



YMCA Calgary
Camp Chief Hector YMCA
Toll Free: 1-833-299-2267
outdoor.education@ymcacalgary.org

Outdoor School Programs at Camp Chief Hector YMCA and Camp Riveredge Overview 2025/2026

Mission and Vision of the Program

Our Outdoor School Programs are designed to foster environmental awareness and community building in an outdoor setting. The activity blocks available in each specific program are designed to be a holistic approach to teaching Alberta Learning Objectives in an adaptable setting for all students, including those with learning and behavioural exceptionalities, that may experience difficulties in traditional classroom settings. At Camp Chief Hector YMCA we aim to provide inclusive and immersive outdoor experiences to all students, while facilitating learning of meaningful and relevant Alberta curriculum.

Fees for Program

Fees vary depending on program selection. Camp Chief Hector YMCA has subsidy options available through our Let's Raise Foundation. More information on this program will be sent out upon request. Additionally, subsidy information will automatically be sent to every school who books with camp.

Camp Location

Camp Chief Hector YMCA is located within Bow Valley Provincial Park, which is approximately 75 km from Calgary city limits. To find directions to camp, please search for "Camp Chief Hector YMCA" in whatever map application/website you use.

YMCA Camp Riveredge is located near Sandy Beach along the Elbow River in SW Calgary. It has similar program areas as CCH and it is an outdoor environment tucked away from city sights and noises.

Program Descriptions and Outlines

ECO-School at Camp Chief Hector

Dates available: Fall (September to December), Winter (January to April), and Spring (May and June)

Length: 4 day, 3 night program

Price per student:

2025/2026 Calendar Year: \$417 + GST per student - includes transportation

Description: This overnight program was developed with the Grade 6 student curriculum in mind. Programs help to extend classroom learning, develop social skills, and give opportunities to spend time in the natural world. Camp Chief Hector specific programs that are based on curriculum include team building and initiative tasks, the ECOnomy Game, Predator vs. Prey, studying Eco-systems in person, Outdoor Living Skills, climate and climate impacts, shelter building, fire building, and an Exploration Day Hike. Students can expect to spend their time here exploring the natural world through a fun and interactive overnight camp setting.

****This program works well with youth in grades 4-8, even though the curriculum covered is a grade 6 level. The activities and experiences are engaging, interesting, and entertaining for any grade in that range.***



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Outdoor Experiential School

Dates Available: Spring (May and June)

Length: 4 day, 3 night program

Price per student:

2025/2026 Calendar Year: \$430.50 + GST per student – includes transportation

Description: This overnight program is designed for middle school aged students to develop social and leadership skills in an outdoor and experiential learning environment. Activities within the OES program include: group initiative team building, canoeing (*water level dependent), horsemanship and riding, high ropes, challenge course, and team swing. This year, we are focusing on introducing and developing more specific outdoor living skills that can be used in the backcountry (wilderness navigation, outdoor cooking, improvised shelter building, types of fire building, etc.). This allows students to develop some technical skills in service to their leadership goals.

**As water levels vary from year to year, this decision will be made in the later part of April each year. Our goal is to run a safe, fun and effective canoeing program that focuses on skills as well as recreation.*

Outdoor School at Camp Riveredge

Dates Available: Spring (May and June), Fall (September and October)

Length: 1-4 day program ***no overnight, no lunch included**

Price per student:

2025/2026 Calendar Year: \$40 + GST per student / day - does NOT include transportation

Description: This program can be designed to follow our ECO-School curriculum from CCH, which is focused on providing engaging outdoor experiences to students in an educational setting. Additionally, we will work with schools to customize the experience, especially for groups wanting to come for only 1-2 days. At Camp Riveredge, activities include team building, exploration walks with Ecosystems curriculum discussed, archery, low ropes, Predator vs. Prey, and outdoor living skills. **Camp Riveredge does not have overnight accommodation.**

Please note: We will attempt to ensure your request is met but availability is not guaranteed.

For specific questions or inquiries, please email both outdoor.education@ymcacalgary.org and cchy@ymcacalgary.org