

Campership Policy

Approved: November 2021

To be reviewed: November 2024

Creating Community For All

Camp is a place where children and young adults make new friends, grow in faith, spend time outdoors, gain new skills, share in leadership, and explore their own potential. A week spent at camp can increase empathy, provide role models, and grow spiritual practices. A summer as a counsellor can build confidence, create life-time friendships, and develop skills for future workplaces. Each week, community is created, and God's abundant love is shared.

Every child should get to go to camp and experience this community. Every young adult should be able to work at camp. Camp life is richer, deeper, and more fun when the community is diverse and reflects the world. But there are barriers to making this a reality. Camp Kintail recognizes that financial concerns are one of the barriers that may families and potential staff members may face in considering a week or summer at camp.

Camp is all about being a part of community, and communities look out for each other. Together, camp staff, alumni, board members, camp families, Presbyterian congregations, and Kintail supporters share of their resources to help everyone be able to access summer camp and retreats. This care and aid are made visible through the following supports Camp Kintail offers to families:

One on One Supports – Some campers need extra support to have a fun and meaningful week of camp. Each week Camp Kintail offers a limited number of one-on-one counsellors to provide extra support for campers at no extra cost to the family or camper. These counsellors are not PSW's or EA's, but staff members who are excited to help a child have a safe and fun camp experience. These support spaces are available on a first come first served basis.

Camperships – Camp Kintail does not want the cost of camp to be a barrier to participation in summer camp. Families can choose one of the three flexible pricing options, or alternatively, indicate through the registration process what they (or another organization or congregation) are able to cover (which could range from nothing to most of the fee). A Camp Kintail campership will cover the remainder, until the funds for a given year are exhausted. There is no need to explain why a family may need help or to provide proof of their financial situation.

Harvest Leader in Training Bursary – The Leader in Training program at Camp Kintail helps young adults learn about leadership for camp, community, school, and church life. This bursary, named in honour of Gwen "Harvest" Brown, one of Kintail's long serving directors, alleviates the cost of the LIT program.

Staff Bursaries – Camp counsellors and programmers create fun, safe, and magical experiences for campers and retreat guests. There are some costs associated with being a staff member, including police record checks, first aid certification, and lifeguarding certification. Staff bursaries are available to help reduce the barriers that may prohibit someone from considering working on camp staff.

Creating a Congregational Campership Program

Camp is a place where children and young adults make new friends, grow in faith, spend time outdoors, gain new skills, share in leadership, and explore their own potential. A week spent at camp can increase

empathy, provide role models, and grow spiritual practices. Each week, community is created, and God's abundant love is shared.

Every child should get to go to camp and experience this community. Camp life is richer, deeper, and more fun when the community is diverse and reflects the world. But there are barriers to making this a reality. Camp Kintail and Presbyterian congregational partners recognize financial concerns are one of the barriers that many families may face in considering a week at camp.

1. Camp and congregations are partners in providing quality Christian education and faith formation. They provide different but complementary experiences for children to experience Christian community. Children spending time at camp creates future faith leaders.
2. We suggest offering the campership to every family who is sending a child to camp. Not every family, even if they have a financial need, will feel comfortable asking for help. Offering it to all families will even the playing field. If a family does not need the support, they are able to refuse it or return it as a donation to the congregation.
3. Congregations can decide how much they are able to support families. Common amounts are $\frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cost of camp, although some cover the full registration fee. Camp Kintail has flexible pricing (three payment options) so the congregation must decide which level they would like to pay.
4. It is important to let families know that Camp Kintail also has campership funding available if they need help after receiving the congregation campership. They simply indicate their need for support on their registration form.
5. It is up to your congregation about how you would like to distribute the campership. Some congregations give the funds directly to the family, and they pay the camp. Others send in the funds to the camp and we apply it to the family's registration. Other congregations prefer an invoice at the end of the season and pay for all their campers at once. When this happens, we issue a code to the congregation, which is entered at the registration, which calculates the amount owed by the family.