

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - AAC Camp Alberta

Am I eligible to apply for AAC Camp Alberta?

- Campers must be between 6 and 16 years of age and use a robust augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) system.
- Older teens and young adults (16 to 30 years of age) should apply to our new Camp Connect (see information about this new camp on our webpage (uab.ca/aaccamp)).
- Campers must attend with at least one parent or guardian; additional family members (including siblings) are also welcome to attend.

How can I apply for AAC Camp Alberta?

- Applications open each year about 5-6 months before camp starts.
- Application forms are digital and can be filled out online. Forms will be posted on the camp webpage (uab.ca/aaccamp) and shared through our social media (Facebook and Instagram) accounts.
- Check the camp webpage for current registration deadlines.
- Applications will be reviewed after each deadline to make sure space is available. You typically will be notified of acceptance within two weeks after the application deadline.
- Depending on the number of families applying, we may not be able to accommodate everyone who applies. If you are not accepted, you may be placed on a Wait List in case a space opens up.

Where is AAC Camp Alberta 2026 located?

- The 2026 camp is being held at Gull Lake Centre in central Alberta, near Lacombe. This is approximately 1.5 to 2 hours north of Calgary and 1.5 to 2 hours south of Edmonton.
- Find Gull Lake Centre on [Google Maps](#)

When does camp start and end?

- **AAC Camp Alberta 2026 is being held on the September long weekend, Saturday Sept 5 through Monday Sept 7.** This schedule allows us to avoid the majority of conflicts with school and work for campers, family members, student counselors, and volunteers.

- Families should arrive after lunch on Saturday, between 1 and 2pm.
- Camp ends after lunch on Monday. Families should be packed up and ready to head home by 2pm.

How much does it cost to attend AAC Camp Alberta?

- The 2026 cost for a camper and up to two family members is \$650 . Additional family members are welcome to join us at a cost of \$200 per person. This covers meals, accommodations and all programming throughout the weekend.
- If you are unable to attend due to cost, please contact us as aaccamp@ualberta.ca to discuss options for subsidy for low income families.

Who is with my camper?

- Each camper is assigned a 1:1 counsellor, a graduate student in the SLP, OT, or PT program, supervised by licensed SLPs, OTs, and PTs.
- Counselors engage with your camper and support their participation in camp activities and encourage the use of the camper's device and paper-based communication tools.
- Our focus is on embedding communication opportunities within all camp activities throughout the weekend.
- Counsellors are not trained care aides. **Parents are responsible for daily care activities**, such as assistance with changing clothes, toileting, and feeding.

Can my camper attend without a parent or guardian?

- No. AAC Camp Alberta is a "family camp," and at least one parent or guardian must attend with the camper.

What kind of activities are there to do at AAC Camp Alberta?

- At Gull Lake Centre, campers and siblings can enjoy canoeing, swimming, sand & water play, an obstacle course or scavenger hunt, games, crafts, music and dancing, fun around the campfire and more!
- There are many indoor and outdoor areas for socializing and relaxing when scheduled activities are done.

- Campers have access to a quiet area as well as a sensory zone to meet their unique sensory needs.

What is a typical day at camp?

- Families and volunteers go to the main hall for all of their meals, which are served “buffet style.”
- In the mornings and afternoons, small teams of campers and siblings will rotate through activity stations with their counsellors and team leader.
- In the evening, all campers and family members may join a campfire sing-along or dance party.
- The final morning will include a special “family activity” that provides parents and siblings with opportunities to practice aided language input with the campers.
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- A detailed schedule will be provided to all families before camp starts.

Do you have a social story to help my camper get ready for camp?

- We sure do! Your camper’s counsellor will share this with you before camp starts.

What will my camper’s siblings do all day?

- Have fun! They join a “sibling group” with student counsellor(s) to participate in camp activities and to learn ways of supporting their sibling’s communication. Older siblings are also welcome to join some of the parent sessions.

What do parents do at camp?

- Parents have the opportunity to attend formal sessions and/or small group or 1:1 sessions to support their camper’s communication skills.
- Parents may observe or join their children as they participate in activities
- There are ample opportunities to meet other parents, including a special “Parent’s Night Out!”

- Relax and have fun!

How accessible is the camp? Is it accessible to people in wheelchairs?

- In the past few years, Gull Lake Centre has undergone some renovations, making it more accessible to people with mobility issues.
- The roads and trails consist of concrete sidewalks and gravel. However, counsellors and volunteers are able to push wheelchairs if a camper wants/needs this level of assistance.
- The main lodge is wheelchair accessible via a ramp that loops around the outside of the lodge. There is no elevator inside the lodge, so anyone wanting to access the lower level will need to use the outside ramp.
- There are wheelchair accessible washroom stalls in the main lodge, meeting rooms and cabins. However, the showers have lips on them, and are not all wheelchair accessible.
- AAC Camp Alberta strives to be an inclusive experience, with the philosophy that ALL campers have the opportunity to participate in all activities.
- Activities will be modified to ensure they can be accessed by participants with wheelchairs and other mobility aids, alternative access methods, and those needing sensory support.
- Adaptations/modifications can be discussed and further questions and clarification around mobility and accessibility can be sent to aaccamp@ualberta.ca.

What if my camper needs a modified diet?

- If your camper needs a liquid or pureed diet, please be prepared to modify the food served at camp by bringing a blender or other items (e.g. thickener).
- If your camper is tube-fed, you will need to bring their own food.
- The camp caterers will do their best to accommodate allergies and common dietary restrictions (e.g. vegetarian, dairy-free, gluten-free). We will request information about allergies and dietary restrictions on the application form.

My child is a picky eater. Can we bring our own food?

- Yes, you may bring special food items for your camper.
- There is access to a shared refrigerator in the main hall that families can use. Be sure to label any food you bring.

What are the sleeping accommodations at camp?

- All of our campers and their family members stay in newly built and renovated cabins that have electricity, running water and heaters. Each cabin has a washroom with a shower (however, note that showers are not wheelchair accessible).
- All of the cabins have bunk beds. On the registration form, you will be asked if you can sleep on a bottom or top bunk.
- Some cabins have additional bunkbeds in an upper level loft, accessible by stairs. On the registration form, you will be asked if you have mobility or safety concerns about campers or siblings in your family using the stairs.
- Depending upon the number of families attending, you may share a cabin with another family.
- Many cabins will have mixed genders. However, we do reserve a few for females only and for males only.
- Bedding is not provided, so campers should come prepared with bedding (sleeping bags or sheets/blankets and pillows).

I missed the deadline for registration. Can I still sign up for camp?

- Late registrations will be considered on a case-by-case basis, if there is space available. You may also be placed on a Wait List in case another family cancels.

What if I need to cancel my family's registration?

- If you must cancel your registration due to illness or other unavoidable circumstances, please contact **aaccamp@ualberta.ca** as soon as possible. Registration fees are refundable, minus a \$50 administrative fee, prior to June 1, 2026. Please note that refunds after June 1 are not possible.

How do I get in contact with the AAC Camp Alberta organizers?

- Please feel free to contact us at **aaccamp@ualberta.ca**