

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - Camp Connect

Am I eligible to apply for AAC Camp Alberta?

- Campers must be **between 16 and 30 years of age** and **use a robust augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) system**.
 - NOTE: Children under 16 years of age should apply to our family camp, AAC Camp Alberta (see uab.ca/aaccamp).
- Campers must have had their AAC system for at least one year and have at least basic proficiency using it.
- Campers **must attend with at least one support person** (parent/guardian or care aide); a second support person may also attend for an additional fee.
- Each camper must **provide verification of eligibility** from a medical professional or association confirming that they meet William Watson Lodge's definition of a disability:
 - chronic
 - a developmental, physical, sensory, mental, or neurological condition or impairment
 - a condition that impacts daily living activities such as eating, grooming, walking, interacting with others, playing and problem solving
- Examples of acceptable documentation include but are not limited to:
 - Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped
 - Alberta Aids to Daily Living
 - Family Support for Children with Disabilities
 - Persons with Developmental Disabilities
 - CPP Disability Benefit
 - Disability Tax Credit
 - Child Disability Benefit
 - 5 or 10 year parking placard
 - other documentation of disability from a medical professional

How do I apply for AAC Camp Alberta?

- Applications opened April 1 and are due May 1.
- The link to the application form is on our webpage (uab.ca/aaccamp).

- Application forms are digital and can be filled out online. If you have difficulty accessing or submitting the application, please contact us at aaccamp@ualberta.ca.

When will I find out if I have been accepted for Camp Connect?

- Applications will be reviewed to make sure you meet eligibility requirements and space is available. You typically will be notified of acceptance within one to two weeks after the application deadline.
- Depending on the number of campers 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 Camp Connect 2026?

- The camp is being held at **William Watson Lodge**, situated in Peter Lougheed Provincial Park on Lower Kananaskis Lake, approximately one hour from Canmore, Alberta and approximately 1.5 hours or more from Cochrane or Calgary, Alberta.
- Find William Watson Lodge on [Google Maps](#)

What will we do at Camp Connect?

- We are still planning activities; we are waiting to hear from the campers about what interests them.
- There will be activities facilitated by Rocky Mountain Adaptive, including adapted paddlesports and hiking.
- You can also look forward to an evening campfire in the gazebo, hanging out with friends in the main lodge, games, music and dancing.

How accessible is William Watson Lodge? Is it accessible to people in wheelchairs?

- William Watson Lodge is highly rated for its accessibility. It offers accessible cabins and over 20 km of paved, wheelchair-friendly trails.
- Cabins include specialized features like wider doorways, wheelchair-height counters/sinks, roll-in showers with grab bars, and ceiling lift tracks.

- The main lodge and gazebo with firepit were also designed with accessibility in mind.

When does camp start and end?

- **Camp Connect 2026 is being held October 2-4 (Friday through Sunday),**
- Campers should arrive and check in at William Watson Lodge on Friday between 4 and 5 pm on Friday Oct 2.
- Camp will end at 11 am on Sunday Oct 4.

How much does it cost to attend Camp Connect?

- The 2026 cost for a camper and one support person is \$250. A second support person is also welcome to join you for an additional \$100.
- Registration fees cover all camp programming. The cost of accommodations has been covered by a generous private donation, helping to keep camp affordable.

Are meals provided at Camp Connect?

- No. There is no food service at William Watson Lodge.
- You and your support person(s) are responsible for bringing and preparing your own meals and snacks.
- All cabins have fully equipped kitchens (pots, pans, dishes, cutlery, cups, utensils, dish towels and dish soap) with a fridge & freezer, oven, stove, microwave, coffee maker, kettle, and toaster.
- We will provide pizza on Friday evening. Make sure to let us know if you have any allergies or dietary restrictions, and we will do our best to accommodate.
- On-site water is fine for drinking. Bring a refillable water bottle.

What are the sleeping accommodations at William Watson Lodge?

- Cabins have 1, 2, or 3 bedrooms. Each bedroom has two single beds, or one single bed and one hospital bed (with side rails and remote control for raising/lowering).
- Some larger cabins may have a double bed in place of a single bed in one of the bedrooms. Some larger cabins may also have a full-size pull-out couch.

- Bedding is not provided, so campers should come prepared with bedding (sleeping bags or sheets/blankets and pillows).

What are the responsibilities of the support person(s) who attend with me?

- At least one support person will join the camper during activities
- For canoeing/kayaking, the support person(s) will need to be available for transfers, etc. If you don't want to canoe/kayak, let us know ahead of time so we can arrange for one of our counsellors or volunteers to join the camper
- Support persons are responsible for assisting with personal care (for example, feeding, toileting, showering, changing, medications, transfers), as needed
- Support persons are also responsible for preparing meals and snacks for the campers and themselves

What do I need to bring?

- Food - for all meals and snacks (for camper and support person(s))
- If you use specialized feeding items, please also bring them
- Bring a blender to puree foods, if needed
- Refillable water bottle
- Clothing - including warm outdoor clothes and footwear appropriate for the weather - it is best to dress in layers as weather in October is unpredictable
- Bedding and towels for each attendee
- Any special items from home that make being at camp easier, such as sensory items
- Medications, as needed
- Communication device, charger, and a backup paper-based version, if available
- Power wheelchair charger, as needed
- Your lift sling, as needed

I missed the deadline for registration. Can I still apply 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 camper cancels.

What if I need to cancel my 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 are not possible after June 1.

How do I contact the Camp Connect organizers?

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