

## **Camp Seahorse**

### **A CAMP FOR LGBTQ+ YOUTH AND THEIR ALLIES**



Hello Parents and Guardians!

The Youth Project is pleased to offer Camp Seahorse this year for LGBTQ+ youth and their allies. This four day camp will be an opportunity for youth from around Nova Scotia to connect with and make new friends, build confidence and self-esteem, and 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 non-profit, charitable organisation that works with youth, 25 and under, around issues of sexual orientation and gender identity. We are funded primarily by the United Way of Halifax and the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness. We have been working in Nova Scotia since 1993, providing support for youth and their families. We offer education workshops to 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.

We have responsible and professional staff, screened and trained volunteers, and solid youth leadership. We have policies, guidelines and regulations that promote safety, security and respect. 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. We encourage you to check out our website [www.youthproject.ns.ca](http://www.youthproject.ns.ca) to learn more about us.

Camp Seahorse will be held from July 5 - 8, 2018. The Youth Project will be providing transportation by way of bus, from Halifax to Sherbrooke Lake Camp. We will work with individual youth from outside of Halifax to get them to Halifax. This camp has been made possible through generous donations 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 provide LGBTQ+ youth and their allies with the opportunity to have their own space to enjoy the fun that summer can bring, create new friends and celebrate who they are.

Sincerely,

The YP Staff

# **Camp Seahorse**

Sherbrooke Lake Camp  
420 Church Camp Rd, Franey Corner, NS  
July 5 – 8, 2018

## **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 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 organisation providing support and services to Nova Scotia youth, 25 and under around issues of sexual orientation and gender identity. Our mission is to make Nova Scotia a safer, healthier, happier place for lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer and transgender youth through support, education, resource expansion and community development. To learn more visit our website at [www.youthproject.ns.ca](http://www.youthproject.ns.ca).

## **Camp Rules**

As with all Youth Project events and activities, summer camps are drug and alcohol free. There are also rules around respect as well as 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 Sherbrooke Lake Camp, 420 Church Camp Rd, in Franey Corner, NS.
- We will be the only group at the camp that weekend
- The bus will be leaving The Youth Project in Halifax on July 5 and return July 8
- The Camp can be reached by phone. Number to be provided up on 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](mailto:youthproject@youthproject.ns.ca)

# **Camp Seahorse**

Sherbrooke Lake Camp

420 Church Camp Rd, Franey Corner, NS

July 5 – 8, 2018

## **Camp Rules and Guidelines**

### **Respect:**

### **Property**

- Camp property
- Youth Project property
- Others' belongings

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

- At the beginning of Camp, Staff will collect any belongings that participants would like to be secured for the entire duration of camp - you will be responsible for signing your item(s) in and signing them out

### **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 person space and boundaries
- Participation in ALL camp activities is mandatory, including meal preparation, meal time, and clean up.
- 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 and other life-saving medication with you at all times.

## **Photography**

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

## **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.

## **Three Strikes**

-During Camp if you have not adhered to the previous rules and guidelines the following will occur:

1. First Strike: Verbal Warning
2. Second Strike: Meeting with Camp Staff/Leaders
3. Third Strike: Parent/Guardian contacted, participant sent home, loss of \$25 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 response beyond the Three Strike system and result in the campers automatic removal from Camp. They are the following:

- Physical Violence/Harassment/Bullying of any kind
- Use of drugs, alcohol, or weapons of any kind.
- Swimming outside of designated times and places.



### **What Should I Bring to Camp?**

- Toothbrush and Toothpaste
- Unscented soap, shampoo, conditioner
- Medication
- Towels (for bathing and swimming)
- Water Bottle
- Unscented sunscreen (SPF 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, shorts, long pants/pyjamas, whatever you feel comfortable in!
- Rain coat/Poncho
- Sleeping bag and warm blankets
- Air mattress/bed roll
- Pillow
- Any talent you have! Camp Seahorse will have some instruments onsite!

### **What you do not need to bring:**

Money  
Cell Phone  
Laptops, tablets, video games, electronics, etc.  
Other valuables

**Please note**, if you 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 security.