

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Camp Cadicasu is a traditional overnight summer camp for children ages 8 – 15 in Kananaskis, Alberta.

Since 1930, we have been a haven for campers to experience the joys of summer, meet new friends, escape the city and have exciting adventures in the woods.

Unplug from Technology. Reconnect with Nature.

Contact Us

1251, 7620 Elbow Drive SW
Calgary, AB T2V 1K2
info@cadicasu.com
(403) 851-8124

www.cadicasu.com



Top 14 Traditional Camps in North America



Flight Network, the largest travel agency that is both owned and operated in Canada, conducted extensive research and analysis of summer camps in North America.

They announced a “bucket-worthy list” of camps across Canada and the US. Cadicasu ranked in the Top 14 Traditional Camps and was the only one listed from Alberta.

Top 3 Camps in the Calgary Area



Calgary’s Child Magazine readers vote each year to highlight quality family retailers and service providers in the community.

Camp Cadicasu received an honorable mention and placed in the top three winners for the category of Best Children’s Residential / Sleep-Away Camp.

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Board Chair's Message

The underlying purpose of Camp Cadicasu is to help children and youth develop their own spiritual journeys and improve their social and interpersonal skills to live a more balanced life. For this reason, I am focusing on the three cornerstones of what drives our programs.



Margie Schuett
Board Chair

Our only hope is to always “learn from yesterday with the promise that tomorrow will be even better!”

#1 – Staff Training

We believe in highlighting and improving the enormous energy and focus we put on our orientation and training programs for camp staff.



Our outstanding staff training program helps them understand that their primary role is guiding campers to grow and develop.

We create meaningful experiences based on the following:

- Campers learn about themselves.
- Nobody “falls through the cracks.”
- Counsellors are positive influences.
- Staff members support each other.
- Experiences that last a lifetime!

From the outside looking in, many people may see the camp counsellor role as an extension of one’s camper years or an opportunity to take the ‘summer off.’ **Little do they know, being a camp counsellor is the hardest job one will ever have until becoming a parent themselves.**

Hot sun, long days, campers pushing limits, and high expectations of following camp policies and protocols are just the start. However, all of this is nothing compared to the rewards one internalizes after the summer has faded. There are so many benefits to working at a camp that it is important to remember what some of them are from time to time to recognize the role that staff play in the running of our camp.

Lifelong Friendships

Our staff are amazing! They are some of the best, simply by them being there: they gave up their summer to learn, grow, and impact others' lives. Lifelong friendships develop as they live and work alongside each other.

Role Models

A counsellor quickly become one of the coolest (and most influential) people in camper's lives. Bonds form when homesickness sets in, taking long hikes, sleeping outdoors, counting the stars, listening to an owl for the first time, and laughing uncontrollably!



Counsellors Make a Difference

One counsellor recently told me, "What I do at Camp really matters." I have heard stories about helping a camper cope with her mother's debilitating depression, comforting others whose parents were fighting or separating, about aiding tweens who were coming to terms with their sexuality, battling bullies, and confronting body fear.

Since the 1930's our warm, family-oriented camp, has provided a safe and supportive environment. We have created a place where each of our campers can live dreams and make them come true in their summer home. Every summer our remarkable campers are living the dream of:

- a place where everyone belongs and knows each other's name.
- lasting friendships and endless fun.
- feeling included with cabin mates and teammates in a caring, co-ed community.
- trying new things and exploring new talents.
- having a camp big brother or sister greeting them and guiding them.
- becoming more self-confident and reinventing themselves in new situations.
- making forever memories.

#2 – Community Support

I would like to acknowledge the **FAMILIES** of the children who are put in our care. Without YOUR support and trust, we would definitely not be where we are today! It is with great humility that we thank you for your confidence in us. Having you as part of our community makes us smile a little bigger.

The incredible support from our donors who help the camp financially is invaluable. They include myriad of individuals from around the world – yes, I said around the world! They have come together for a common purpose that is singular in nature: Support the Camp Cadicasu Vision.

A profound thank-you and appreciation to the
Knights of Columbus.

Their donations are the lifeblood of our fundraising.



#3 – Leadership in the Camping Industry

Cadicasu is leading the way
in the country by
implementing this program.



www.respectgroupinc.com

We are grateful to be participating in the **Respect Program**. This training program is designed to recognize and prevent abuse, bullying, harassment, and discrimination through an online interactive course with expert education and professional certification.

