



CAMP COSMOS

2024 Annual Report

Aussi disponible en français !

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SUMMER 2024 SNAPSHOT

Another Summer of Fun !



6

Weeks of Camp

58

Registered Campers

15

Languages Spoken

5

**Youth Mentored
through the
Youth Leadership Program**

32

**Campers Newly Arrived
to Canada**

6

**Campers Accommodated
through the
Accessibility Program**

Another year, another unforgettable summer at Camp Cosmos! For the 52nd consecutive season, our multilingual and multiethnic camp has provided a nurturing and enriching environment for families in Montreal, celebrating diversity and fostering community.

After initially facing challenges in finding a suitable location, we were fortunate to host the camp on the beautiful Selwyn House School campus in Westmount this summer. The impressive facilities provided the ideal environment for our diverse range of programs.

Our Environmental, Intercultural, Accessibility, and Youth Leadership programs flourished under the expert guidance of returning staff, while our Athletics and Wellbeing Program experienced a revitalization with its reintroduction to the camp this season.

With the help of St. James United, the Music & Dance Program moved in new directions, and thanks to the United Church Erskine & American/Mountainside Fund, the Amazing Kids at Camp Program once again provided vital assistance to families facing financial difficulties. With the support of the United Church Nakonha:Ka Region Rosemary Lambie Fund, we saw the debut of the newest addition to our summer programming: The Indigenous Knowledge Pilot Project.

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible staff members, both familiar faces and new recruits, who bring energy and enthusiasm to our camp each year. Here's to summer 2024 and to many more wonderful summers at Camp Cosmos!

Environmental Program

The arrival of our new Environmental Coordinator Mimi brought us a summer packed full of fun new activities.

Campers learned to creatively repurpose a variety of materials with fun recycling crafts, and explored the local environment with nature walks and scavenger hunts in Montreal's many public green spaces.

Once again Santropol Roulant graciously hosted us at both their Plateau urban garden and Senneville farm for hands-on gardening workshops where we practised planting, watering, and harvesting crops.

Many engaging environmental workshops were added to the program this year, including collaborations with urban farming co-op Cultivation, McGill agriculture student Sam Liptay, and more.

Thanks to a generous donation of tickets from espace pour la vie, the whole camp enjoyed a visit to the Biodome where campers had the chance to experience exciting wildlife up-close.



Intercultural Program

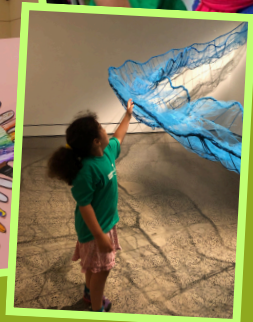
Once again, our Intercultural Coordinator Couscous did an amazing job programming activities for the campers.

With visits to the MAC museum, Centre des Mémoires Montréalaises, and Fondation PHI, campers engaged with a variety of diverse cultures and communities as they explored exhibitions, and participated in workshops.

Through workshops with the McCord Museum and Wapikoni Mobile, campers were given the opportunity to learn about some of Indigenous nations that steward the land around us.

We had the pleasure of hosting the Missing Children's Network this summer, who facilitated workshops on important topics such as outdoor safety, and self-esteem.

Through these many workshops and the fun activities facilitated for this summer's Intercultural program, campers learned the importance of inclusivity, celebrating difference, and connecting with the community.



Athletics & Wellbeing Program

The Athletics & Wellbeing Program was brought back to Camp Cosmos this summer, and with it tons of fun activities.

Of course, campers enjoyed trying out a wide range of sports with our Athletics & Wellbeing Coordinator Bucky, but soccer and basketball were by far the crowd favourites.

While the weekly trips to swimming pools and splash pads around the city kept the kids cool on hot days, we were lucky enough to enjoy two camp-wide beach days this summer, at Verdun Beach and Jean Doré Beach.

Campers discovered how to find their "inner zen" with a morning yoga session led by the talented Ying Ni, who guided the groups through fun and beginner friendly techniques.

Campers had a blast cheering on their teammates during our camp-wide field trip to the bowling alley. The fun Friday activity quickly became a crowd favourite we will be sure to add to future summer programs.



