2025

TAMWOOD
CAMPS

WELCOME GUIDE

GET READY FOR A FUN-FILLED SUMMER!

We can't wait for you to join our camp located in...

VANCOUVER - SFU

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY, 8888 UNIVERSITY DR, BURNABY, BC V5A 1S6

TAMWOOD.COM/CAMPS

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THIS GUIDE:

Preparing for your trip

It's almost time to pack your bags! In this guide, you will find a list of everything we think you will need to bring with you to Canada. You will also find some fun facts about your camp destination: the wonderful city of Vancouver!

First Day and Life at Camp

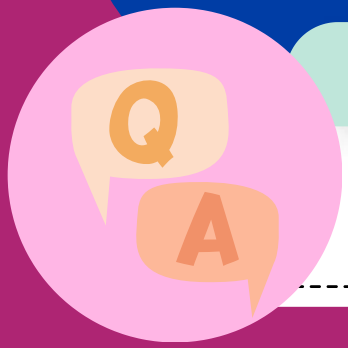
Arriving in a new place can feel a little bit scary, but don't worry, we've got you covered! We've included a map of Vancouver Airport to help you find your way. So you know what to expect, you will find a summary of the first day of camp, as well as information about our schedule.

Health and Safety

At Tamwood, the safety of our campers is our Number 1 priority! In this guide, you can read all about our health and safety procedures, including how parents can help us ensure a healthy camp environment.

Tamwood Culture and Camper Agreement

We strive to create a safe space for campers from all countries and backgrounds, ages and gender identifies. In order to do this, we need our campers to agree to support us in upholding a positive learning environment.



FAQ's

At the end of this guide, you will find the answers to all the frequently asked questions!

TAMWOOD CAMPS

Dear Parents and Campers,

We are thrilled that you'll be joining us at Tamwood's Vancouver SFU Camp this summer! Tamwood has been operating for over 30 years and has continuously provided wonderful camp experiences to thousands of children. Parents, thank you for the trust you have placed in us by registering your child for our program this summer. Campers, I hope you are ready to make lots of fun memories!

Here at Tamwood, we're all about helping each camper grow - boosting confidence, enhancing cross-cultural communication skills, and fostering friendships in our vibrant, diverse community. Our campers not only improve their English but also develop a whole set of new skills through fun and engaging activities. Rest assured, our caring staff are here to guide and inspire, ensuring every camper has an amazing summer experience.

Inside this Welcome Guide, you'll find everything you need to get ready for camp, including a packing list, important forms, and what to expect upon arrival. We encourage all parents and campers to read this package together. If you have any questions or need clarification on anything, please do not hesitate to reach out to your Tamwood Agent.

Thank you again for selecting Tamwood. We look forward to making the summer truly memorable.

See you this summer!

Evan Yang
Director of Youth Programs

All about... VANCOUVER

WELCOME TO CANADA'S 3RD LARGEST CITY!

Vancouver is one of the world's most spectacular cities! As it was the host city for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympics Winter Games, Vancouver has since become a very popular travel destination for visitors from all around globe.

Vancouver is a bustling city located on the west coast of Canada, surrounded by beautiful mountains, forests, and ocean views. It is known for its friendly locals, diverse culture, and vibrant arts scene.

Vancouver is considered as Hollywood North, is the second only to Los Angeles in TV production and third in North America for Feature Film production. That means there are frequently high-profile movie stars around town!

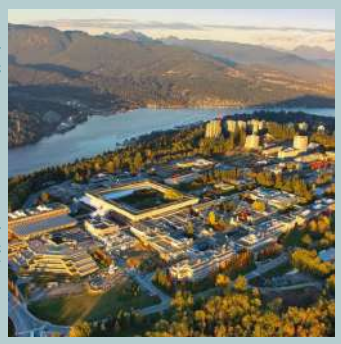
During your time at camp, you will get the chance to visit some of the amazing places in Vancouver such as Stanley Park, Science World and Playland. On some weeks, we venture just outside of Vancouver and visit extraordinary places like Whistler and Victoria!

Our Campus...

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Our Camp Accommodation is at the SFU Residences!

