

Hi hi hi!



★ I designed this queer backpacking trip, because well...
i love backpacking, and I am very queer and very trans!!
I wanted to share these joys with you all, and for us all to
create magical experiences on the land together.

I am a big overthinker, and planner. I always wished I had
more information about the experiences I was about to embark
on, especially the ones that were new or maybe outside my
comfort zone.

So I made this zine for you! I hope that it helps you gain
some information about what to expect on this queer adventure.
Remember.... that this zine just outlines what your
experience may look like. Each year is full of its own magic,
challenges and stories, and we are excited
for you to be part of this year's.



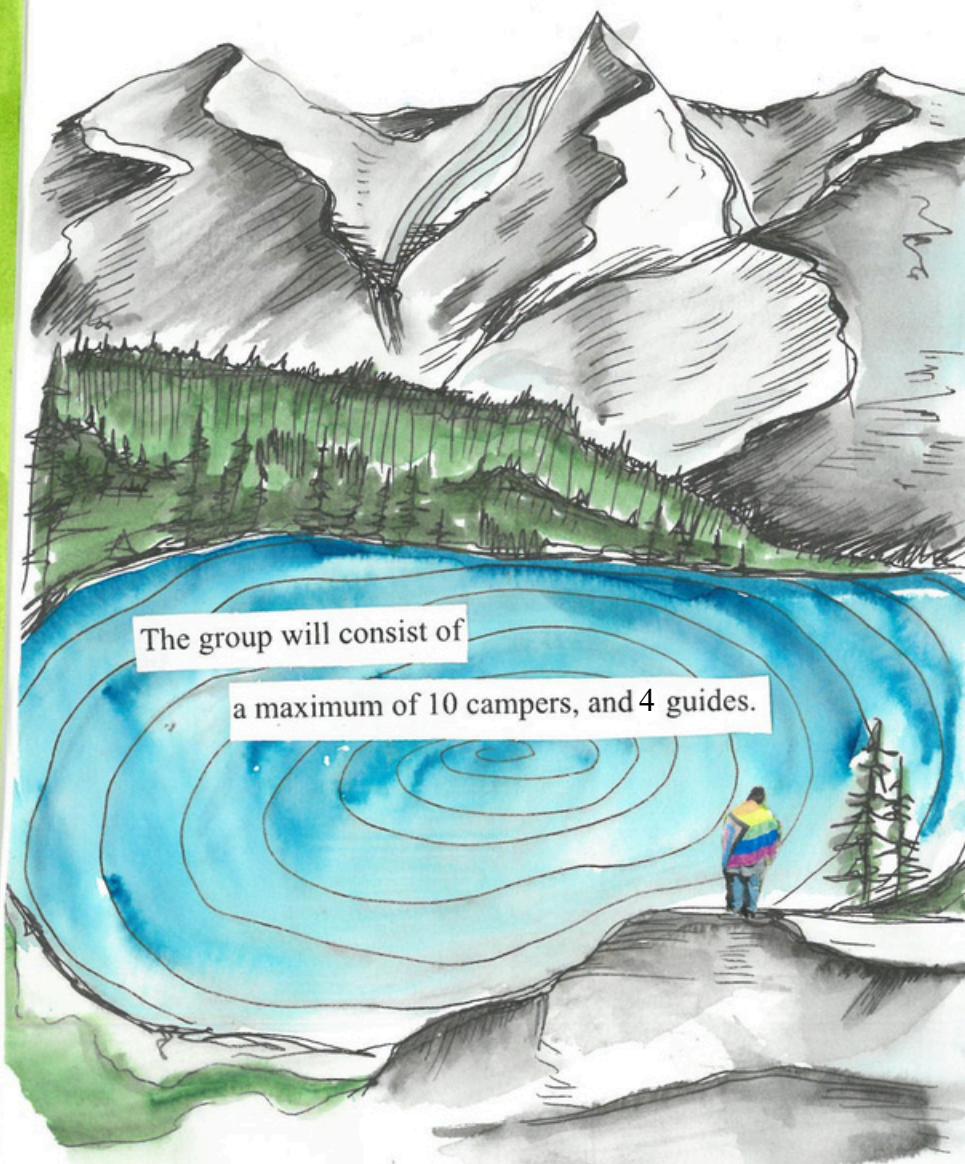
I am really excited to see you this summer!

