



2025 Annual Report



Camp Cadicasu Association of Calgary



April, 2026

Prepared by
Tomas Semeta





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2025 At a Glance

1015

Summer
Campers

167

School Year
Campers



34

Rental & School
Groups

1670

Rental & School
Group Participants

83

Total Off-Season
Program Hours Offered

Message from Board President



As we reflect on the 2025 season at Camp Cadicasu, I am reminded that some of the most meaningful growth comes not from moments of certainty, but from the quiet strength we find in times of questioning. This year was a journey—one filled with renewal, learning, and courageous steps into the unknown.

For me personally, and for our camp community, the learning moment has been about self-acceptance, resilience, and a deepening understanding of self-worth. We faced real challenges—transitions in leadership, shifting demographics, and increasing pressure to do more with fewer resources. At times, it would have been easy to feel inadequate or unsure of our place in the world. But like so many campers do each summer, we leaned into the discomfort and found meaning in the journey.

What we discovered was powerful: that our rich history, our dedicated people, and our shared memories are not just part of the past—they continue to shape who we are, providing comfort, strength, and identity. Even in moments when we might feel "not chosen" or unsure, we find value in showing up, building community, and creating something joyful and lasting.

We re-imagined how we operate, welcomed new staff with open arms, and embraced new ways of doing things—always with the goal of serving campers better, and securing a sustainable future for the camp we love. We've worked hard to grow our capacity, increase potential revenue streams, and better manage our financial resources. These steps are essential to meeting the evolving needs of our families and becoming a year-round home for learning, connection, and adventure.



Margie Schuett

Board Of Directors
President

And none of this would have been possible without the incredible individuals—staff, volunteers, alumni, and donors—who believe in Camp Cadicasu's mission and vision. You were our steady hands and open hearts as we navigated unfamiliar terrain. Thank you for choosing to stand with us, time and time again.

As we look to the future, I carry a profound sense of gratitude for what we've accomplished and excitement for what's ahead. We are not the same camp we were 10, 20, or 90 years ago—and that's something to celebrate. We are still becoming. Still learning. Still striving to be kinder to ourselves, to others, and to the Earth. That is the Camp Cadicasu spirit, and it will carry us forward.

Message from Executive Director



As I reflect on the past year, it's clear that Camp Cadicasu has navigated a period of both challenge and opportunity. Leadership transitions and evolving operational needs required a great deal from our community, and I want to recognize the resilience and dedication of our board, staff, volunteers, and supporters who helped carry Camp Cadicasu forward during this time.

Despite these challenges, the year also brought meaningful progress. We focused on bringing back past programs, continued to deliver impactful camp experiences for children and youth, strengthened our operational footing, and began laying the groundwork for expanded programming. These efforts have positioned us well as we look ahead and reach for new and exciting horizons.

This past year has given us the chance to evaluate what we do best and where we can grow. We are moving forward with a renewed focus on program diversity and quality, increased year-round use of our facilities, and building stronger connections with schools, community groups, and partners. Expanding access, enhancing our offerings, and ensuring long-term sustainability are key priorities as we plan for the future.

With lessons learned, renewed excitement, and a clear sense of direction, Camp Cadicasu is well positioned for thoughtful, intentional, and strategic growth. I am grateful for the continued belief in our mission and excited to build on this momentum together in the year ahead.



Tomas Semeta

Executive Director
Camp Cadicasu
Association of Calgary

About Us

Our History

Camp Cadicasu began in 1930 at a Bragg Creek location as a small boys' choir camp operated by St. Mary's Parish in Calgary. Through the 1950s, it evolved into a broader summer camp—welcoming girls, becoming a registered non-profit, and adopting the name Camp Cadicasu—while expanding its facilities and programming.

From the 1960s through the 1980s, the camp strengthened its community roots with long-serving leaders, introduced co-ed programming, and upgraded its infrastructure. By the late 20th century, it had become a well-established traditional camp with strong leadership continuity.

A major turning point came in the mid-2000s after a fire destroyed the mess hall and the camp separated from the Calgary Catholic Diocese. This initiated a full transition to an independent non-profit and relocation to Kananaskis Country, where a new site opened in 2010.