Our home! :)



Simon Fraser University, commonly referred to as 'SFU', is now British Columbia's second largest University, with more than 40,000 students studying there annually. Our camp is located at the large Burnaby campus, situated on Burnaby Mountain!

The Burnaby campus of SFU is the main campus and features stunning views of the surrounding mountains and the city of Vancouver. It is a vibrant community that serves as a hub for academic and intellectual activity, and offers a diverse range of programs and courses.

At our residence, our dorm rooms are located across 8 floors. Each camper will get their own bedroom and share a bathroom with other campers on the same floor. There will be multiple counselor rooms on each floor clearly labelled so campers know where to find staff members if needed.

TAMWOOD CAMPS

TAMWOOD PACKING LIST

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ☐ Flight Information (Arrival and Return)
- ☐ Passport
- ☐ VISA Paperwork (if required)

Adventures await, but first, packing! Get started with this essential packing list.

CLOTHING

- ☐ Underwear & Socks
- ☐ T-Shirts (8-9)
- ☐ Shorts (3-4)
- ☐ Long Pants / Jeans
- ☐ Long sleeve shirt / Light Jacket
- ☐ Swimsuit
- ☐ Comfortable, closed-toe shoes
- ☐ Pajamas / Appropriate sleepwear
- ☐ Flip-flops/sandals

TOILETRIES

- ☐ Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- ☐ Shampoo & Conditioner
- ☐ Body Wash / Deodorant
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Face Cloth & Towel
- ☐ Bug Spray
- ☐ Hair brush
- ☐ Prescription Medicine (if needed)
- ☐ Personal Hygiene Products

Please label all personal belongings and clothing (including socks and undergarments) with your full name to prevent clothing from being lost.

OTHER ITEMS

- ☐ Backpack
- ☐ Hat or cap
- ☐ Credit Card
- ☐ $CAD for spending money
- ☐ $150 CAD for damage deposit
- ☐ Umbrella
- ☐ Notebook / Pen
- ☐ Plug Adapter / Charger
- ☐ Water bottle

IMPORTANT

Tamwood is not responsible for any lost or stolen items. We provide laundry service once a week, Tamwood is not responsible for items lost in the laundry.

IMPORTANT TRAVEL INFORMATION

Tamwood Staff!

When you arrive at Vancouver International Airport (YVR)....

When you leave baggage claim, look out for our Tamwood staff wearing a BLUE t-shirt (as pictured) and holding a Tamwood flag.

Some days it can be very busy at the airport! This can make it difficult to see our staff straight away. If after 20 minutes, you still cannot find a staff member, please call the emergency contact number provided at the end of this welcome guide or ask the staff at the Information Desk to make an announcement for you over the Airport Intercom System. (If you are arriving in a group, please stay with your Group Leader!)

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

If you plan to register as an Unaccompanied Minor, please contact Tamwood Camps as soon as possible to obtain the name of the designated staff member who will be picking you up from the airport. All Unaccompanied minors will stay with the airline staff until a designated member of Tamwood staff has come to pick them up. It is important to have the correct person registered to pick up your child or they may be waiting for a very long time.

The unaccompanied minor fees are not paid by Tamwood.

HEADING TO CAMP

TRANSPORTATION

You will travel to the SFU Campus from the airport via school bus, coach, van or car with members of Tamwood staff (unless alternative transport is arranged prior to camp).

ARRIVING ON CAMPUS

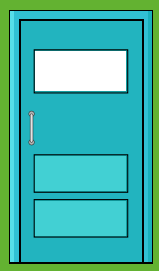
When you arrive at camp, our friendly counselors will be waiting for you at the residence! They will take you to the Tamwood Office where you will go through the intake process with the Director and Coordinators!

INTAKE (CHECK-IN)

You will receive a Tamwood t-shirt, laundry bag, lanyard and room key from the staff. You must hand in your passport, prescription medications and a damage deposit of $150 CAD. You can also hand in any excess cash you want to keep safe.

AFTER INTAKE

The counselors will then take you to your dorm room, as well as show you your bathroom. They are there to answer any questions you have about camp too! Once you are settled, they will let you know the plan for the rest of the day!