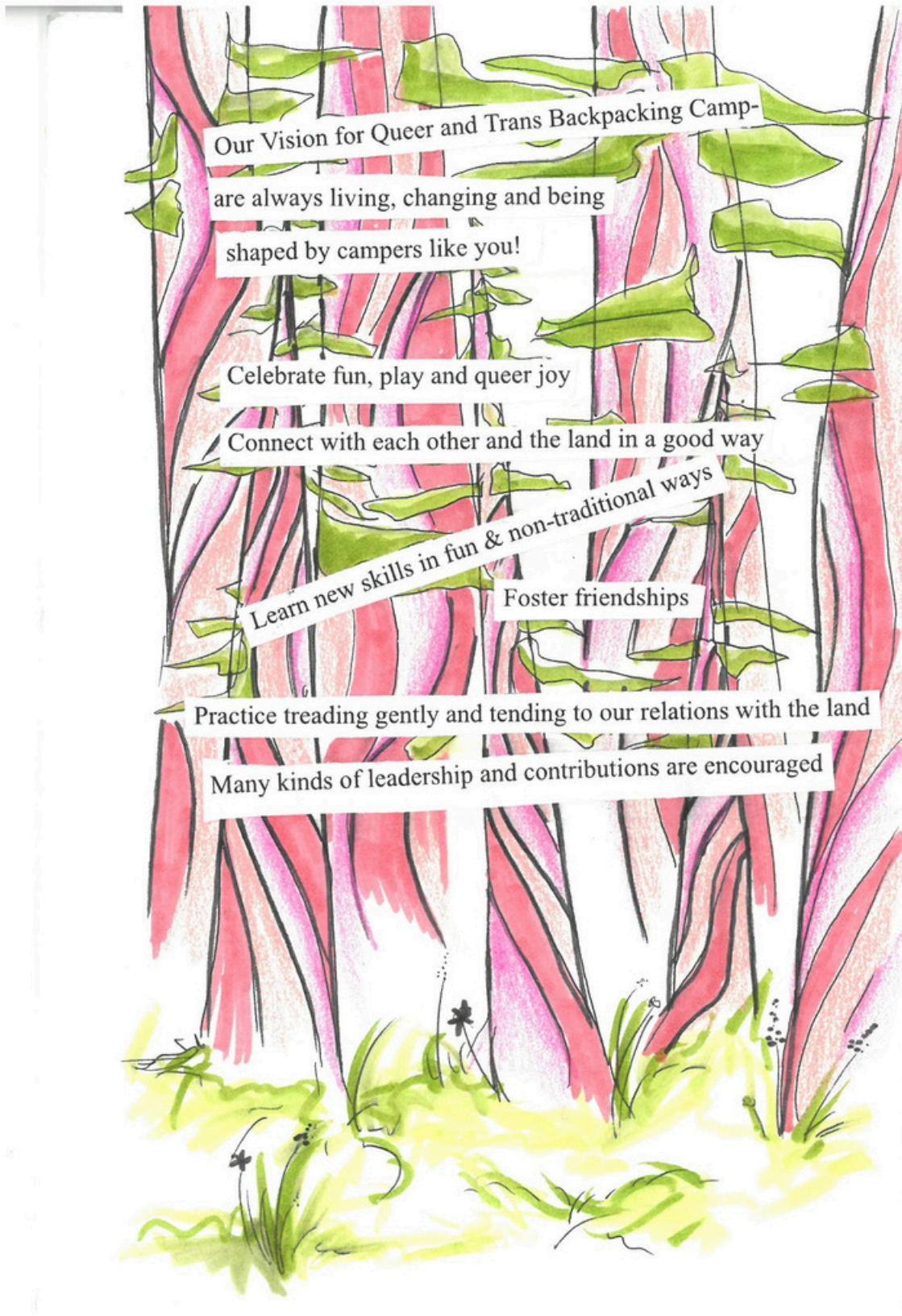
In care,

Alana

(they/them)

The Queer Backpacking Camp is a trip for queer, trans, 2-spirit teens and their allies to support creating connections and getting access to backpacking in an affirming and supportive environment. During this five day expedition we will hike and camp Strathcona's subalpine together.