Since then, Camp Cadicasu has focused on growth and innovation—launching year-round programming, school and leadership programs, school-year camps, and rental offerings to support financial sustainability. It has also earned multiple awards, expanded inclusivity initiatives, and adapted through challenges like COVID-19 by introducing programs such as Forest School.

Today, Camp Cadicasu is a recognized and evolving outdoor education organization offering diverse, inclusive, and year-round experiences for children, families, and communities.

Our Values

Diversity and equity are at the core of who we are. Cadicasu is a safe space for people regardless of socio-economic status, religious background, ethnicity, gender, race, and/or sexual orientation. We have competent and caring leaders who ensure that everyone can grow and learn in an inclusive environment.



Inclusive



Compelling



Inspiring



Sustainable

Our Vision & Mission

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

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

Board of Directors

Margie Schuett

Director / President (2008)
Chair Executive Committee/Finance Committee/HR
Committee/Fundraising Committee

Rebecca Kalmacoff

Director (2010)
Chair of Audit Committee / Executive Committee

Willis Winter

Director (2012) / Secretary
Special Projects Chair/ Executive Committee

Isaac Faubert

Director (2013) / Volunteer / Alumni (Staff 2003)

Robert M. Schuett

Director (2019) / Legal Counsel

Karen Connellan

Director (2019)
Marketing and Appreciation Wall

Ian Clark

Director (2024)
Finance Committee

Richard (Dick) McDougall

Director (2023)
Casino Event Chair / School Board Liaison

Keaton Taylor

Director (2025) / Alumni (Staff)

Year-Round Staff

2025 was a year of transition guided by a leadership team with deep, long-standing ties to the camp, many spanning decades. Grounded in a strong understanding of its history and traditions, the team built on past successes and challenges to move forward and prioritized re-establishing the camp's impact, creating a renewed sense of consistency and stability.



Tomas Semeta
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Years Working at Camps: 27
(1 Year @ Cadicasu)



Alex Fernandez
SITE MANAGER
Years Working at Camp: 4
(4 Years @ Cadicasu)



Maaike Rawcliffe
FINANCIAL ANALYST
Years Working at Camp: 13
(13 Years @ Cadicasu)



Olivia Gyorffy
GUEST & FOOD SERVICE MANAGER
Years Working at Camp: 9
(13 Years @ Cadicasu)



Dawn Tofsrud
BOOKKEEPER
Years Working at Camp: 1
(1 Years @ Cadicasu)



Natalie Carter
OFFICE MANAGER
Years Working at Camp: 4
(6 Years @ Cadicasu)



Celia Gyorffy
CAMP MANAGER
Years Working at Camp: 9
(14 Years @ Cadicasu)



Tanisha Maclaren
DAY CAMP MANAGER
Years Working at Camp: 9
(11 Years @ Cadicasu)



Blake MacDougall
CAMP MANAGER
Years Working at Camp: 6
(11 Years @ Cadicasu)

Summer Staff 2025

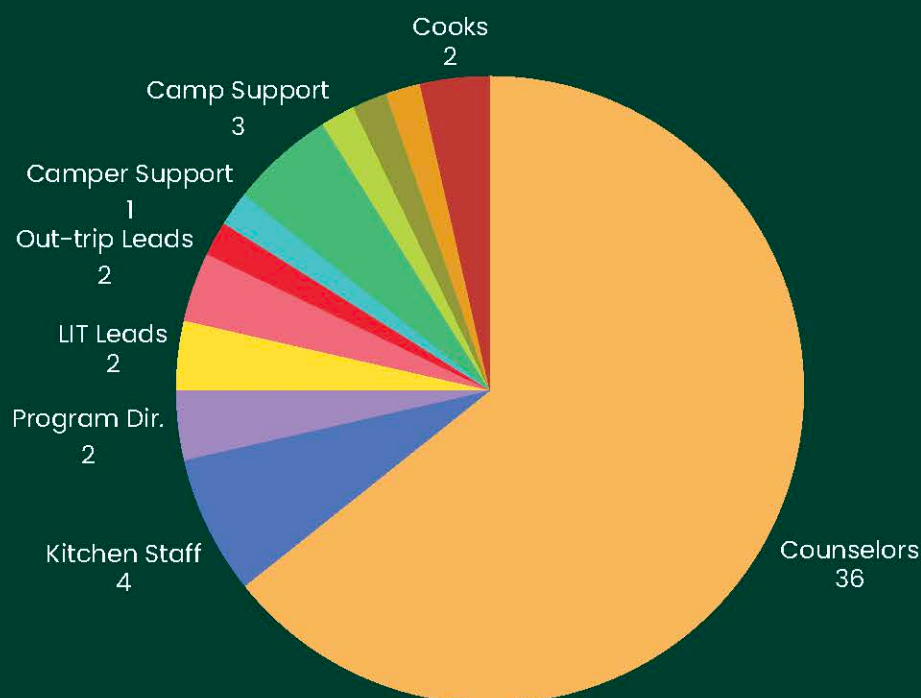
Hundreds of people apply every year to work at camp. Through our very strict vetting process, we choose the best candidates possible who we would trust with our own children.