ACCESSING YOUR MONEY

Typically, we allow campers to access their personal envelopes The day before the excursion, before dinner. Our camp director will be available to assist you during these times and ensure that you can access your belongings safely and securely.

LIFE AT CAMP - SAMPLE SCHEDULE

VANCOUVER (SFU) CAMP 2025

Junior Program (Age 7-10) | Week 1

Time	Sunday June 29	Monday June 30	Tuesday July 1	Wednesday July 2	Thursday July 3	Friday July 4	Saturday July 5
7:00 – 7:45	Camper Wake Up						
8:00 – 8:45	Breakfast						
8:45 – 12:30	Camper Arrivals Intake Settle In & Unpack	Language Classes	Full Day Excursion: Queen Elizabeth Park Bloedel Conservatory Baseball Game Bowling	Language Classes	Language Classes	Full Day Excursion: Whistler Day Trip	Language Classes
12:45 – 13:30		Lunch		Lunch			Lunch
1:45 – 3:15		Group Teambuilding Activity		Film Challenge – Music Video	Off-Campus Activity		STEAM Workshop
3:30 – 5:15		Campus Adventure		Group Choice Session			Group Choice Session
5:15 – 6:00	Dorm Time			Dorm Time			Dorm Time
6:00 – 7:00	Dinner			Dinner			Dinner
7:00 – 9:00	Weekly Kickoff	Tamwood International Carnival		Camp Wide Game - Sasquatch	Wacky Fashion Show		Masquerade Disco
9:00 – 9:30	Conversation Club & Snacks			Conversation Club & Snacks			
9:30 – 10:30	Dorm Time						
10:30	Quiet Time & Bedtime						

TAMWOOD CAMPS

*All excursions and activities are subject to change due to weather and availability

www.tamwood.com

At Tamwood Camps, we want to make sure that you have all the information you need to make the most of your experience with us. That's why we provide a detailed schedule of activities and events throughout your stay.The schedule includes information about classes, excursions, sports, and other fun activities that you can participate in during your stay.

Scan Here to access our schedules:

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The health and safety of our campers is our top priority at Tamwood Camps. We have strict protocols in place to ensure that all campers are able to participate in our programs safely and comfortably.

Staying healthy at camp!
-Carry a water bottle around
-Eat at least 1 fruit & vegetable at each meal
-Apply sunscreen regularly

STAFF

All of our staff members are trained in first aid and emergency response procedures, and we have an on-campus health attendant to provide medical assistance as needed.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

If your child takes Prescription medication, it should be turned into the Health Attendant upon arrival. Medication must be in its original container or marked clearly with dosage, frequency, and camper's name. Tamwood team members do not administer insulin shots or other medications requiring similar procedures.

If a camper, counselor, or other member of staff is displaying symptoms of illness, they will be asked to wear a mask and seek medical attention as needed. We also have isolation and quarantine protocols in place to prevent the spread of illness within the camp community.

During your child's time at camp, a parent or guardian will be contacted by the Health attendant within 24 hours if...

- Your child is ill or has an oral temperature of over 37.8°c
- Your child is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19
- Your child requires any off-site medical treatment
- If there are questions regarding medications or healthcare for your child
- Your child is severely homesick and expresses a need for immediate contact