Our Vision for Queer and Trans Backpacking Camp-

are always living, changing and being

shaped by campers like you!

Celebrate fun, play and queer joy

Connect with each other and the land in a good way

Learn new skills in fun & non-traditional ways

Foster friendships

Practice treading gently and tending to our relations with the land

Many kinds of leadership and contributions are encouraged

got to hang out with some of the coolest people ever!

The granola bars were so yummy

WHAT PAST CAMPERS HAD TO SAY ABOUT CAMP

I was anxious to attend, but my nerves faded as I met everyone

I got to witness so much laughter

So so glad to be part of this camp



Ahhhh! What will it look like when I arrive?

Many of us can feel nervous or anxious before arriving to start the trip. It is common that uncertainties and nervousness can be running through our mind and bodies. We welcome you to show up exactly as you are.

When you arrive you will be greeted by the office staff, and then

one of your guides, Tim or

Alana will come meet you.

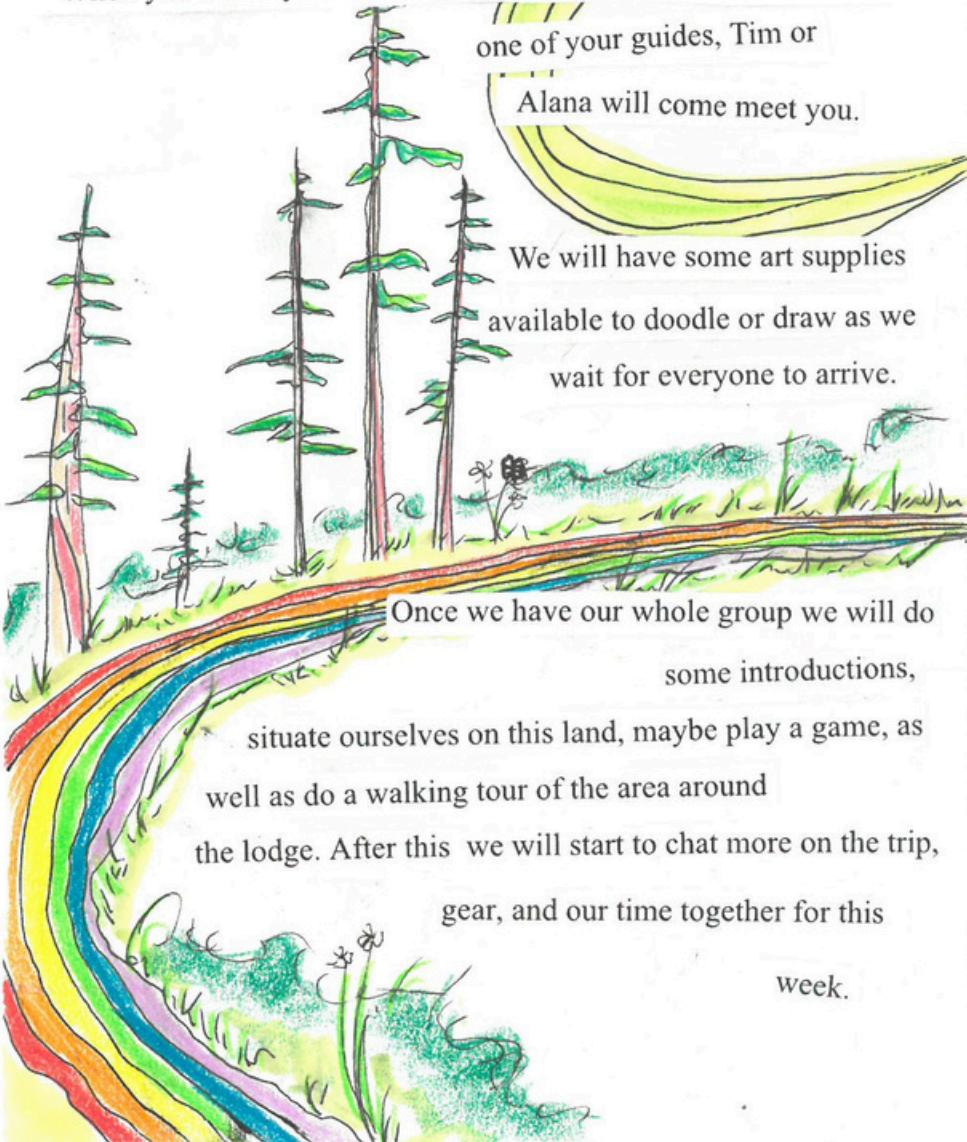
We will have some art supplies available to doodle or draw as we wait for everyone to arrive.