Once hired, staff go through extensive training on topics such as program development, care-giving, emergency procedures, risk assessment, age-specific characteristics, behavior management, safeguarding policies, and out-tripping techniques.

12 International staff:

- Spain
- Republic of Ireland
- Australia
- United Arab Emirates
- Jamaica
- the United Kingdom

The rest of our staff team came from across Canada: Calgary, Montreal, Edmonton, Cochrane, Toronto, Mundare, Okotoks, and Lethbridge.



The challenges of 2024 resulted in a smaller number of returning staff (43.75%) in 2025. Our focus, efforts and intentions this year was to leave a lasting impact on our seasonal staff and, consequently, increase staff return rate.

Three of our staff members this season were awarded a plaque of recognition for the five years they have served at Cadicasu. Two of these staff were lifelong campers and one was our first International staff to continuously work for five years!



Summer Camp



Camp Cadicasu is the best place to create life-long memories! With so much technology in our lives today, our camp offers a sanctuary in the forest for youth ages 7 – 16. We focus on activities that highlight the importance of nature-connection. The wilderness provides a perfect place for discovery, curiosity, compassion, and adventure. We embrace the values of simplicity so campers can grow more comfortable in their own skin. Being at camp offers an opportunity to unplug and experience the transformative power of nature.

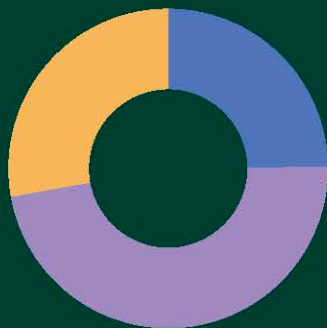
We go back to the basics by exploring the woods, getting covered in mud while building primitive shelters, and teaching campers how to make their own fires. By increasing awareness of the world around us, we underline the importance of existing harmoniously with all of creation by virtue of honouring the earth and natural world.

Total Registrations



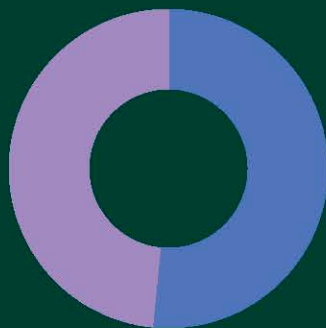
Overall Age Breakdown

● 5 - 9 ● 10 - 12 ● 13 - 17



New vs Returning

● New ● Returning



Traditional Camps

Overnight & Day Programs

Our programs are designed to meet individual camper needs and are modified based on each cabin group. Environmental stewardship and nature awareness are the foundation of everything we do at camp.

NEW IN 2025! Day camps were introduced during every summer camp session to offer families more options to choose from and create opportunities for campers to 'try-out' camp before committing to an overnight session.

