



YMCA of Greater Vancouver
Outdoor Education Program

Dear YMCA Outdoor Education Participants,

We would like to inform you of luggage handling procedures at YMCA Camp Elphinstone. Due to the widespread issue of bed bugs in the Lower Mainland, all bags and personal belongings arriving at YMCA Camp Elphinstone must pass through a heat treatment process, which eliminates the concern of bed bugs spreading to our facilities or your home. Our specially constructed heat treatment room heats bags to 125 degrees (about the temperature of a clothes dryer) which ensures that any bed bugs and/or eggs that may be contained within participants' belongings are killed prior to moving into cabins.

Although the heat treatment is safe for most items, a few items should not pass through the heat treatment room as it may cause damage. Items that should not be heated are:

- Plastics, such as toiletries and cosmetics
- Cameras and any other electronics (should be left at home)
- Medicines
- Aerosols
- Food, including pop cans
- Candles and wax
- Photographs

Some care will need to be taken when packing, to ensure luggage is prepared for the heat treatment process. All items that should not be heated must be packed in a zip-lock bag and placed at the top of the luggage so it may be removed prior to treatment. Please ensure zip-lock bags are well labelled with the participant's name and group name. Zip-lock bags will be placed in bins and redistributed to campers at the time they collect their treated luggage.

If you have any questions regarding these procedures contact us at camp.elphinstone@gv.ymca.ca or 1-604-886-2025. We appreciate your support in this matter.

Sincerely,

Lisa Stiver
General Manager, Sea to Sky Region

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