Once we have our whole group we will do

some introductions,

situate ourselves on this land, maybe play a game, as well as do a walking tour of the area around the lodge. After this we will start to chat more on the trip, gear, and our time together for this

week.



OUR

DAY TO DAY

DAY

1

- Meet the group - Introductions & Tour
- Pack, plan and prepare for the trip
- Dinner at the lodge
- Camp near lodge

DAY

2

- Early morning wake-up
- Pack final items and food
- Drive to trailhead
- Hike towards Backcountry Campsite

DAY

3 + 4

The itinerary for Days 3 & 4 are created together as a group. Usually we will do one day of hiking and one day of rest and art)

- Hike, Rest, Craft, Sit on the Land, Play games, Cook

DAY

5

- Early morning wake up
- Depart for Trailhead
- Drive in Van back to Lodge
- Closing and Goodbyes

- Pack up camp

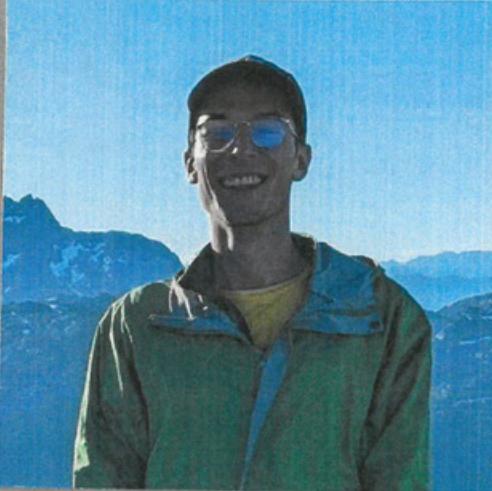




ALANA
THEY/ THEM

Hey lovely humans! My name is Alana (they/them). 

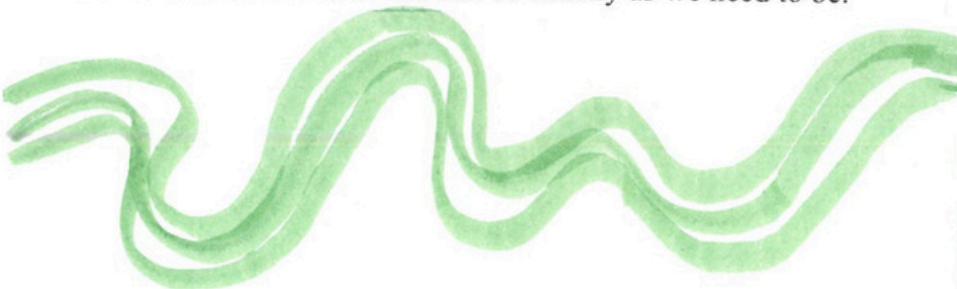
I am a joyful transmasc non-binary human and one of your two guides! I am a creative, playful and passionate Outdoor Guide, and Community Organizer who focuses on queering spaces in the outdoors. I deeply value my connections with the land, bugs, trees, berries and the people around me. I am an Adventure Studies, and Interdisciplinary student at Thompson Rivers University. When not guiding or a student, I work supporting Neurodivergent youth as a Youth Development Facilitator in Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc (Kamloops). I like being really silly, making crafts and cooking up a new creation in the kitchen. I am beyond excited to learn from you all, and co-create a space for all us queer and trans folks on the trail where we feel celebrated and can be exactly as we need to be.