St. James Music & Dance Program

The Music & Dance Program took a new direction this summer as we incorporated the program as part of our end of summer show. Each week with their group, campers practised a song and dance to perform for family members during our end of summer celebration.

Once again, Alexandra Fol welcomed us to St. James United Church for a music workshop and tour of the St. James organ which boasts nearly 4000 original pipes, each with its own original sound. Campers got an up close look at the impressive instrument, and gained a deeper appreciation for its role in the church's musical heritage.

This summer, campers enjoyed lively square-dancing lessons, where they learned the fun steps and patterns of the energetic dance style. Once they got the rhythm down, campers excitedly showed off their new skills to each other on the dance floor.

We look forward to expanding the music and dance program next year with more by adding hope to add even more exciting activities.



Accessibility Program

Thanks to the amazing work of our Accessibility Director Bear, the program successfully accommodated a total of five campers this summer, including four returning campers and one new participant.

Campers quickly formed connections with their support workers, who provided personalised assistance to meet each child's individual needs, ensuring their full inclusion and enjoyment in the program.

The impact of the accessibility program can be seen demonstrated in a heartwarming moment we shared as one of our campers who often struggled to express herself verbally, referred to Camp Cosmos as "her family". This moment beautifully encapsulated the sense of belonging and community we work to foster through our programs.

Youth Leadership Program

The main goal of our youth leadership program is to mentor youth and provide them with an opportunity to develop important skills they can take with them beyond Camp Cosmos.

Each week our youth leaders participated in skill-building workshops on topics such as childcare safety basics, activity planning, leading a group, and working collaboratively on a team.

When they were not participating in workshops, our youth leaders served as translators, friendly faces, and role models for the campers, as they helped counselors with the day to day goings on of camp. This summer, our youth leaders played a key role in helping plan our spirit week activities, which offered a great opportunity to put their new skills to the test and witness their growth over the summer.

To recognize their hard work, the youth leaders were treated to special outings, including ice skating and a visit to La Ronde amusement park.



Amazing Kids at Camp Program

At Camp Cosmos, it is our mission to provide a quality camp experience to Montreal families at an affordable price. Through the Amazing Kids at Camp program we have successfully reduced camp registration fees from the resource cost of \$200 per week per child to just \$60 per week.

Recognizing that childcare is a vital service for families and that program fees can be a significant financial burden for those facing economic challenges, we are dedicated to further lowering or waiving fees for any family wishing to participate in our program. Our commitment is to ensure that every child has the opportunity to join us at camp, regardless of their financial situation.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our many community collaborators for their invaluable support in helping us deliver another amazing summer program! Your contributions made a significant difference, and we couldn't have done it without you!

**Kemba Mitchell
Rosetta Sowkey
Carole Brazeau
Alexandra Fol
Ying Ni
Sam Liptay
Santropol Roulant
Montreal City Mission
St. James United Church
Missing Children's Network
Cultivaction
Wapikoni Mobile
Espace pour la vie
McCord Stewart Museum
Centre des Mémoires Montréalaises
Fondation PHI
MAC Montreal
Montreal Science Centre
Westmount Library
Parc Jean Drapeau
Vie de Montreal**

+ a very special thank you to Selwyn House School for generously hosting us this summer. Your support played a crucial role in helping us deliver one of our best summers yet!



Thank you to our generous donors, whose contributions make Camp Cosmos possible. We are deeply grateful for your commitment to our mission.

**Young Canada Works
Canada Summer Jobs
United Church of Canada Foundation
EMARAL Investments INC
Brian Bronfman Family Foundation
Zeller Family Foundation
J.A. DeSève Foundation
John Baker Fellowes Family Foundation
Dufresne & Gauthier Foundation
Summerlea United Church
Saint Lambert United Church
AlterGo
Birks Family Foundation
Gloria Baylis Foundation**

It takes substantial resources to create a fun and affordable experience for families at Camp Cosmos. Please consider donating to support our mission in providing a safe and meaningful camp experience to all families in the Montreal community.

