish the opportunity for your child's specific needs. The more we know, the more we can help!
- **Therefore, we stress an open and honest communication between parents and staff. Let's make the camp enjoyable for all. There are possibilities of "shadows" if need be.**
- 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 and have a very high city and parent rating!

Please read

### Question 12: How do the specialized camps work?

- The sports camp and "Girls only" camps are 1-week specialized camps.
- They have fixed programming with a particular goal to achieve by the end of the week.
- If you take two weeks or more, it will follow the same themes and scheduling.
- You can also sign up at Happy Days if you sign up for a week or two at one of the specialized camps.
- Will follow the same structure as Smiley Bunch, Happy Days and Teen Spirit.
- **Sports camp will focus on;**
  - 3-4 sports during the week with an emphasis on teamwork, leadership development, respect and fun gameplay.
  - All skill levels are welcomed.
  - Outings and other activities (workshops, themes, etc...) will be sports related.
- **The "Girls only" camp for grades 5 and 6 will focus on;**
  - Workshops and themes that promotes friendship, self-esteem, empowerment, leadership development and "girls' fun". This can include Yoga, dance, etc...
  - Outings will be girls related.
  - Our female animators will ensure a special connection and friendship with each camper.



### Question 13: How does Teen Spirit work (sec 1+2+3)?

- Teen Spirit (Since 1993) is a dynamic and memorable program for teenagers (secondary 1+2+3) during the summer.
- We welcome a minimum of 50 teens every summer.
- The registration fee is only 60\$ per week which also includes the outing.
- The goal is to implement programming and activities and outings that relate to teenager's interests and likes.
- But it's more than that as we also offer leadership workshops to help develop confidence and opportunities to implement during the summer program. Teen Spirit is where develop future camp staff and YLC leaders.
- "Teen Spiriters" during the summer will also assist camper groups and some special events.
- The other objective is to develop a year long link and connection to YLC programming and our staff.
- We want to mentor and journey with all the teenagers during the summer and school year so that they know that they have a "home away from home".

### Question 14: How does "Optional week" work?

- The optional week is Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup> to Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>.
- It will be the same camp rate of 130\$ per week and 25\$ for daycare if needed.
- The optional week is right after camp ends officially on Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be a limit of 200 campers for the week.
- It will be held at the YLC building only and will be for all age levels (4yrs to 14yrs).
- Depending on the number of campers, some levels may be merged together (example: grades 3+4).
- The week will follow the same type of programming as regular camp. It may also include an outing.
- There will be a 25\$ reduction for a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> child of the same family for the optional week.
- More information will be given to the parents during the camp season (in regard to group assignment, if your child will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the YLC, etc....).

*Note: All Parent Q+A information is subject to change.  
More info can be requested by calling the YLC at 514-648-6421 (leave message) or by  
email [info@dbylc.com](mailto:info@dbylc.com)*





# How to **MAXIMIZE** your child's energy at camp!



## Snacks to **energize** you:

These snacks contain many nutrients.



Fruit cup in fruit juice or water



Yogurt



Cheese



Fruit



Seeds



Vegetables



Whole grain crackers



Fish

## Snacks to choose **less** often:

These snacks are high in sugar, fat and/or salt & don't keep you energized for long.



Chocolate-coated snack bar



Candy or fruit gummies



Potato chips or fried snacks



Pop



Fruit drink or punch



Cake



Pudding or jello cup



Cookies



## About *Theo Vecera*

Theo has been actively involved in the community since 1990 and is the co-founder and Program Director of the Don Bosco Youth Leadership Centre (YLC). Theo has been working every summer at camp since 1990 and has been responsible for the coordination since 1994.

Theo is a resident of RDP since 1980. He's happily married for the last 16 years and has four beautiful children (ages 10 to 15).

All of his children will be at camp this year.

Theo's passion is with youth; offering them different types of activities, developing their leadership skills and helping them to express their skills and talents. His personal philosophy is that "No young person is invisible. Everyone is someone."

He also enjoys providing opportunities for adults to give back to the community. Theo accomplishes this objective by addressing their social and recreational needs and in turn, challenging them to have a social responsibility and accountability to their community.

**He is an active promoter of the community and works with city and government officials to construct new facilities for youth and the community and to make sure they remain accountable to its citizens. His goal remains to highlight the 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. Please join our Facebook groups "Sanimax SOS", "RDP Neighborhood watch and community information exchange", "Don Bosco YLC".

Theo Vecera also received from the Parliament of Quebec, a medal of recognition and merit for his 25 years of community service and was also featured in the Panoram Italia magazine.



# About - Marysia Kasprzak

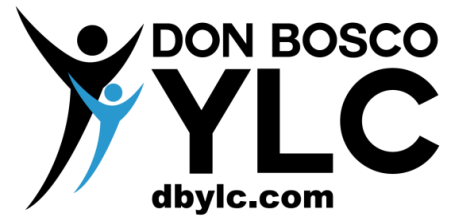
Marysia's journey at the YLC began about 2 years ago when on their second date, Joe Macchiagodena (who is now her fiancé) took her to see the place that plays such an important role in his life. Seeing all the colour, quotes, and pictures and just the life and memories that emanated from this place, made her wish that she could have been a part of something like this growing up - it felt like home! Well, although she couldn't go back in time, in a way her dream was granted when this January, she officially joined the Don Bosco Youth Leadership Centre's family as the new Assistant Program Director.



Although currently a resident of RDP, Marysia is not a native "RDPer". She was born in Poland, but as a baby moved with her family to a small town in British Columbia, just east of Vancouver called "Chilliwack". The youngest of 6 girls, Marysia was blessed to have grown up with 5 role models, whose morals, and hard work ethic continue to inspire her today. With a love for baking (having even made her sister's wedding cake!) and desiring a career in healthcare where she could help others, she decided that becoming a dietitian was the career for her. Therefore, in part by her sisters urging to be adventurous, she decided to move to Montreal to attend McGill University. In 2018, she graduated on the Dean's Honor List with a Bachelor of Science and a Major in Dietetics.

However, things don't always go as planned and she soon discovered that this was not where her real passion lies. Growing up, she always had a desire to do something great with her life. This desire, although present in each one of us, is especially alive in the hearts of young people. However, as they go through life and experience failures and hurts, they can start to doubt their value and that they have something to offer. This is so sad because each one of us has been placed in this world for a purpose and we each have gifts and talents that are unique to us and that are meant to be shared for the good of our community and the world!

This is Marysia's greatest passion: to help young people recognize that they have an irreplaceable role in this world and that the happiness they are searching for can only be found when they give their lives in the service of others. Her dream is to be able to do the following for the young people around her: **"In every young person, a point of goodness is accessible and it is the primary duty of the educator to discover that sensitive cord of the heart so as to draw out the best in the young person."** - St. Don Bosco



## **ONLY 5\$ (OR MORE) A MONTH GOES A LONG WAY!**

1 less Starbucks coffee per month may make you sad...but you'll be happy again knowing that your 5\$ (or more) monthly contribution has made an immediate impact at the YLC!

Goal: 100 people x 60\$ (min) yearly = 6000\$ to cover all our expenses for our teen Friday and Saturday night sports and recreation programming next school year!

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!