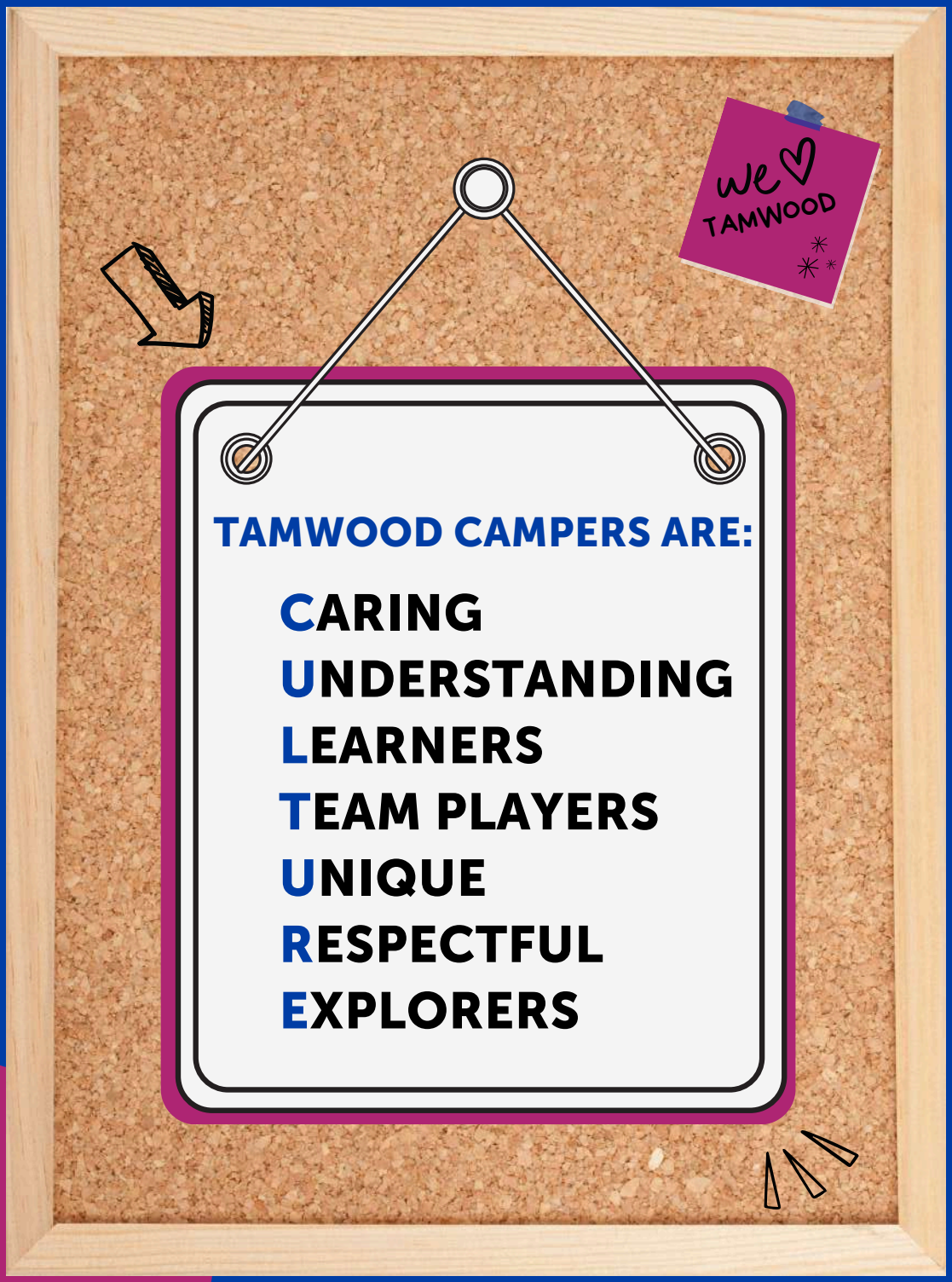
HEALTH AT CAMP: WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO HELP

PREPARING FOR CAMP:
A healthy camp begins at home! Here are some things parents/guardians can do to prepare kids to ensure a great camp experience:

- Remember to send sunscreen! There are lots of sunny days in Vancouver ahead!
- Encourage your camper to inform their counselor, health attendant or director about any problems they have at camp. We are here to help!
- Send a reusable water bottle in their luggage, and remind them the importance of staying hydrated during camp. Counselors will also remind the children to fill their water bottle regularly.
- Ensure your child packs enough clothes to dress in layers. Some days mornings can be chilly, but then the afternoon can be hotter. It is important they are prepared for the different temperatures!
- Camp can be a very busy place, with lots of fun activities and excursions for your child to take part in! It is therefore important that they get enough rest. Remind them that going to sleep at bedtime is very important; more important than playing on their phone all night!
- To prevent illness, campers will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently, especially before mealtimes and after outdoor activities. If you are sending a young child, please show them how to wash their hands effectively to help them get into the habit before camp.
- Please inform the Camp Director if your child needs a particular nutrition plan so that they can inform the Dining Hall to work out a plan to address their needs. If your child is not comfortable with the plan whilst at camp, it is possible to arrange a staff member to assist and monitor the process.
- It is important to communicate any mental, emotional or social health challenges that your child has before your child arrives to ensure the camp staff are best prepared to accomodate them.

