



Sunshine Fund
c/o Manitoba Camping Association
302-960 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0R4

Sunshine Fund FAQ

* The answers to most questions vary per camp. The best source of information is the 2010 Manitoba Camps Directory (also found at www.mbcamping.ca) or by phoning the camp itself.

1. What is “camp”?

To many new immigrant families the word “camp” can have a negative connotation. By camp, we mean “summer camp.” To Canadians, this is a child-hood summertime tradition, where youth attend organized group activities, usually taking place outside the city at a park/lake location.

2. Why attend summer camp?

Youth are given the opportunity to experience the great outdoors, learn about the environment, be physically active and inherit life-skills like leadership and teamwork. Summer camp also helps youth retain learning often lost during the summer months. All accredited camps ensure a safe and healthy environment for campers.

3. What is the Sunshine Fund?

Since 1979, the Sunshine Fund has provided financial assistance to Manitoba families, enabling their children to attend Manitoba accredited summer camp programs. Over \$4 Million has been raised and more than 18,000 children have been sent to summer camp, who otherwise would not have had the opportunity. As a Registered Charitable Organization, the Sunshine Fund relies on the generous support of thousands of donors each year to help send children to camp and 100 per cent of these funds goes directly to the children.

4. How is Sunshine Fund eligibility determined?

Eligibility is based on income level and household size. Please refer to the chart in the application form to determine if your family is eligible to receive Sunshine funding. The figures are based on the Statistics Canada Low-income cut points.

5. What is the parental contribution, how is it determined, and what is it used for?

Guardians are expected to pay 10 % to 30 % of the camp cost depending on the household size and total income level. Meaning, the Sunshine Fund subsidizes anywhere from 90 % to 70 % of the camp cost.

Please refer to the chart in the application form to determine how much the parental contribution would be for your specific family.

The parental contribution is used to cover the administration costs of sending a child to camp. 100 % of all donations to the Sunshine Fund go directly to sending children to camp.

6. Will the application still be considered, if the family can't afford the full parental contribution?

The Sunshine Fund requires a minimum non-refundable parent contribution of \$25.00, however, all Sunshine Fund applicants will be considered regardless of the ability to pay the full parental contribution.

7. What is the deadline for Sunshine Fund applications?

There is no set deadline for the applications. However, students are encouraged to apply as soon as some camps fill up quickly.

8. Is transportation provided to camp and does the Sunshine Fund cover it?

Transportation varies per camp. Some camps have organized shuttle transportation and some don't. Please take this into consideration when choosing the camp. If the camp does provide transportation, this will be included in the camp cost; therefore the Sunshine Fund will cover it. If the camp does not provide transportation, it is up to the guardian to arrange for transportation and pay for those costs.

9. What is the age range of children who can apply for the Sunshine Fund?

The Sunshine Fund accepts applicants from 4 to 17-years of age. However, age range varies per camp. Some day camps begin as early as 4-years-old. Please see the 2009 Accredited Camp List to see the age ranges for the specific camps and please take this into consideration when choosing a camp.

10. Can special needs children or children with health concerns attend summer camp?

Yes, health and special needs children can attend summer camps and camps will work with the family to meet the needs of the child. Please see page 7 of the Camp Directory for more information and please phone the camp directly if you have a special needs child.

Camp Quality specializes in children living with cancer and Camp Briardale specializes in children living with diabetes.

11. The family is uncomfortable sending their children to a "religious" camp, what are their options?

Caddy Lake (female only), Mini U (U of M) Day Camp, Camp Stephens, Camp Wannakumbac and Camp Wasaga are all non-denominational camps.

12. Are foster children eligible?

Children in foster care may have funding set aside from their CFS Agency for the purpose of sending children to camp and that they should contact their Social Worker, before applying for the Sunshine Fund. However, youth living in a group home are eligible to receive Sunshine funding.

For more information & questions regarding the Sunshine Fund please contact:

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