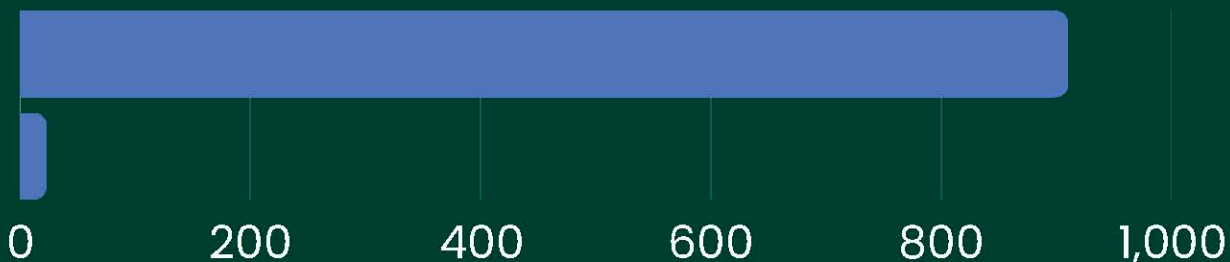


Offered Activities

- Ⓢ Daily Campfires
- Ⓢ Hiking
- Ⓢ Water Play
- Ⓢ Out-Trips
- Ⓢ Earth Skills
- Ⓢ Fire Making
- Ⓢ Arts & Crafts
- Ⓢ All-Camp Games
- Ⓢ Shelter Building
- Ⓢ Archery
- Ⓢ Performing Arts
- Ⓢ Leadership

Overnight

Day



Specialty Camps

Our Specialty Camps were created to offer challenging opportunities for teenagers to increase their awareness and learn how to be comfortable in the sanctuary of nature. They allowed us to increase our summer capacity and establish exclusive programs that are not offered anywhere else.

By focusing on the skills of our ancestors who were caretakers of the land, campers develop a deeper connection to the earth. They explore Kananaskis Provincial Park with talented instructors who are specifically hired to share their expertise from their respective fields. We are continuing to grow and expand these camps.



APISI: Earth Skills

Apisi teaches campers techniques required to not only survive in the wilderness, but to thrive and enjoy the outdoors. Learn bushcraft such as shelter building, bow drill fire, tracking, camouflage, cordage, and more.



ONAWA: Advanced Earth Skills

This program is for campers who want to dive deep into more advanced survival skills and the philosophy behind them. Graduates of the Apisi program are recommended to try this, but anyone ready for a challenge is welcome.



SUMMIT: Backpacking Introduction

Summit provides an awesome experience for campers looking to participate in longer hiking trips. With two separate excursions throughout the week, they get a taste of more difficult out-trips and view some beautiful sights.



JOURNEY: Backpacking Expedition

Journey is an opportunity for hikers who are eager to experience the breathtaking beauty of the mountains. Campers are guided along trails with heavy packs through various terrain and elevation levels.



EKTA: 2SLGBTQIA+

A unique opportunity for youth who identify as part of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to come together in a safe space. Campers create a support network with others through a shared experience outdoors.

Specialty Camp Registrations

Includes LIT's



After the loss of our Specialty Camps in 2024 (only LIT program was offered in 2024), we committed to the revival of these very special and unique Cadicasu programs in 2025. This return of our Specialty Camps received a very positive response from our camp community. We will continue to develop these one-of-a-kind programs to offer more unforgettable experiences to our campers in the future.



Leadership Programs

LIT: Leader-in-Training Program

Our LIT program creates young leaders in our community. Participants gain skills and practical work experience. Leadership development and responsibility are at the core of this transformative program. We had 30 total participants in our LIT programs through the season.



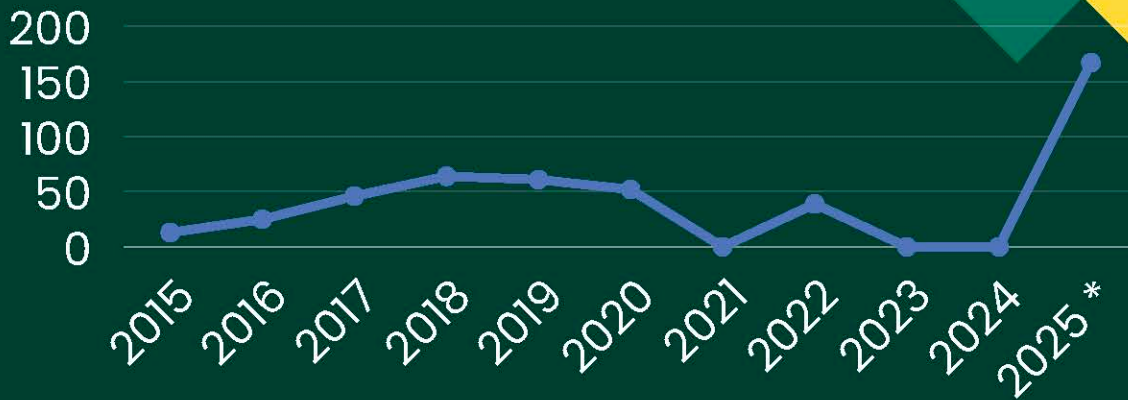
School-Year Camps



With the change of seasons, School Year Camps are designed to introduce youth to the beautiful Kananaskis landscape in a fun and educational setting. With no WiFi, these programs promise a better connection to others and nature than anything else!