TAMWOOD CULTURE

Tamwood strives to create a family away from home for all of our campers and staff members! Summer camp culture is important for the development of children as it provides a unique and fun-filled environment for personal growth, character building, and skill development. Like all families, Tamwood Camps has a unique culture. These are the culture values we hope to instil in all our campers this summer!



TAMWOOD CAMPERS ARE:

CARING
UNDERSTANDING
LEARNERS
TEAM PLAYERS
UNIQUE
RESPECTFUL
EXPLORERS

CAMPER AGREEMENT

The primary focus of Tamwood Camps is to help support our campers on their journey to become respectful and cross-culturally understanding global citizens. At Tamwood Camps, we strive to create a safe space for campers from all countries, cultural backgrounds, ages and gender identifies. In order to do this, we need our campers to agree to support us in upholding a positive learning environment. The expectations listed below are to be followed for the camper's duration at camp in order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all campers in our care.

1. *Campers must be on time to all classes, meals and other scheduled meeting times set by their counselor.*
2. *Campers are to remain in their assigned rooms after lights out (except to go to the washroom). Since each day is full, campers need to sleep and be ready for the next day. Lights out is 10:00 PM for juniors and 10:30 PM for youths and seniors unless otherwise specified by senior staff.*
3. *Campers are responsible for keeping their rooms clean. Those who do not have clean rooms will be asked to tidy them and may miss out on activities or an excursion.*
4. *To ensure campers are not distracted by their phones and other technology, Tamwood campers must follow our Reduced Technology policy (found on the next page of this guide).*
5. *Campers will not express any inappropriate public display of affection during their stay at camp including kissing and inappropriate touch. Tamwood camps have students of all ages and cultures, therefore to respect for these differences campers are to reserve any relationships that form for after camp.*
6. *Campers must be respectful of the property and environment around them. Stealing or intentionally damaging property that belongs to another camper, Tamwood camps or any of the facilities may be sent home (without refund) and expenses to repair/replace the item will be passed on to parents.*
7. *Campers must respect each other, counselors, teachers, and guests. Bullying of any kind is not allowed, this includes physical fighting, name-calling, verbal threats, or using social media to hurt an individual/group. Campers who are not respectful of other campers and staff may be sent home (without refund).*
8. *Drugs, alcohol and cigarettes are not permitted at Tamwood camps. In accordance with provincial and state laws in Canada and the United States, minors cannot have alcohol or tobacco in their possession. Use of any drug or alcohol will be grounds for immediate dismissal (without a refund).*

📵 Device-Free Days at Camp

Creating Real Connections, Unplugged Moments, and the Best Summer Ever!

At Tamwood Camps, we believe summer is the perfect time for kids and teens to disconnect from screens and reconnect with the world around them. Our new **Phone-Free Policy** is designed to help everyone enjoy camp life to the fullest — with more friends, more fun, and fewer distractions!

🌟 What's the goal for our phone policy?

The goal isn't to take something away—it's to give them something better in return:

A summer full of memories.

In today's society, we understand that kids are more connected to their phones than ever—and it's not always easy to imagine them without one. But at camp, our goal is to help them truly disconnect from screens and reconnect with the people and experiences around them. Our Phone-Free Policy isn't about cutting off contact—it's about giving your child the chance to be fully present, build independence, make real friends, and enjoy all the fun and growth that camp has to offer.

We've seen it over and over: when campers put their phones away, everything changes for the better. They make deeper friendships, get more involved in activities, sleep better, and show more confidence and independence. Without the constant buzz of notifications or the urge to scroll, campers become more present — and that's when the magic of camp really happens.

📵 Device-Free Days at Camp

TURNING IN DEVICES IS THE CAMPER'S RESPONSIBILITY.