The Respect Program teaches staff how to recognize harmful behaviours and what to do about them.

Every single staff member and volunteer is required to complete the training program as a condition of their employment with our organization.

Mission & Vision



MISSION

Increase confidence, inspire purpose-driven lives, and deepen spirituality for people of all different faiths.

VISION

Empower journeys of personal development toward a sustainable future with strong communities through nature connection and environmental stewardship.

We spend a significant amount of time devoted to the study of leadership in the summer camp community. We continue to maintain high standards and creative strategies to expand our capacity to be the very best we can be through:

- **Inspiring Action** – We clear away organizational roadblocks that constrain creativity and initiative to unleash a tremendous amount of energy! We are determined always strive for attaining our goals.
- **Remaining Optimistic** – Working with people who lift us up into the clouds of possibilities rather than dragging us into the mud of despair, helps us provide the best opportunities to the campers who knock on our door!
- **Having Integrity** – Honesty, fairness, being candid, and always coming down on the side of what's best for the children in our care is the most important ingredient in sustainability and success.
- **Building Confidence** – We never settle for only today. Our outstanding legacy of the last 86 years drives us and keep us humble, while giving us the courage to know that we can always do better ... and will.

Summer Camp

With so much technology in our lives today, our traditional camps offer a sanctuary in nature for youth ages 8 – 15. We explore the woods, get covered in mud, and teach campers how to build campfires.



- ✓ Arts & Crafts
- ✓ Leadership Skills
- ✓ Water Play
- ✓ Nature Awareness
- ✓ Campfires
- ✓ Out-Trips
- ✓ All-Camp Games
- ✓ Survival Skills
- ✓ Hiking
- ✓ Archery
- ✓ Earth Stewardship
- ✓ Performing Arts



Total Registrations				
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
676	748	933	944	988

Gender Breakdown		
7 – 10 yrs.	169 Male	241 Female
11 – 12 yrs.	166 Male	177 Female
13 – 15 yrs.	100 Male	140 Female

Camper Feedback Forms

Overall Experience: **9.6 / 10**

Staff Team: **9.7 / 10**

Food: **8.9 / 10**

Camper to Staff Ratio – **4:1**



Specialty Camps

Our specialty camps were created to offer challenging opportunities for teenagers to have exciting adventures and learn new skills! They allowed us to increase capacity and establish unique programs that are not offered anywhere else. We incorporated our love and respect for the environment into more in-depths camps with advanced expertise. Campers develop a deeper connection to the earth while being immersed in the wilderness.

Apisi Wilderness Skills	
2015	10
2016	30
2017	48

Leader-In-Training Program				
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
10	17	20	13	18

Piikani Backpacking Trip	
2015	5
2016	10
2017	10



NEW CAMP: Samurai (Martial Arts & Wilderness Skills)

16

Camper Comments

“I experienced a sense of peace and joy that I have never felt before.”

“When I lost my sister, my family completely fell apart. The threads holding our mismatched quilt of a family together were severed. We never fully recovered. I missed what my family was, and I still miss how it used to be. But, I’ve found another one to make up for what I lost. Camp.”



“I learned that I am capable of doing anything!”

“This was the best week of my life! I made so many new friends who are really nice. My counsellors always made sure that I was having fun. I can’t wait to come back again next year!!!”



- ✓ “I love the campfire songs!!”
- ✓ “The food was the best... yum.”
- ✓ “My counsellors rocked.”
- ✓ “Looking at stars was so cool.”
- ✓ “Archery is super fun!”

“Speechless! Camp was awesome. Keep it up Cadicasu.”

Staff Reflections

"I've learned that no matter how much I doubt myself, I have friends here who believe in me and have faith in me, even when I don't."

"I knew I would enjoy it because I love kids, but I didn't think it would change my life the way it did. The people here made me want to become a better person."



"There is such magic in everything we do here. Creating a home and a family for campers, even if just for a week. They get to be part of everything camp is, and I don't know if it will ever be possible to encompass all that in words, but I know that it changed my life and I want to keep changing others in the same way. That is the magic of camp, to be able to touch other's lives, for a split second, to watch them grow, learn, and inspire."

"I learn lessons that are incomparably more valuable than what I learn in a classroom."