What started with just a Winter Camp some years ago, is now growing into a unique experience during each of the major school breaks. These fantastic experiences expand upon our summer camps and also offer new opportunities for families seeking a safe and enjoyable option for their children during the school holidays.

School-Year Camps



* Includes Day Camp campers from day programs offered during the Teacher's Strike of 2025 as well as new school year camps.



Winter Camp

Cadicasu Winter Camp is back after a couple of years' hiatus. With its inception over 10 years ago, Winter Camp has slowly become its own unique entity and has grown significantly through the years. Unfortunately, due to administrative changes and operational challenges, Winter Camp was not offered in 2023 or 2024 and we were very happy to see it back this year (with new Day Camp option) and we look forward to seeing it grow in the years to come!

Fall Break Camp

As we expand our year-round program offerings, we were very excited to offer a new and unique day and overnight camp opportunity in the beautiful foliage of Kananaskis Country. Campers got to experience camp in the magic of Kananaskis Fall with its special activities and new friends. This first annual Fall Break Camp was a success and we will look forward to seeing it grow and develop in the future seasons.

Day Camps

NEW IN 2025!!! In addition to the unique opportunity to offer Day Camp programs during the Teacher's Strike, we started offering day camp programs during all our overnight camps during the school year. This extends camp opportunities to a wider range of families and kids.



Rentals

We invite a variety of groups to utilize our winterized cabins year-round. Situated midway between Calgary and Banff, we are nestled in the heart of Kananaskis Country. Our facility is designed to accommodate guests, allowing them to fully enjoy our amenities.



By increasing rental group opportunities, we are able to not only extend the Cadicasu experience to a broader range of participants but, also, to offset a portion of our operational costs, which in turn helps us maintain affordable summer registration fees. With over 100 beds, a restaurant-quality kitchen, ample fresh air, indoor plumbing, and recent renovations, we provide an idyllic mountain retreat for all.

Total Rental Group Participants
(includes school groups)



Rental Group Breakdown



School Groups

We increasingly welcome schools at Camp Cadicasu for engaging outdoor education that is different than anything else! We offer day field trips or multiple night excursions that increase physical literacy and meet the Alberta Program of Studies. Environmental stewardship is the foundation of all our programs.

Outdoor Education Focus

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. Contact us to book our facility.

School Group Participant Total



Financial Report



As we reflect on 2025, our financial picture is best understood alongside the reach and impact of our programs. Over the course of the year, Camp Cadicasu welcomed almost 1,200 campers and fulfilled 34 rental bookings, demonstrating strong demand across both our summer camp and year-round camp and group use.

Our revenues were driven primarily by camp registrations and facility rentals, reflecting a balanced and diversified operating model. In addition, approximately 11% of our total revenue was generated through donations and grants. These contributions remain an essential part of our organization, helping to offset operating costs, increase accessibility, and directly support our campership program. This enables more children and youth to experience camp regardless of financial barriers.



On the expense side, our largest investment continues to be in our people. Labour costs represent the most significant portion of our budget, reflecting our commitment to providing safe, high-quality programming. In 2025, we employed a strong seasonal team to deliver our programs, alongside our dedicated year-round staff who support operations, administration, and program development.

