

Important Information

PLEASE READ BEFORE YOU REGISTER - REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 5TH 12PM TO GENERAL PUBLIC

RETURNING PARTICIPANTS: While our broad weekly themes have stayed relatively consistent in recent years, our daily themes and activities are thoughtfully designed by our creative, talented team of Camp Leaders each June. We strive to provide new and engaging lessons, games, crafts, and activities, even if you have already attended our camps before.

OFF-SITE FIELD TRIPS: Please note that **all groups in all weeks of Summer Camp are scheduled for a day-trip to Queen Elizabeth Park and Bloedel Conservator** (drop-off there, pick-up at VanDusen); specific dates and further logistics will be confirmed before camp.

AGE RESTRICTIONS: Summer Camps at VanDusen Botanical Garden are run by the Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association (VBGA) and are designed for children ages 5-10. **Children must be 5 years of age or older on the day of the program AND must have completed Kindergarten prior to attending.** Our registration system will not accept campers who are not at least 5 years old on the day of the program, and if a child is suspected to not have completed kindergarten, parents/guardians will be contacted by an administrator. Children found to not meet these requirements will not be allowed to attend camps, and no refund will be provided for cases of false eligibility.

HEALTH/ILLNESS: Please note that wearing a mask does not excuse or negate the presence of active cold or flu symptoms – **campers are not permitted to attend camps if experiencing/displaying active cold or flu symptoms and may be sent home at staff's discretion.**

PROGRAM LOGISTICS: Summer Camps will take place **outdoors rain or shine**, with some covered outdoor spaces available for lunchtime and stationary activities. Please ensure campers are dressed for the weather and have additional layers or a change of clothes available if needed. Indoor spaces are limited and only available in instances of extreme weather or other safety hazards. **Youth attending our programs should be prepared to use porta-potties located throughout the Garden** and their accompanying outdoor hand washing stations; there are indoor washrooms available in the Visitor Centre but due to the expanse of the Garden, access is not always feasible or efficient.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT: Please also note that although we strive to provide an inclusive environment for campers, **we are unable to provide 1-to-1 support** due to our current program format with group sizes of up to 24 campers. **If your child runs away from leaders, has difficulty following directions, or is unsafe towards themselves and others, you will need to provide an adult to attend camp to support their behaviour. If we find during camp that your child is disrespectful of others or the Garden or is having difficulty following instructions, we will ask you to provide an adult for the remainder of the camp.** During registration, you will be asked whether your child has any allergies, medical conditions, or other specific needs that may require support from staff or an external party, as well as strategies to support those needs. We welcome guardian-provided support aids to join children in our camps, but this must be pre-arranged with our administrative team; we also welcome any other follow-up information you are able to provide prior to their attendance.

Please consider these factors when determining if this program is the right fit.

CANCELLATION POLICY: If you would like to cancel your registration, please provide a written request at least three weeks (21 days) in advance of the start of the program(s) to nfriedmann@vandusen.org. If we receive the request with the required notice and are able to fill the spot, we will provide a refund minus a \$15 administrative fee. If we receive the request with the required notice and are unable to fill the spot, we will provide an equivalent credit to be used in future programs, valid for 365 days.

No refunds or credits (either complete or partial) will be issued for the following:

- Cancellation requests made with less than three weeks' (21 days') notice
- Cancellation requests made over the phone, by voicemail, or in person
- Expulsion due to disruptive/unsafe behaviour, inappropriate fit for program, or similar
- Absence from a program due to illness, injury, travel, family, or similar
- Public Health Regulations/Restrictions, as mandated by the Federal and/or Provincial governments

Program cancellation by the VBGA due to Public Health Regulations/Restrictions will result in education program credit equivalent to the value lost.