Campers who fail to follow this policy may face consequences, which could include temporary loss of device privileges or other disciplinary action, depending on the situation. We appreciate your support as we encourage campers to unplug and reconnect with the people and experiences around them.

JUNIORS (7–10)

When are devices allowed?

📅 **Only on on-campus days (typically Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays — check weekly schedule for exact days)**

🕔 **Between 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM during dorm time**

This limited "Connect Time" allows campers to touch base with family while ensuring that the rest of their camp experience stays unplugged, active, and focused on fun.

YOUTH & SENIORS (11–17)

When are devices allowed?

📅 **Every day, however, on on-campus days (typically Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays —check the weekly schedule for exact dates), devices are only allowed starting at 5:00 PM.**

📲 **Campers are expected to:**

- **Drop off their phones with staff before breakfast by 8:00 AM**
- **Access their phones only during dorm time from 5:00 PM**

We call this our "Unplug & Reconnect" approach — giving campers the chance to fully engage with friends, activities, and the spirit of camp while still having a short window to check in with family or recharge.

While we encourage campers to manage their own devices responsibly, Tamwood may step in to hold onto phones or electronic devices if they become a distraction or begin to interfere with the camp experience. Our goal is always to work together with campers and families to support meaningful engagement, connection, and participation.

If a device does need to be held, it will be safely stored and returned at an appropriate time. While we'll do our best to keep devices safe, please note that Tamwood is not responsible for charging them or for any loss or damage.

TAMWOOD CAMP APP

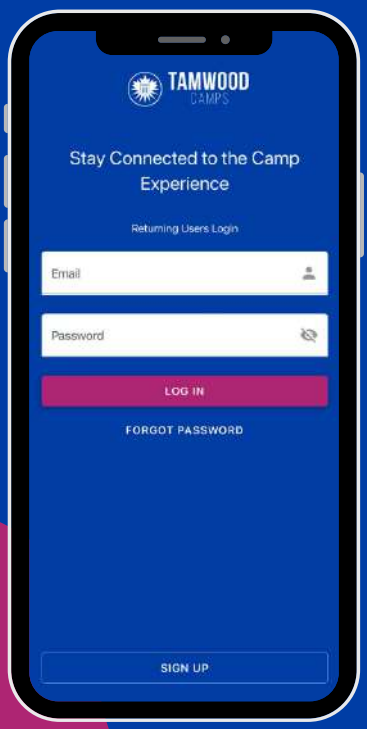
Introducing the Tamwood Camp App for 2025!

The Tamwood app, powered by Bunk1, is designed to keep parents informed during your child's time at camp. By signing up, parents can access a secure platform where you can view photos, videos and updates, ensuring you're always in the loop about your child's camp experiences.

The app provides a convenient way for family members to see snapshots of camp activities, special events, and daily moments, allowing them to share in the fun and excitement of camp from afar!

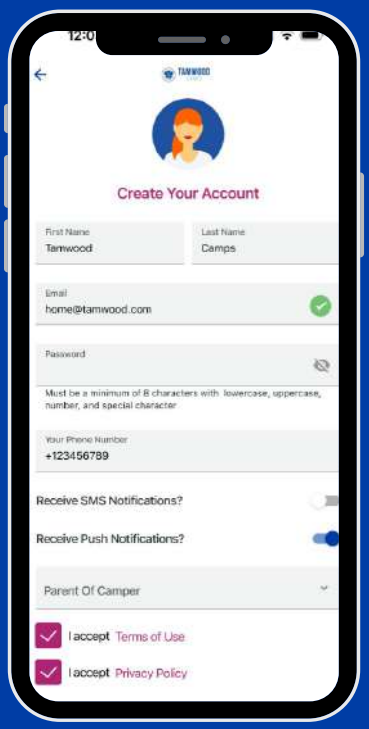
STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE:

Search 'Tamwood Camps' in the App Store / Google Play Store and download it to your phone.