"I know I am loved when I am here. I've been shown how to be a ray of light in an all too often dim world. Although we are still growing, in this moment, each of us is enough."



"Camp is where I am the happiest. It's a place where even the most anxious people feel calm."

"I finally have a home and a family."

Parent Feedback



“My son has been coming for the past six years and still can’t wait to come back every summer! He keeps in touch with camp friends and they get together throughout the year. They have been a wonderful support network for him.”

“Cadicasu is the best summer program our daughter has attended compared to U of C, SAIT, City of Calgary, and various sports camps.”

“Camp has been a saving grace for my daughter. She is bullied at school and does not have a lot of friends. Her week at camp has changed her life!! The counsellors made her feel welcome and the girls in her tribe were awesome. They all got along and had some cool adventures together. The confidence that she gained has stayed with her. I’m in awe to see such a drastic transformation. We have tried many things to help her recognize her self-worth with no success. It only took a week at a special place called Cadicasu.”

“My kids had the best time! They didn’t even want to come home.”

“We searched long and hard to find a camp that we felt comfortable sending our son to. What stood out the most is the focus on embracing diversity, no technology, and connecting kids to nature. We are grateful to have found Cadicasu!”

“Of all things, my son won’t stop talking about the food. Everything was delicious!”



Winter Camp

Our winter camp program is designed to introduce youth to the Kananaskis winter experience in a fun and educational setting. Initiated as a way to expand upon our summer camps and solution for parents who need somewhere safe and enjoyable for their children during the school holidays, winter camp has grown into its own entity. Part of a carefully designed and executed business strategy, it has assisted us in moving towards financial independence.



- ✓ Campfires
- ✓ Hiking
- ✓ Tobogganing
- ✓ Snow Forts
- ✓ Performing Arts
- ✓ Camp Games
- ✓ Storytelling
- ✓ Arts & Crafts
- ✓ Winter Games
- ✓ Nature Awareness
- ✓ Pottery
- ✓ Hide Tanning

Total Registrations

2014 – 2015	2015 – 2016	2016 – 2017	2017 – 2018
13	25	46	64

School Programs

Camp is a destination for learning, fun, and adventure for schools and homeschool groups throughout the year. With single day visits and multiple night trips available, we work with educators to meet their needs for high-quality education. These programs have facilitated business growth and development.



Students		
2015	2016	2017
145	795	854

Our goal is to increase the attendance of our school programs by double the number in the next couple of years.

- ✓ Archery
- ✓ Primitive Traps
- ✓ Leadership
- ✓ Camp Games
- ✓ Team Building
- ✓ Nature Awareness
- ✓ Fire Making
- ✓ Arts & Crafts
- ✓ Hiking
- ✓ Shelter Building
- ✓ Tracking
- ✓ Campfires & Songs

School groups have included band camps, leadership teams, outdoor education clubs, and a variety of different classes who want to enhance their environmental education while complementing the Alberta Programs of Study learning outcomes.



“Cadicasu has the best field trip options in the Calgary Area!”

Rentals

We welcome renters in our winterized cabins during the year. Located halfway between Calgary and Banff, we are close to many amenities, yet a world away. The out-of-season rental program maximizes the use of our facilities while not being used for our own proprietary programs. It was developed as a way to cover part of the administrative costs associated with running a camp.

Guests	2015	2016	2017
Accommodations Only	598	864	485
Rental & Catering	481	780	1081
Rental & Activities	0	169	594
Total	1079	1813	2160



Camp Caduceus is a hidden treasure in the heart of Kananaskis Country with over 100 beds, a restaurant quality kitchen, indoor plumbing, and recent renovations. We offer a secluded getaway in the mountains for a large group of people at an affordable price.



“Your camp was the perfect setting for our wilderness retreat.”

Nestled in the mountains, Cadicasu is the ideal location for access to hiking, skiing, snow shoeing, biking, hunting, fishing, golfing, and much more. We are close to several world-class recreational centres that hosted the 1988 Olympics.

✓ Family Reunions

✓ Yoga Retreats

✓ Weddings

✓ Churches

✓ Guides / Scouts

✓ Youth Groups

Sponsorship

Camp is a magical experience. Everyone should be able to grow and have fun at camp. Society is divided by economic, racial, geographic, religious, ethnic and social boundaries. We strive to break down these barriers!