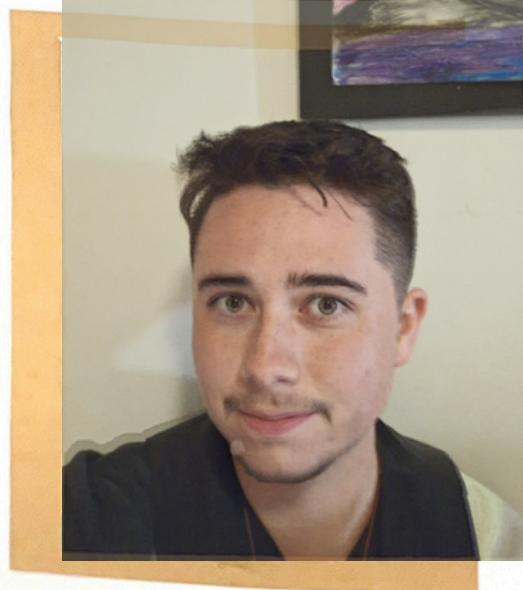


TIM
HE/HIM

Hi all! My name is Tim (he/him). I'll be one of your co-instructors for this program alongside Alana.

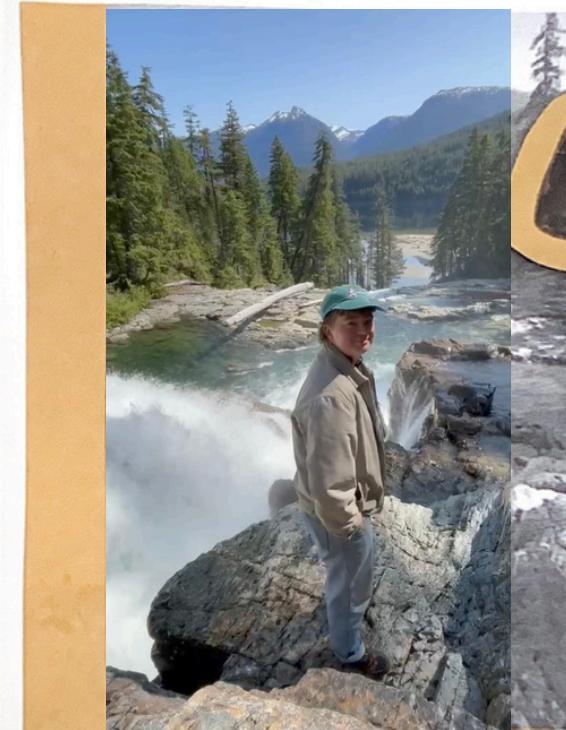
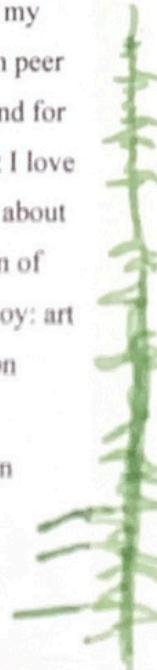
I'm a queer / gay cis man whose winding journey through life has led me to a place where I get to embark on this journey with all of you amazing individuals. I'm lucky to have grown up across Vancouver Island (in the Cowichan Valley, Victoria area, and Mount Waddington area). I am currently living on unceded Musqueam territory (Vancouver) and attending the University of British Columbia where I'm finishing a Masters in Occupational Therapy. Prior to starting this degree, I got to work at Strathcona Park Lodge as an Outdoor Education Instructor during the 2022 and 2023 seasons. A highlight of my 2024 was getting to co-lead this camp last year with Alana, and I can only imagine the giggles that will come out of this year's camp. I am so looking forward to learn alongside you all during our time together :) See you soon!