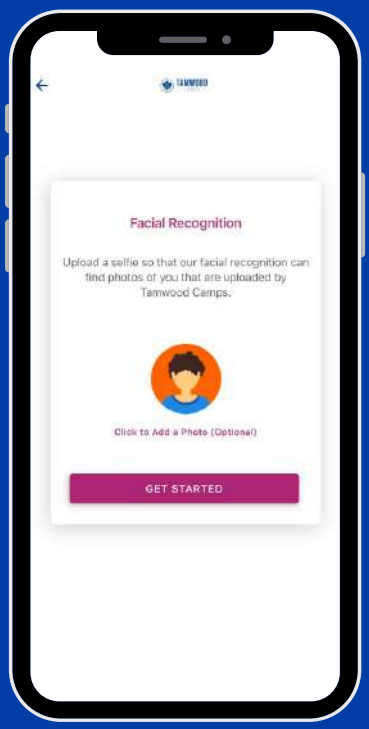


Open the app, and select the 'Sign Up' at the bottom of the screen. When prompted, enter the code:

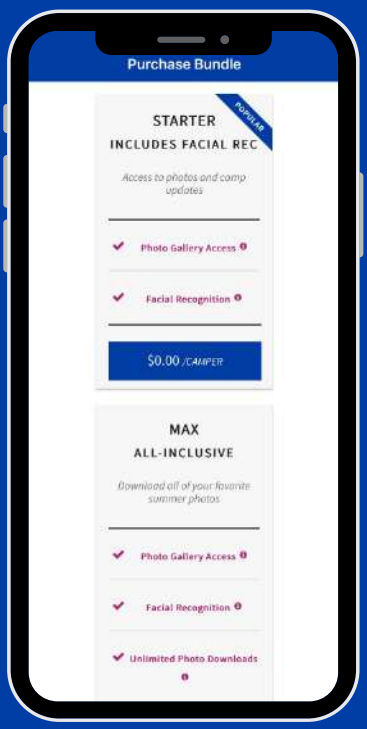
TAMWOOD25



Enter your name, email address and phone number - remember to include the international dialing code. Create a password, and select your relationship to the camper.



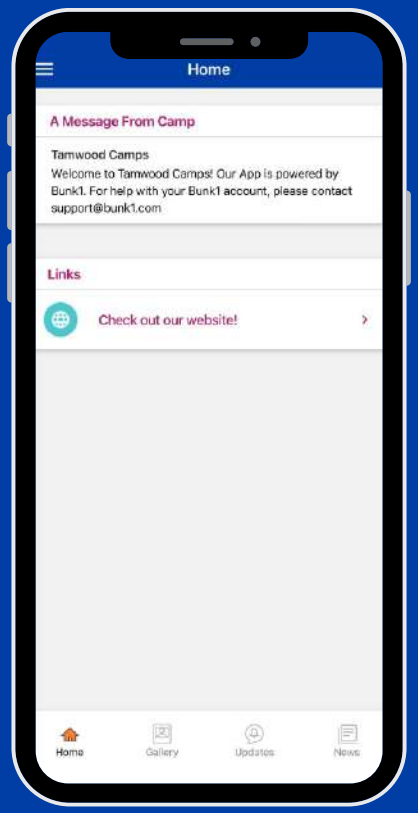
For our app to notify you when a photo of your camper has been added to our camp album, please upload a clear image of your child for facial recognition.



Please select your preferred bundle and continue to the checkout screen.

TAMWOOD CAMP APP

Once you have successfully downloaded the app and signed up, you will have access to the photos and updates that our camp team will upload throughout the summer!



This is the Tamwood Camps App home screen. Keep checking back here throughout the summer to see what's going on at camp!

The icons in the bottom menu:
- Gallery - Where the photos and videos of each camp location can be found
- Updates - Recent activity that our camp staff would like to highlight
- News - Any fun or important information will be uploaded here

If you have any issues or questions regarding our app, please reach out to:

support@bunk1.com

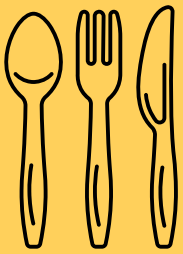
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

IS VANCOUVER SAFE?

Tamwood campuses are located in safe areas of major cities, and campers are accompanied by Tamwood staff on activities and rarely unattended. While residents are typically friendly and helpful, students should remain aware of their surroundings and report any suspicious activity to a staff member.