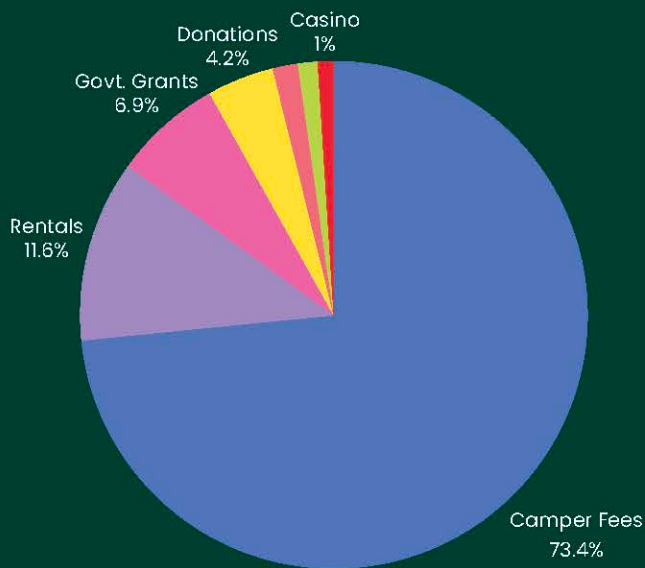
Importantly, 2025 also marked meaningful progress in strengthening our financial position. We were able to significantly reduce our overall debt, and we remain committed to continuing this momentum in the years ahead through careful financial stewardship and disciplined planning.

Overall, our financial approach remains focused on sustainability, accessibility, and program quality and diversity. By aligning our resources with our mission, we continue to ensure that Camp Cadicasu delivers meaningful and transformative experiences while building a strong foundation for future growth.