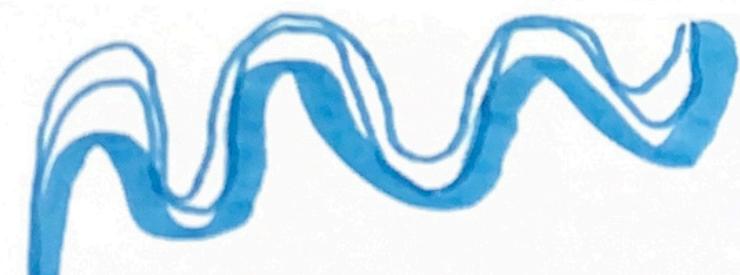
Hi my name is Ry, I use they/them/he/him pronouns, I'll be joining you, alongside Alana and Tim for the whole trip as a peer support worker and facilitator!

I'm trans-masc, and I'm Indigenous (Inuit & Cree) and mixed white settler (English, Irish, Scottish, Greek, and Austrian), I live on and grew up in traditional Secwepemc & Tsilhqot'in territory in what is colonially known as Williams Lake, where I live with my mischievous orange cat Miso. In my day job I work as a youth peer support worker and that's my role on this trip too, I'll be around for emotional support or just to chat. I have too many degrees but I love academia so if you're a nerd like me I'm always down to talk about psychology, philosophy, or your favourite subject! I have a ton of hobbies and I'm always collecting more, in my free time I enjoy: art (especially pastel art), martial arts, archery (sometimes even on horseback), juggling, writing, reading, learning languages, long-boarding, skiing, hiking, beading, knitting (trying to learn to crochet slowly), and music (I can play guitar, learning to play the piano and the accordion currently). I'd love to hear about your hobbies!



Hey Friends! My name is Levi and I'll be joining you for Day 1 and 5 of this trip as the Onsite Support Instructor!

I grew up in Guelph, Ontario and I've been in BC and the Yukon for the past 3 years. I am a transgender man and I love being active and spending time outside. I work as a ski and snowboard instructor in the winter and I'm currently working at Strathcona Park Lodge as an outdoor education instructor. I've found a lot of peace and acceptance in nature, and learned to appreciate my body for how it carries me through adventures. I'm looking forward to meeting all of you!



FOOD

When we are at the lodge for all or part of the day (Day 1, 2 and 5) we will eat Buffet Style meals. There are lots of options available.

Some Examples of Food on the Trail include:

On our expedition we will eat meals on the trail or at the campsite!

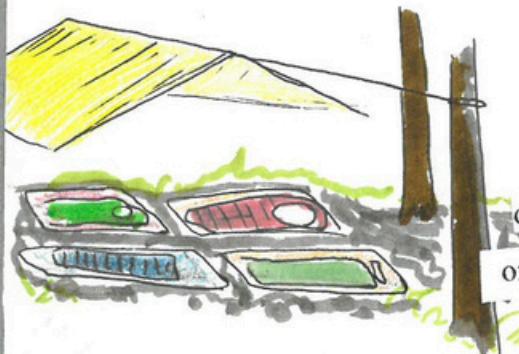
Sandwiches Noodle Soup
Fruit and Vegetables Bagels
Pad Thai Granola Bars
Oatmeal Pasta
Hot chocolate and Tea

We are happy to support you in meeting your food needs and preferences.

If you wanted to eat bagels for breakfast, lunch and dinner, because that works for you, we have no fuss about it. We trust you know what is best for your mind and body.



On the first night, we will sleep in an outdoor shelter, or inside a camping area near to the lodge.



For the rest of the trip, sleeping arrangements will be weather dependent. May sleep under tarps, or in tents (with 2-3 other campers).

If in tents, sleeping arrangements will be sorted by age, not by gender!

SLEEPING

Hiking is how we will move our bodies and gear across the land. Hiking with a big backpack can challenge our bodies and minds, and we can often feel tired. Hiking can also be a great way to chat with new friends, tell stories, and slowly get to see, smell and hear the land around us.

We like to eat lots of snacks, take breaks and sometimes even dip our toes in the river along our hike.

HIKING

We work as a team to get to our campsite, if someone's backpack is feeling too heavy we distribute the weight of our backpacks to others.

