

Camp Seahorse

A Camp LGBTQ youth and Straight allies.

Parents Information



Hello Parents!

The Youth Project is pleased to be able to offer Camp Seahorse this year for LGBTQ youth and Straight Allies. This four day camp will be an opportunity for youth from around Nova Scotia to connect, build confidence and self-esteem, make new friends, and have a chance to participate in summer activities that are free from gender assumptions, stereotypes and expectations. We are pleased that you are taking the opportunity to learn more.

The Youth Project is a provincial organization that works with youth, 25 and under, around issues of sexual orientation and gender identity. We have been working in Nova Scotia for 18 years. We provide support for youth and their families, we conduct education in schools and the community, and we provide opportunities for youth to participate, build confidence, and grow. We work to provide a safe and supportive environment away from the homophobia and transphobia many youth experience as we work to rid Nova Scotia of homophobia and transphobia.

The Youth Project is a non-profit, charitable organization. We have responsible and professional staff, screened and trained volunteers, and solid youth leadership. All of our events are drug and alcohol free. We have policies, guidelines and regulations that promote safety, security and respect. We are funded primarily by the United Way of Halifax and the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness. We encourage you to check out our website www.youthproject.ns.ca to learn more about us.

Camp Seahorse will be held from August 11th to 14th 2016. The Youth Project will be providing transportation, by way of bus, from Halifax to Camp Mockingee. We will work with individual youth from outside of Halifax to get them to Halifax. We will have lifeguards present for all water activities and the staff and volunteers are trained in first aid. As with all our events there will be no drugs, alcohol, or weapons permitted. This camp has been made possible through a generous donation from attendees at our annual fundraiser auction.

Please find attached an information sheet about Camp Seahorse and the permission form that needs to be signed by you. We want parents to feel comfortable knowing their kids are safe so we encourage you to ask any questions you may still have.

We look forward to a great summer and are pleased to have this opportunity to allow LGBTQ youth and their allies to have their own space to enjoy the fun that summer can bring, create new friends, and celebrate who they are.

Camp Seahorse

**Camp Mockingee, Windsor, NS
August 11th to August 14th 2016**



Information for Parents

About Camp Seahorse

This camp will allow youth to participate in some summer activities, build confidence and self-esteem, and create new friendships in an environment free from gender assumptions, stereotypes and expectations. It provides an opportunity for youth LGBTQ youth to have their own space to learn, share their stories, and celebrate themselves.

About The Youth Project

The Youth Project is a non-profit charitable organization providing support and services to youth, 25 and under, around issues of sexual orientation and gender identity in Nova Scotia. Our mission is to make Nova Scotia a safer, healthier and happier place for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth through support, education, resource expansion and community development. To learn more visit our website at www.youthproject.ns.ca

Camp Rules

As with all Youth Project events and activities this event is drug and alcohol free. There are also rules around respect and extensive safety rules for the weekend. Staff and volunteers are certified in First Aid. Campers will be provided with a set of camp rules prior to the camp.

Camp Information

- Camp Seahorse will be held at Camp Mockingee in Windsor, NS, a Rotary Club Camp.
- We will be the only group at the camp that weekend.
- The bus will be leaving the Youth Project in Halifax on August 11th and returning August 14th. Time to be confirmed.
- The Camp can be reached by phone. Number to be provided upon successful registration.
- There is a deposit of \$25 required. If there are no incidents requiring youth be removed from the camp, the \$25 will be returned.
- We expect campers to be responsible for any prescription medications they need. If you have concerns around your child's ability to monitor their medications, please contact us.

For more information please contact Youth Project staff at 902-429-5429 or youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca

Camp Rules and Guidelines



1. Respect Property

-Camp Property

-Youth Project Property

-Others Belongings

-The Youth Project is not responsible for lost or stolen items such as: cell phones, laptops, travel DVD players, gaming systems, iPods, money, wallets/purses, jewellery etc., so please leave them at home.