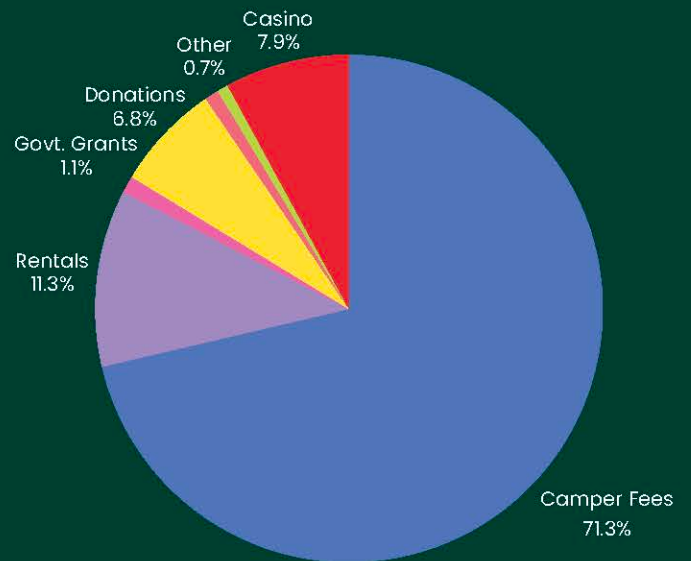


Revenue & Expenses

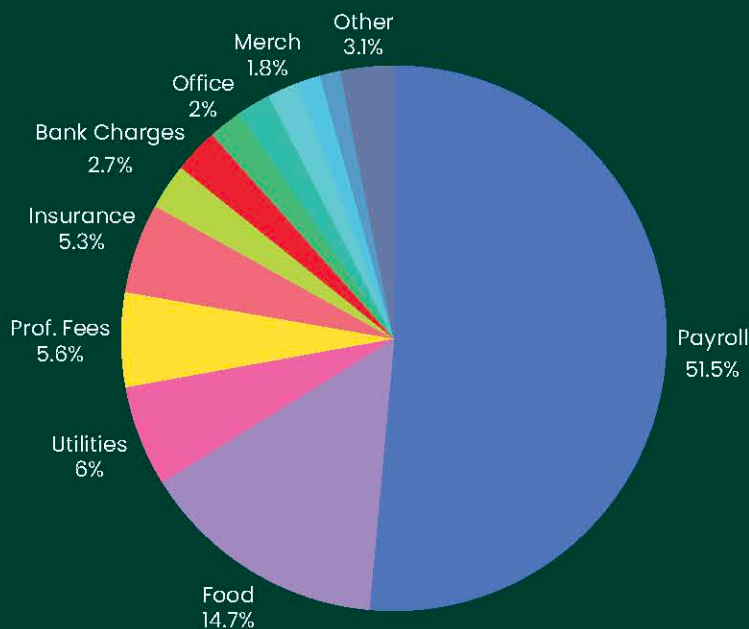
2025 Revenue



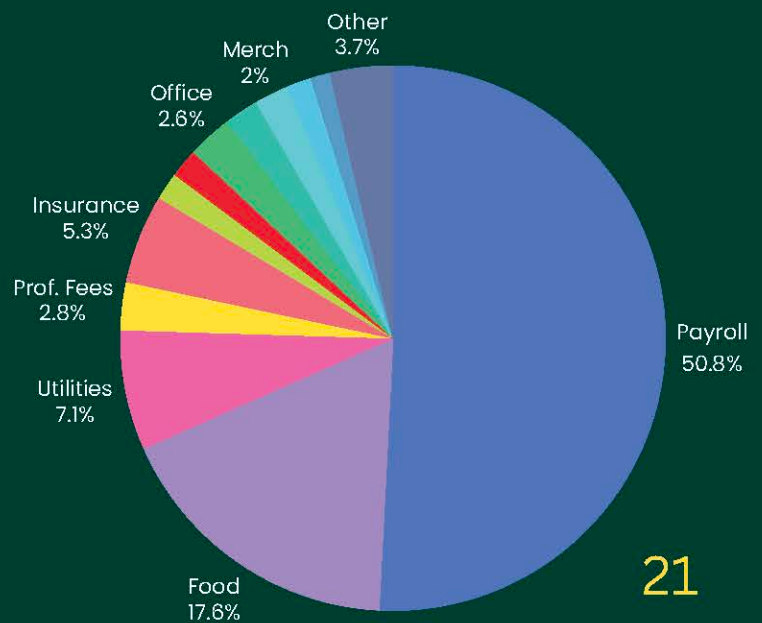
2024 Revenue



2025 Expenses



2024 Expenses



Campership Program

Summer camp is such a magical place, and we don't want that experience limited to only certain kids. Everyone should have the opportunity to grow and have fun at camp!

Acceptance and appreciation of all people is learned through being a part of our diverse community. The relationships and solidarity that flourish at camp are nothing short of amazing.

All our camper fees are subsidized.
Our actual costs are higher than our fees.

It is with great pride that we continue supporting camp families. We provide financial assistance to several campers. Society is divided by economic, racial, religious, ethnic, and social boundaries. As a charitable organization, we strive to break down these barriers through our unique Campership Program to make camp accessible.



Total \$ Amount of Camperships



Support

THANK YOU! Your generous support helps us grow the camp vision to extend it to new campers, groups, and generations. We are still here today because of individuals and organizations (like Knights of Columbus and many others) that continue to support us. Close to 2000 campers and guests visit us throughout the year at our beautiful site in Kananaskis Country and we're looking forward to welcoming many more in the years to come.



Birdies for Kids (BFK) presented by AltaLink is a non-profit program run under the Rogers Charity Classic Foundation. Camp Cadicasu was chosen as one of the charities they support.

The Rogers Charity Classic is a PGA Tour Champions event featuring professional golfers among the likes of Golf Hall of Famers Tom Watson and Fred Couples. It brings much needed dollars to local charities. As a three-time recipient of the President's Award (2014, 2015, and 2017) as the top event on the PGA Tour Champions, the Rogers Charity Classic has become a staple event, promising a world-class experience for golf fans and non-golf fans alike.

Camp Cadicasu generated a total of \$44,472 in donations!

Every birdie builds a brighter future — and you can help make it happen. ❤️ 100% of funds donated go directly to participating charities, with donations matched by up to 50%.

Support the Rogers Charity Classic today!



We are an independent non-profit association with no parent organization that provides us with funding to remain operational. Every amount is helpful.

Corporate Access: 500017652 • CRA Charities Reference: 0877779
Business Number: 84909 9411 RR0001

Wish-List



\$10	\$90	\$200	\$750
Camper T-Shirt	Staff Uniform	Camp Mattress	Campership
Sponsors one camper t-shirt	Sponsors one staff uniform	Replaces one camp mattress	Gifts one free camp session

\$2,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000
GaGa Pit	DH Table	Platform Tent	Mower
Builds a new GaGa Pit (the most popular camp game)	Sponsors one commercial-grade, cafeteria table	Build one platform tent for our Specialty Camp programs	Sponsors a zero-turn mower

\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$25,000
Camp Mattresses	Garage Roof	Kitchen Stove	Kitchen Freezer
Sponsors replacement of all old camp mattresses currently in use	Sponsors replacement of camp garage roof	Sponsors a new, commercial grade kitchen stove	Sponsors a new upright, commercial kitchen freezer



Thank You!



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