



# Schoolhouse Playcare Centres of Durham March Break Overnight Camp

We are VERY excited to offer our March Break Overnight Camp in partnership with YMCA Camp Pine Crest again this year. This 4-night, 5-day overnight camp experience is specifically designed with youth 9-12 years of age in mind!\*

Campers will participate in a variety of outdoor experiences that may include; Nordic skiing, snow tubing, snowshoeing/nature hikes, broomball, back country skiing, creative art experiences, ropes courses, archery, quinzhee building and campfire building. Evening programming will keep campers engaged and entertained as they participate in traditional camp theme nights! All programming experiences will be facilitated by YMCA Camp Pine Crest Outdoor Educators and groups will be supervised by SPC educators.

\*Must be minimum 9 years old by March 1st, 2026

## Program Cost

\$750.00

Cost includes bus transportation, accommodations, snacks and meals, programming, and supervision. Payment will be withdrawn from your bank account on Monday March 9, 2026 (our regular billing cycle). There will be no refunds issued for cancellations. Need information about financial assistance? Please contact Christina Baker at [c.baker@schoolhouseplaycare.ca](mailto:c.baker@schoolhouseplaycare.ca)

## Location & Dates

### YMCA Camp Pine Crest

Monday, March 16th – Friday, March 20th, 2026

\*Bus will pick up/drop off at the SPC office, 1602 Tricent Avenue, Unit 6, Whitby, ON

Monday, March 16, 2026 at 9:10 a.m. (leave to Camp Pinecrest)

Friday, March 20, 2026 at 4:20 p.m. (return to the SPC Administrative Office at 4:20pm p.m.)

YMCA Camp Pine Crest is located at 1090 Gullwing Lake Rd. Torrance ON, POC 1M0, and is about a 2-hour drive from Whitby, ON.



Limited  
space,  
register  
now!

## Questions?

Call or email Christina Baker at (905) 728-7740 ext. 209.  
[c.baker@schoolhouseplaycare.ca](mailto:c.baker@schoolhouseplaycare.ca)

## To Register

Complete the registration package at the end of this guide and submit to your centre supervisor by Friday, January 31st, 2026. IF you do not currently attend a SPC centre, please send your completed registration by clicking [here](#) [secure portal](#) (password is: Schoolhouse54). Registrations are date/time stamped as space is limited!



# Programming - Guiding Principles

All programs at YMCA Camp Pine Crest are designed with 6 Guiding Principles in mind. They are:

## **Small Group Focus**

YMCA Camp Pine Crest focuses on each individual participant's development process. Most of the time is spent in a group size of approximately 10-15 people. We provide opportunities for social development, group interdependence, interpersonal problem solving, and leadership development.

## **Natural Focus**

The program primarily features activities specific to our semi-wilderness setting and are not as readily available to individuals in their home or school environment. We take a holistic approach to environmental education and environmental stewardship creating lasting experiences in the outdoors.

## **Democratic Living**

While living in a group in the lodge, individuals learn to make decisions that serve both the individual and the group. Meals are eaten together in our winterized dining hall with each cabin group having an opportunity to help with table setting for the entire group.

## **Enjoyable Programs**

We want to make sure that every person has fun at camp and encourage a sense of camp spirit, positive attitudes, and camaraderie. Our programs add to an individual's overall development by providing situations in which positive attitudes and fun approaches to problem solving lead to success.

## **Inclusive Community**

Our outdoor center brings individuals of various abilities and cultural, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds together in one community. Staff are trained on issues of bullying and inclusion to help prevent situations that would make individuals feel isolated during their time at YMCA Camp Pine Crest.

## **Healthy Lifestyle**

We are committed to providing a well-balanced nutritious meals with options that meet dietary concerns. We promote regular exercise through our busy daily schedule and physically active activities. We encourage an atmosphere of positive and supportive interaction for all participants.





# About Our SPC Team

Campers will be supervised and supported through their camp experience by two Schoolhouse Playcare Centres of Durham supervisors.

## Introducing... Paul!

Paul is a Registered Early Childhood Educator and has worked with SPC for more than 14 years! Paul is the supervisor of our licensed childcare program at Altona Forest P.S. where he provides leadership to programs for children 0-12 years old. During his time with SPC, Paul has had the opportunity to be involved in and facilitate programs like our Outdoor Leadership Summer Camp and has facilitated the Key Club Program, which equips older children to walk home and stay home safely after-school when they have aged out of licensed childcare. During his spare time, you can find Paul exploring the great outdoors, camping, fishing, and snowmobiling. He also volunteers whenever he can. Paul is VERY excited to be part of this wonderful program opportunity again!

## Introducing... Sally!

Sally is a Registered Early Childhood Educator and has worked with SPC for more than 25 years! Sally is the supervisor of our licensed childcare program at Robert Munsch P.S. where she provides leadership to programs for children 3.8 to 12 years old. During her time with SPC, Sally has also had the opportunity to be involved in and facilitate programs like our Outdoor Leadership Summer Camp and has facilitated the Key Club Program, which equips older children to walk home and stay home safely after-school when they have aged out of licensed childcare. Sally loves spending time outdoors and strongly believes in the value of exposing children to outdoor, nature-based programming where they can develop a lifelong appreciation for the natural environment. Sally is also VERY excited to be part of this program again!





# Facility & Accommodations

Campers will sleep in the lodge, which is fully winterized with full washroom facilities inside them. Each lodge has 6 bedrooms. Each bedroom has 2 bunk beds (sleeps 4). The lodge has a common area with couches and chairs and a large screened in porch.

## What to Bring

This list provides a general guideline of what to bring to Pine Crest. When packing, the most important thing to know is that all programming takes place outdoors, except for thunderstorms or other extreme weather, when we will head for shelter. While packing, please consider the weather forecast, keeping in mind that we will be outdoors for most of our time.

- Winter jacket and snow pants
- Winter hat and scarf/neck tube (two sets)
- Waterproof mitts or gloves (two pairs)
- Long underwear and warm clothes (sweats and fleece instead of jeans)
- Insulated winter boots
- Warm wool or synthetic socks (several sets)
- Indoor shoes for dining hall and lodge
- Sunscreen

## Overnight Essentials:

- Socks, underwear, Pajamas
- Pants, sweaters, t-shirts
- Sleeping bag and pillow (extra blanket in colder times of year)
- Towel, toothbrush, toothpaste, shower items & deodorant
- Medications (check in with SPC educators if your child requires medication)
- Water bottle

## What NOT to Bring

- Candy, gum, soft drinks & junk food
- Electronic devices

Our time at Pinecrest will provide a break from electronic devices and allow campers the full benefit of an outdoor camp experience. Please do not send cell phones, gaming devices, tablets/iPads etc. We cannot be held responsible for their theft, loss, or damage.

