

YOUTH GROUP INFORMATION PACKAGE FOR GARIBALDI PARK

The following information is designed as a general aid for both leaders and youths, in preparing for a fun, educational and safe wilderness experience in Garibaldi Park. Youth Groups include any group undertaking a hiking or camping trip organized and/or supervised by a school or non-profit organization.

REGISTRATION:

All youth groups planning a trip into Garibaldi Park should register online, well in advance of their trip. [Campground registration](#) is on a first come, first-served basis. This process has been implemented to prevent overuse of campgrounds by large groups, resulting in an unsatisfactory wilderness experience for all visitors and excessive impact on the parks natural resources. Registration is not for safety purposes. Groups are not monitored for a punctual and safe return nor are they provided sole use of the camping and shelter facilities.

TRIP PLANS/ITINERARY:

This is a critical stage in the preparation of your trip into Garibaldi Park. One must be prepared for unforeseen circumstances at all times while travelling in a wilderness setting. It is the leader's responsibility to ensure that the group and all its members are adequately prepared for such a situation. Information detailed in the "[Hug a Tree](#)" program is valuable for all groups preparing to enter a wilderness setting.

For safety purposes, the school administration should be provided with a clear and precise trip plan indicating your location and time of departure, route plan, camping plan, and the expected time of return. Have an emergency plan, including the phone numbers of local emergency services, and an adequate means of communication prepared in case of an emergency situation. To alleviate any concerns, make contact with the school if late arrival is expected.

Groups travelling in Garibaldi Park must not rely on the presence of BC Parks Rangers in an emergency situation, as most locations in the park are patrolled on an infrequent basis. How an emergency response is conducted is the responsibility of the group leader.

COMMUNICATION:

Good communication is essential in the planning of a backcountry trip. It is recommended that a combined satellite/cellular phone be rented in case of an emergency situation. Many areas within Garibaldi Park do not provide adequate cellular coverage in which case, the satellite service may substitute. Good working knowledge of the phone equipment and its limitations is essential to its performance. Good communication may prove invaluable.

GROUP LEADERS RESPONSIBILITY:

Leading a youth group into the wilderness environment exposes individuals to a level of risk superior to that found in the classroom. In order to alleviate such risk, Group Leaders must be able to demonstrate competence in the following areas.

1. The ability to assess the level of risk likely to be encountered, with sound judgements regarding the acceptability of those risks.
2. The ability to navigate through varying terrain using competent map and compass knowledge, while offering appropriate guidance to the youth in their care.
3. The ability to teach the skills necessary to ensure the safety of each participant.
4. The ability to demonstrate knowledge and experience in first aid and rescue techniques within the wilderness setting.
5. The ability to provide competent supervision of the participants during both instructional and non-instructional time.

GROUP LEADERS LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY:

When leading a group of youths into Garibaldi Park, the leader is legally obligated to serve as the representative responsible for the actions and conduct of each person in the group. This includes the group's registration and payment of fees. As stated in the Park and Recreation Area Regulations, the leader shall not permit the minor to partake in any activity that is prohibited under the Regulations. As a result, the leader may be charged, fined and/or evicted as a group from the park for any prohibited activity undertaken by a group member.

Be sure to read and obey all signs!

WEATHER:

Be prepared for extreme weather conditions in Garibaldi Park. Trail Reports are updated on a regular basis, detailing information pertaining to snow, trail conditions, creek and bridge crossings, and wildlife activity. Please check the weather conditions and Garibaldi Park [Trail Report](#) prior to departing.

MAPS:

Detailed [Maps](#) of Garibaldi Park, provided on the BC Parks website are for informational use only. They should not be used for navigational purposes. National Topographic Series (NTS) maps, 1:50000 scale, are an excellent source for navigational information. NTS maps can be purchased at the Government Agent office in Squamish, BC. Contact number (604) 892-2400. Leaders should be properly equipped and have an appropriate level of map and compass knowledge.

Diamond Head Area	92-G-14 & 15
Garibaldi Lake Area	92-G-14 & 15
Helm Creek Area	92-J-2 & 92-G-14
Cheakamus Lake Area	92-J-2
Singing Pass Area	92-J-2
Wedgemount Lake Area	92-J-2

Land and Resource topographic information may also be obtained through the [Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management website](#).

BACKCOUNTRY GROUP SIZE:

BC Parks recommends that youth groups should not exceed 30 people with an absolute minimum leader to participant ratio of 1:8. In order to reduce the impact on other park users, sub-groups should not exceed 10 people. While travelling in Garibaldi Park, a leader should be located at the front and back of each group.

TRAIL ETIQUETTE:

Leaders should keep the groups well controlled, restricting noise levels, as students and other park users should be able to experience all facets of the wilderness environment.

The speed at which each group travels should be dictated by its slowest member. This is easily accomplished by placing this member at the front of the group. Good communication between the group is necessary to prevent it from becoming separated. Frequent food and water breaks are necessary in order to keep the group keen and energetic. Lead by example and drink at every break. Never wander off the trail, short-cut switchbacks, or throw rocks as such activities are extremely detrimental to the park environment and may create hazards to hikers below.