HOW MUCH MONEY SHOULD I BRING?

Campers should bring enough money to cover any personal needs, including shopping for any personal items and/or souvenirs at local malls and attractions. Campers must also bring additional $150 CAD cash for damage deposit.



WHAT IF I DON'T LIKE THE FOOD?

Please communicate any food concerns prior to camp. We will try our best to work with you to ensure a balanced diet is achieved. It. is also extremely important that your Director is informed of all dietary restrictions you may have.

WHAT SHOULDN'T I BRING/BUY?

Do not bring cigarettes/matches/lighters/illegal drugs/alcohol. Smoking & drinking are not permitted for campers in Canada/USA due to state and provincial laws. Any items that can be seen as weapons, like pocketknives or toy weapons, should be avoided.

DO CAMPERS WEAR UNIFORMS?

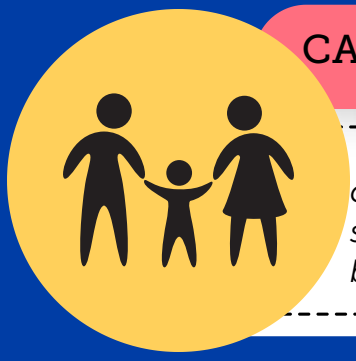
Tamwood Camps does not require students to wear a uniform each day, but they are asked to wear a Tamwood lanyard at all times. Campers are also required to wear the Tamwood T-shirts on all excursions off-campus.

MORE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHERE ARE THE STAFF FROM?

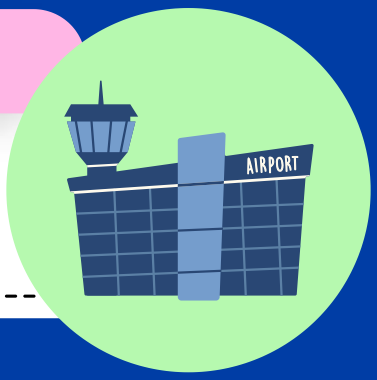
Our staff comes from various parts of the world, including Canada, England, and Australia, among others. We value sharing stories and cultures with our international staff, and prioritize finding qualified, caring, team members. While many return annually, we carefully interview and screen new staff.

CAN A PARENT OR FAMILY VISIT CAMP?



No, to ensure we keep campers together with minimal contact, we are not allowing visitors at camp this summer. For special circumstances, please contact camp before visiting your child.

HOW DO CAMPERS GET TO/FROM THE AIRPORT TO YOUR CAMP?

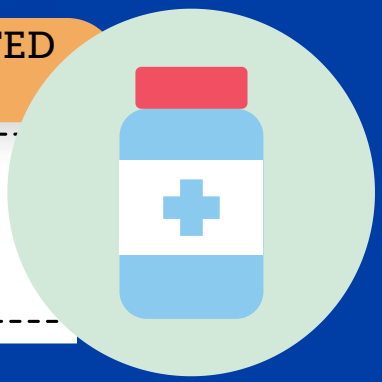


We provide airport transfers and will work with you to determine the timing of arrival and departure flights. Really early or really late arrivals are subject to additional service fees.

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO THE CAMP LEADERSHIP TEAM HAVE?

Our summer leadership team consists of individuals with previous camp experience, as well as specific skills and training in their area of responsibility. All staff have an up-to-date Criminal Record check, First Aid Certificates & have participated in camper safety training.

I TAKE MEDICATION. WILL I BE ASSISTED WITH THIS?



If you require our assistance, we can accommodate. All medication is secured by the Health Attendant and dispensed as required. We ask parents to provide double the doses of medication separated in two waterproof bags with legible writing providing clear instructions of use (in English).

SEE YOU SOON!

If you have questions before camp, please email:

MEI WANG

mwang@tamwood.com

YOUTH PROGRAM MANAGER

VANCOUVER-SFU DIRECTOR

If you have questions during camp, please email:

WENDY WEN

Director.SFU@tamwood.com

+1 (867) 446-4984

TAMWOOD CAMPS