-At the beginning of Camp, Staff /Leaders will collect any belonging(s) that participants would like to be secured for the **entire duration** of camp – you will be responsible to sign in and sign out the belonging(s)

- **Language**

-Respect the self-identified names and pronouns of Camp Seahorse staff and fellow campers.

-Please do not make assumptions regarding the names and pronouns of others.

-Verbal harassment/bullying of any kind will **not** be tolerated

- **Safe Space**

-Camp Staff/Leaders are here for your safety, please listen to them. If there is an issue that you feel needs to be addressed please speak with the Staff/Leaders

-Be aware of others personal space and boundaries

-Participation in **all** camp activities, meal preparation, meal time, and Camp clean-up is mandatory

-Prescription medication will be the responsibility of the camper, although you will have the option of securing your medication with staff and have access to it when necessary. Please keep inhalers, epi-pens & other life-saving medication with you at all times.

-Photography is not permitted without the permission of individuals involved, including posting photos and/or names of the individuals online (Such as: Facebook, Twitter, Blogs, etc.).

-A note on nuts: Due to severe allergies, **Camp Seahorse will be a nut-free space**. If you plan on bringing snacks with you, please ensure they do not contain nuts or nut- products.

-Cabin Quiet Times will be enforced - everyone needs a good night's sleep, as we will be really active during Camp!

2. Cigarette Smoking

-Designated and Chaperoned times and place

-Only those participants who have previously identified they smoke will be permitted to smoke during these times, as smoking is **not** considered a camp activity

3. Three Strikes & Automatic Dismissal

- During Camp if you have not adhered to the previous rules and guidelines the following will occur:
 - First Strike:** Verbal Warning
 - Second Strike:** Meeting with Camp Staff/Leaders
 - Third Strike:** Parent/Guardian contacted, participant sent home, loss of \$25.00 deposit, as well as a possibility that the participant may not be allowed to attend future activities hosted by The Youth Project (this does not include Support services).
- **Automatic Dismissal**
Certain behaviours will require responses beyond the Three Strike system and result in an automatic removal of Camp Seahorse. They are the following:
 - Physical Violence/Harassment/Bullying of any kind
 - Drugs (unless otherwise prescribed by your physician), alcohol and weapons of any kind are prohibited
 - Swimming outside of designated times and places

What should I bring to Camp Seahorse?



Toothbrush and Toothpaste

- Unscented Soap/Shampoo/Conditioner
- Medication
- Towels (for bathing & swimming)
- Water bottle
- Unscented Sunscreen (SPF of 15 or higher)
- Insect repellent
- Hat
- Swimwear (swim bottoms and tops are a must for everyone)
- Pair of comfortable shoes
- Shoes for wet weather
- Warm clothing
- 3 days-worth of socks and underwear
- 3 days-worth of clothes: T-shirts, sweatshirts, shorts, long pants/tights, pyjamas, whatever you feel comfortable in!
- Rain coat/Poncho
- Sleeping bag & warm blankets
- Air mattress/bedroll (we have an air pump!)
- Pillow
- Any talent you have! Camp Seahorse will have some instruments onsite (guitars, drums, etc.)

A note on electronics and other valuables

What you do not need to bring:

- Money
- Cell phone
- Laptops, tablets, video games etc.

Please note If you do bring any of the above we can lock these up for you for the duration of camp. If you choose to keep them on you it will be at your own risk, as we cannot be held responsible for their safety.



The Youth Project - Camp Seahorse

At Camp Mockingee, Windsor NS

August 11th - August 14th 2016

- I understand the details about the Youth Project's Camp Seahorse in Windsor August 11th-14th 2016 and grant _____ permission to attend.
- I understand that transportation and accommodation will be provided and that at least three Youth Project staff members and additional volunteers will be present on the trip.
- I understand that there may be certain risks associated with trips and that the Youth Project will take steps to ensure that safety is a priority but that there is always a risk that events, out of the control of the Youth Project can occur, and that the Youth Project accepts no responsibility for these outside events.
- I understand that this is a drug and alcohol free event and that any violation of these rules will result in youth returning home ahead of schedule.
- I have seen the parents information form.
- I can be reached at _____ if this information needs to be verified.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date