

Summer camp parent Q+A  
and registration information 2021 **“Covid ready!!!”**



Don't forget to go on to our Facebook page (Don Bosco YLC)  
and Instagram (donboscoylc) and like us!

Present covid YLC hours: Monday to Thursday 10am to 6pm (Tel) 514.648.6421

info@dbylc.com ylctheo@hotmail.com  
11991 Pierre Baillargeon. 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. H1E-2E5 dbylc.com  
Since 1997!

# 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 their choice of work. This mission is carried out through a variety of youth activities that have as their finality, education, prevention, recreation services and leadership development.



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 to our programming.

The DBYLC receives some financial support from the Municipal, Provincial & Federal Governments and benefits from free rent in its locale by the Salesians of Don Bosco (catholic order). 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. **"A-la-carte" programming!** 2 or 3 times a week for a certain time block. (depending on center, the following may be included...specific sports, "girls club", tutoring in math/French, science, comics, more!)
2. **Day registrations:** Don't want to sign up for the whole week? Just a few days here and there? Not a problem. It will be 40\$ for the day. You can register at 514-648-6421 or online at [dbylc.com](http://dbylc.com)

# Common questions asked by Parents! (2021)

ALL INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE (UPDATED: May 10, 2021)

## 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 is 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

## How does "Covid ready" work?

- We will "adapt and adjust with a smile" our covid and camp protocols as the summer moves along.
- We will follow the government recommendations and regulations.
- We will not be able to be 100% efficient in this objective. We are projecting that there will be times where social distancing bubbles, proper use of mask wearing, etc. will not be perfect. But we will try as our goal is safety for the children and staff.
- Centers, at this time of writing, will not mix with other centers (social bubble).
- A parent document will be sent/given to you once we approve our camp covid protocols (waiting on government recommendations).
- At the time of this writing, we are looking at once again checking the temperature of each child before the day starts (at their respective center).
- Hand sanitizers and other covid material will be in place in all the bathrooms and centers.
- In case of a covid situation, the child will be isolated in a designated room with staff protocols put in place. Be prepared to receive a phone call for an immediate pick up.
- It is important your emergency contact can drive/pick up your child.
- We were blessed last year during our "mini camp" to have no covid cases because of the hard work of the staff and honesty of the parents.
- If your child is not feeling well, do NOT send them to camp. Get tested!

## Question 1: Where does my child go?

New for 2021

- For Smiley Bunch kindergarten camp and Grade 1, the center will be at East Hill school or Michealangelo. We do this because each school is connected to a big park and we are able to "contain" all our programming to one space.
- For grades 2 and 3, it will be held at the YLC 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.
- For grades 4-5-6, it will be held at the YLC 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.
- For Teen Spirit, it will be held at the YLC itself.
- Please note that entrance to the YLC's camp centers is by the parking lot.
- **All information is subject to change with our registration numbers this summer.**

**SUMMER  
CAMP**

## 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.
- If a parent is late, we will bring the child inside to their respective center.
- If you have children at two different centers (school and the YLC), please pick up the youngest one first. You will always have a 15-minute grace period. It will be enough time to drive to the second center.

## 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.
- Most outings are by yellow bus. Grades 6 or Teens may go with city bus (parents will need to purchase tickets).
- Due to potential covid restrictions, some or all outings may be "in house" at the school or the YLC.

## 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 is 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 Michelangelo school or East Hill. Even during the school year.
- 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 Don Bosco park (formerly Alexis Carrel park) 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 Don Bosco park (formerly Alexis Carrel park) 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?

Please read

- The day will range from quiet to semi-active to active activities according to the physical and social development of the age group.
- **The week is comprised of theme days, varied workshops, sports, outings, games, songs, "FaithSpace" (catholic activities that are optional), center events, "Universal special events", special animation programming, "a-la-carte" programming, Friday morning church celebrations (optional), swimming and sport activities.**
- "A-la-carte" programming will be 2 or 3 times a week for a certain time block. (depending on center, the following may be included...specific sports, "girls club", tutoring in math/French, science, comics, more!)
- 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).

### 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 will not 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?

Please read

- There will be 2-4 outings during the camp program (depending on covid restrictions).
- **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 (they are called "in house").
- 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

### Question 9: How does early dismissal and absence procedure work?

Please read

- 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).
- **Camp is from 9am to 4pm. We will not dismiss the child earlier because the parent has arrived early.**

### 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 us make the camp enjoyable for all. There may be possibilities of "shadows" if need be. At the time of this writing, we did not receive any grant money. If a regular shadow is needed, we will ask the parents to supply their own.**
- 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 an exceedingly high city and parent rating!

Please read

### 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 20\$ per week which also includes the outing. If some of their friends want to sign up only for the day, it will be 10\$ plus the cost of any outing for that day.
- The goal is to implement programming and activities and outings that relate to a teenager's interests and likes.
- But it is 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 we 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".
- Many teenagers in the near future, will join our camp/YLC team as animators, coordinators and leaders!

*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)*



## About *Theo Vecera*

Known affectionately as the "Big Cheese", 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 is happily married for the last 17 years and has four beautiful children (ages 10 to 16).

All his children will be at camp this year with the oldest working at camp as an assistant animator.

Theo's passion is with youth; 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 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/services 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. He has been featured on TV and newsprint.





# 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 color, 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 could not go back in time, in a way her dream was granted in January 2020, she officially joined the Don Bosco Youth Leadership Centre's family as the new Assistant Program Director.

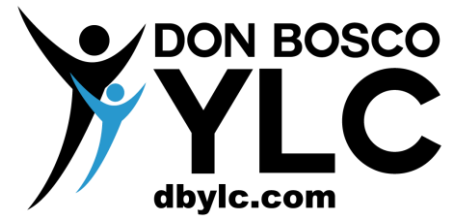


Although currently a resident of RDP, Marysia is not a native "RDPer". She was born in Poland, but as a baby moved with her family to a small town in British Columbia, just east of Vancouver called "Chilliwack". The youngest of 6 girls, Marysia was blessed to have grown up with 5 role models, whose morals, 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 do not 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 will be happy 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!





# 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