During this trip we practice leaning into each other, and our unique strengths. Every contribution is valued! In our eyes, being able to make someone laugh is as equal a contribution as it is

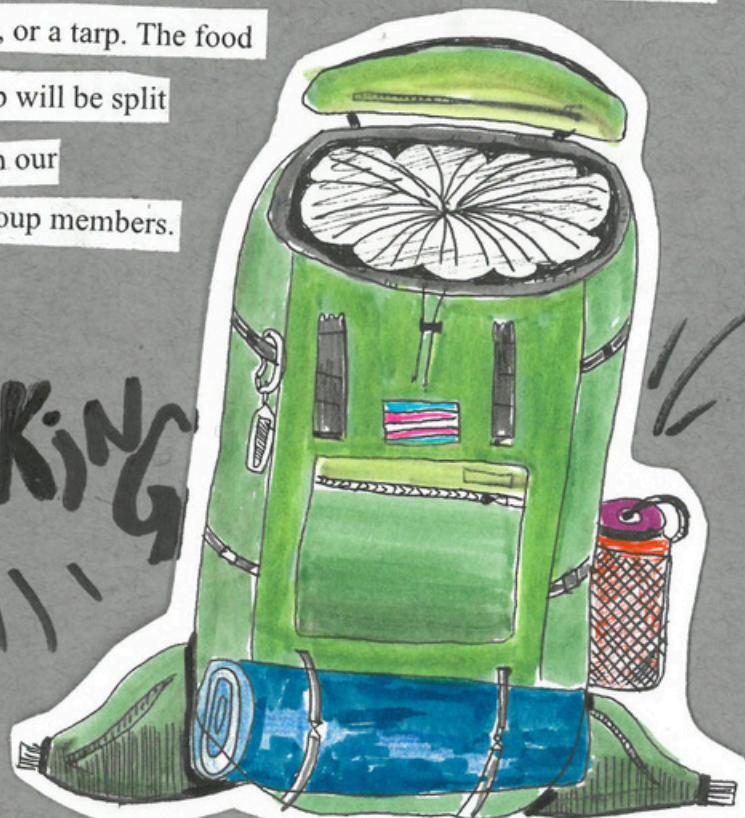
to do campsite dishes.



to carry on your back, we will teach some packing skills and help you out.

You will also support carrying some "group gear" such as a pot, art supplies, or a tarp. The food for our trip will be split up between our group members.

PACKING



In your backpack you will pack the items on the gear list sent to you by Strathcona Park Lodge.

It's okay if it doesn't seem like it will all fit, or you are worried it may be too much



Medication

If you have regular or daily medications, please bring an extra set of medication for your instructor to have as a backup.

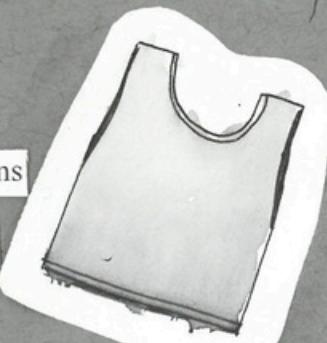


If you need/want support with reminders for medication, we are here to help.



Gender-Affirming Care

If you have any specific questions about maintaining your gender affirming ways of care



for yourself during the trip, please send an email and we can connect you with our trans non-binary instructor (Alana)

to help answer questions and make a plan.

CARE NOTES



If you use a binder we request you also

bring a sports

compression top or tank*, or

kinesiology tape as a chest binding alternative.

In the past campers and instructors have found having this is a helpful backup to have on hiking days.

Other Care Items

You are welcome to bring a small and light stuffed animal!

Note: In backpacking things can get dirty, please do not bring

any items you are very worried about damaging.



CARE NOTES cont.



Our favourite memories in the past

- we can't wait to make our own memories with you!

Thank you for reading this zine!
We hope it gave you a sense of what our time together could look like. We are looking forward to seeing you this summer and creating some special queer memories on the land.

We have both been counting down the days

(literally from last November haha) and beyond

excited you have chosen to join us. If you have any more questions, do not hesitate to reach out.