CAMPING/PARKING FEES:

Camping is permitted at designated campsites only. These are located at Elfin Lakes, Garibaldi Lake, Taylor Meadows, Helm Creek, Cheakamus Lake, Russet Lake and Wedgemount Lake. Visit the BC Parks website for detailed information regarding campground size and facility information. Camping [fees](#) are charged for Elfin Lakes, Garibaldi Lake, and Taylor Meadows and must be paid in full at the trailhead Fee Station prior to the group's departure. Camping fees apply to all park users 13 years of age and older. Parking fees are included in the camping fees.

Parking fees are charged for day use only and are applicable at the Diamond Head and Garibaldi Lake area trailhead parking facilities. All vehicles must display proof of payment on the dash.

Camping, shelter and parking fee payment may be made at the trailhead Fee Station by cash, cheque, Visa or Mastercard. Cheques may be made payable to *Sea to Sky Parks Service LTD* and deposited in the vault located at the trailhead Fee Station. Proof of payment must be carried by the leader at all times while in the Park.

Fires and domestic animals are **NOT** permitted in Garibaldi Park.

WATER:

Wilderness lakes and streams are the main source of water for all park visitors. Please help keep them pure by washing a minimum of 30 meters away from any water source. All drinking water should be treated prior to its consumption. This can be done through the process of boiling, filtering, and/or chemical additives.

FOOD STORAGE:

Food storage facilities are located at all Garibaldi Park campsites. Proper use of the storage facilities is extremely important in minimizing wildlife encounters. Food cables are provided at Garibaldi Lake, Russet Lake, and Wedgemount Lake shelters, Food hang caches in Taylor Meadows, Helm Creek and Cheakamus Lake, and Food Boxes at Elfin Lakes. All food and garbage must be sealed in a plastic bag and stored appropriately at the provided facility. In order to prevent the attraction of animals, cooking should take place a minimum of 30 meters away from any campsite or in the cooking shelters provided. Food should never be stored in one's tent or campsite. Remember "A fed bear is a dead bear".

GARBAGE:

"Pack it in, pack it out" All garbage must be packed out of the park. Garbage can be greatly reduced with careful planning and packing. Fruit peels, cores and nut shells are all considered to be garbage. Campsites and rest areas must be thoroughly swept for garbage, prior to the group's departure. In no instance should garbage ever be placed in the toilet facilities!

TOILET FACILITIES:

Toilet facilities are located at all campgrounds and must be used for human waste only. Where toilet facilities are not available, shallow holes of approximately 6 inches must be used. Such holes should be a minimum of 50 meters away from any water source, campsite, or trail, and appropriately covered following its use. Toilet paper should then be placed in a sealed plastic bag and treated as garbage. Hands should be washed a minimum of 30 meters away from any water source. Hand sanitizers are a useful alternative.

WILDLIFE:

Wildlife, such as mice, birds, chipmunks, squirrels, marmots, deer, [bears and cougars](#) may be observed during your visit to Garibaldi Park. Appropriate measures must be taken to prevent any negative encounters with wildlife. Never feed the wildlife. During times of increased bear activity, regular monitoring occurs with updates to the website trail reports.

ACTIVITIES:

Garibaldi Park offers an abundance of activities including, hiking, mountain biking, swimming and fishing. Hikers must remain on the trails at all times. Mountain bikes are restricted to the main access trails to Elfin Lakes and Cheakamus Lake. Mountain biking is prohibited in all other areas of the park. Swimming is available in all wilderness lakes, yet the water temperature is extremely cold. All swimmers must be supervised by a qualified leader. Fishing is permitted within Garibaldi Park. Those wishing to fish must be in possession of a BC freshwater angling licence and be aware of the appropriate [fishing regulations](#).

Absolutely no harvesting of plants, animals, and/or geological material while in the park.

EQUIPMENT:

One must be prepared for extreme weather conditions when entering Garibaldi Park. Therefore, in the planning and preparation of one's trip, leaders must ensure that all participants are able to provide or be provided with the necessary equipment.

READING MATERIAL:

The following reading material may be used as a resource prior to one's visit into the Garibaldi Area.

- "103 Hikes in Southwestern British Columbia" - Jack Bryceland, Mary and David Macaree
- "Geology of Garibaldi Park" - Geological Survey of Canada
- "How to Shit in the Woods: An Environmentally Sound Approach to a Lost Art" - Kathleen Meyer
- "Soft Paths: How to Enjoy the Wilderness Without Harming It" - NOLS

WEB-SITES :

The following web sites may be used as a resource prior to one's visit into the Garibaldi Area.

- [Conservation Officer Service "Get Bear Aware"](#)
- [Provincial Emergency Program](#)
- [Geological Association of Canada](#)
- [Jennifer Jones Whistler Bear Society](#)