22% Full Subsidy
78% Partial Subsidy

ALL camper fees are subsidized. Actual costs to us are more than we charge.

Campership Program

2013	* \$45,130
2014	\$15,000
2015	\$15,347
2016	\$16,035
2017	\$15,039

* Increase for flood victims.



Our Board of Directors have made it their goal to always keep the camp within the reach of all families who attend. If you would like to contribute to this wonderful program, please contact us.

Birdies for Kids



Camp Cadicasu was chosen as one of a limited number of children's charities in Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink (BFK), a non-profit program run under the Calgary Shaw Charity Classic Foundation. The Shaw Charity Classic is a PGA Tour Champions event featuring professional golfers among the likes of Golf Hall of Famers Tom Watson, Fred Couples, and Colin Montgomerie. It aims to not only provide Calgary with a world-class professional sporting event accessible to families, but also to bring much needed dollars to local charities.

Tournament Details

Name: Shaw Charity Classic
Date: August 29 – September 2, 2018
Title Sponsor: Shaw Communications
Defending Champion: Scott McCarron
Broadcast: Golf Channel

The golf tournament was held at the **Canyon Meadows Golf & Country Club**. Camp Cadicasu received 100% of every donation collected with no added fees. In 2017, BFK raised \$6.9 million for children's programs.



The most exciting part is the matching program.

Matching Structure

Tier 1 – First \$20,000 : 50% Matched

Tier 2 – Next \$30,000 : 15% Matched

Tier 3 – Next \$200,000 : 5% Matched

Camp Cadicasu raised \$109,997 and received a total net donation of **\$127,487.**

Thank-you to the **Knights of Columbus Council 4965** for donating funds to help towards building a septic field and the **Rotary Club of Heritage Park** for money to fix a balcony and stairwell.

Executive Director's Message



Heather O'Neill
Executive Director

This past year, I have been reminded of the tremendous power of camp. I have always known that it is a special place and a 'home away from home' for many. However, I didn't fully realize how transformative it could be. I witnessed how it is also a source of healing, renewal, and strength to help restore the human spirit.

Having such an amazing staff team who work together flawlessly to keep everything running so smoothly is phenomenal. The love and compassion that they embody is truly a testament to their kind hearts.

Thank you so much to the wonderful families who trust us to guide their children, the selfless donors who help us improve camp, and the devoted board of directors who shape our foundation. Camp continues to exist because of you. The remarkable community that you have all created continues to radiate the magnificent beauty and history of this camp, while reconnecting people to our ultimate role of caretaking the earth and each other.



The campers inspire us to never lose sight of our vision and work toward the peace, love, and joy that we all deserve.

I am grateful to be involved with a camp that creates a safe place for people of all different backgrounds to come together in unity. I look forward to more seasons with renewed passion and faith.

Board of Directors

The Members of the Board of Directors have been an integral part of the camp legacy ensuring sustainability for a very special institution that has lasted over eight decades.

Margie Schuett

President, HR Committee, Finance Committee, Fund Development Committee

Isaac Faubert

Vice President, Alumni/Volunteer Committee, Finance Committee

Rebecca Kalmacoff

Treasurer, Finance Committee

Willis Winter

Secretary, Knights of Columbus, Fund Development Committee

Frank Walsh

Past Chair, Construction Committee

Ken Veness

Director, Finance Committee Chair

Bob Schuett

Director, Legal Counsel, HR Committee

Martin MacDonald

Director, Fund Development Committee

Patti Iredale

Director, Fund Development Committee

Fr. Eric Nelson

Director, Chaplain

Georgia Dinning

Director, Fund Development Committee

James Friesen

Director, Finance Committee

Leanne Gyorffy

Director, HR Committee

Their leadership and dedication have been a guiding force and tribute to the significance of camp.

Ex-Officio

Heather O'Neill

Executive Director

Dan Ruether

Camp Coordinator

Maaike Rawcliffe

Bookkeeper

Shaun Riddle

Program Coordinator

Mike Nelson

Director Emeritus

Ryan Kalmacoff

Director-at-Large

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 5:30 pm

Hotel Blackfoot

5940 Blackfoot Trail SE

Calgary, AB T2H 2B5

Contact us for a copy of our 2017 audited financial statements.

**Corporate Access: 500017652
CRA Charities Reference: 0877779**



**“Our fingerprints don’t fade
from the lives we’ve touched.”**