CONTACT: Natasha Friedmann (Youth Programs Manager) nfriedmann@vandusen.org | 604-257-8443

Theme Schedule

Drop-Off & Pick-Up	Ages/Cohort	Week 1 *4 days June 29-Jul 03	Week 2 July 06-10	Week 3 July 13-17	Week 4 July 20-24
8:40-3:40	5-7	Aquatic Adventures	Earthly Explorers	Strategizing Sustainability	Crafty Critters
8:50-3:50	7-10	Crafty Critters	Mini and Mighty	Things with Wings	Dirt to Dinner
9:00-4:00	5-7	Dirt to Dinner	Sprouting Imagination	Aquatic Adventures	Earthly Explorers

Drop-Off & Pick-Up	Ages/Cohort	Week 5 July 27-31	Week 6 *4 days Aug 04-07	Week 7 Aug 10-14	Week 8 Aug 17-21
8:40-3:40	5-7	Mini and Mighty	Things with Wings	Dirt to Dinner	Sprouting Imagination
8:50-3:50	7-10	Sprouting Imagination	Aquatic Adventures	Earthly Explorers	Strategizing Sustainability
9:00-4:00	5-7	Strategizing Sustainability	Crafty Critters	Mini and Mighty	Things with Wings

Theme Descriptions

Aquatic Adventures

Dive into the wonderful world of wetlands and uncover what hides just under the surface of Cypress Pond. Recreate an aquatic environment to take home, learn more about the water cycle and where our water comes from, and explore the Garden in search of aquatic plants and animals in different water bodies and features!

Crafty Critters

Calling all crafty critters! Let the Garden be your inspiration in this creation-focused camp – from bright colors and clever patterns to unique structures and art that changes with time. Campers will draw, paint, sculpt, and discover their inner artist as they explore nature-themed crafts and activities.

Dirt to Dinner

Back by popular demand, we invite you to join us in the Garden to learn more about the journey that plants and food take from pollination to decomposition, and from seed to plate. Enjoy some tasty treats, get creative with food-themed crafts, and bee a pollinator for a day as you explore the beehives, veggie Garden, and more!

Earthly Explorers

Are you curious and ready for a challenge? VanDusen is teeming with surprises and riddles around every corner, and only you can help! Campers will tackle scavenger hunts, solve mysterious clues, and learn basic navigation skills, whether they're discovering the Garden for the first time or know all its twists and turns. Discover many ways plants are used around the world, as well as some strange survival adaptations.

Mini and Mighty

From things we can't see with our naked eye to leaves larger than car tires that dinosaurs could have eaten for breakfast, explore the Garden's fascinating species, both big and small. Campers will zoom in on seeds and microbes, learn about some of the tallest trees on earth, and discover the world from a new perspective – no growing or shrinking required!

Sprouting Imagination

Let your imagination go wild in this creative camp! Express yourself through poems and songs, explore stories and myths inspired by the Garden, and put on a performance for all the plants and animals to see. Uncover a secret world of fairies and other mystical creatures, and use natural materials to create a masterpiece so you can take a bit of VanDusen's magic home!

Strategizing Sustainability

Calling all diversity defenders and eco-heroes – learn about conservation and coexisting with nature in a growing city. From urban wildlife that we share the Garden with to our role in vast food webs and dynamic ecosystems, we're all connected. Explore VanDusen's biodiversity, create a Wanted poster for invasive species, and discover how to help the environment on different scales through fun games and challenges!

Things with Wings

Grab your binoculars, hone your observation skills, and get ready! Discover the birds, bats, and insects that fly in, around, and above the Garden, including what they eat and where they sleep. Campers will learn about the importance of pollinators, create a winged craft to take home, and explore the life cycles of creatures that zip, zoom, hover, and dive.

After Care

Looking to extend the camp day? After Care may be what you're looking for!

If you register for After Care, campers will be transferred by our team at the end of their cohort's regular day and will be available for pick-up from the Classroom Courtyard instead, anytime before 5:00. Pick-ups after 5:00pm may be subject to a \$20.00 late fee.

Spots are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please be advised that although cohorts are separated and do not otherwise mix during the day, After Care will not be separated by cohort.

We will not provide any food during After Care, including additional snacks or dinner. Please provide your child/children with extra nut-free snacks if they will be attending After Care.