



YMCA Calgary

Camp Chief Hector YMCA Summer Camp

KANANASKIN 13Y – GRAY JAY

PROGRAM:

Horse



Focusing on fun, friendship and responsibility, this 13-day program provides a wide range of horse-related opportunities as well as participation in a backpacking trip. The Hike/Horse program is based out of the Camp Chief Hector YMCA's Gray Jay site (90km west of Sundre, near Yaha Tinda). This area of Alberta is well-known for spectacular riding terrain and trails.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Campers will live in tipis at the Gray Jay Site
- A wide variety of group-initiated activities such as large and small group games, arts and crafts, swimming in Eagle Creek and campfires.
- Experienced, qualified and friendly staff members
 - o 40-Hour Wilderness-oriented First Aid
 - o Satellite Telephone & First Aid Treatment and Evacuation Guidelines
 - o 10 days of staff training including group leadership and risk management
 - o Prior experience in the region AND/OR specific reference to previous trip reports and references
- These Pioneer programs build on the Kananaskin programs, specifically the Hike, Trip to Gray Jay, or Hike/Horse options.
 - o It is not necessary to have participated in previous years' programs, however some skills, knowledge and comfort level with outdoor learning and adventures is always welcome
 - o Each year, campers can expect to review and learn new skills and leadership strategies. This includes their role in risk management, safe cook site practices, group meal planning, communicating with teammates, self-confidence, and increasing their abilities to lead others both indirectly and directly.
 - o Basic fitness and a positive attitude are key to making this a fantastic experience.

GETTING TO AND FROM GRAY JAY

Campers and staff travel by bus directly to the Gray Jay site from the Shane Homes YMCA at Rocky Ridge in NW Calgary. Upon arrival at Gray Jay, campers and leaders are welcomed, given a tour, and move into their tipi. Campers will stay at Gray Jay for the duration of their session, and return to Calgary by bus, where parents/guardians can pick them up at the Shane Homes YMCA at Rocky Ridge.

Read the **GRAY JAY Kananaskin Horse** packing list.

Building healthy communities



GRAY JAY KANANASKIN 13Y

HORSE

Campers in this program will have fun and make new friends while developing their hiking, horsemanship, and leadership skills. They will have the chance to practice cooking meals over a stove, learn hiking strategies, map reading and navigation, as well as how to saddle a horse and develop their riding skills. Campers will share their personal goals and develop group goals for both their backpacking trip and horse experiences. They will have the opportunity to be a leader within their tipi group as they help facilitate games and take turns leading the group during their backpacking trip.

Horse Experience:

- The group will meet their equine partners for their approximately 4-day horse experience.
- Counsellors for this group are especially experienced with horsemanship and will help the group determine their levels of comfort with horses.
- The riders learn and review how to care for and prepare a horse for riding
- As the session progresses, the group will spend time in a riding arena where they learn the basics of horsemanship and get to know their horses. The campers play mounted games in the arenas, learning more about the various gaits of horses. They will go on a trail ride and explore the local forests. At the corrals, these campers help to care for their horses and learn about equine risk management, training, feeding, first aid, and horse behaviour.

Day Hikes:

- The group will explore the local area on two day-hikes during which campers will learn basic skills, increase their comfort level, and continue developing as leaders and teammates.

Overnight Backcountry Trip:

- The focus of this trip will be for the group to have a fun experience together. They will travel between 2 to 8 kilometers per day and spend usually 3 days at an established backcountry campsite. This is an opportunity for campers to explore and develop comfort and a sense of belonging in the natural world.
- Before departing, the group will review risk management practices for backpacking trips. Topics such as wildlife concerns, kitchen practices, identifying and avoiding/managing exposure to heights, rock fall, weather systems, and creek crossings will be discussed.
- The mountain trips depart YMCA Camp Gray Jay by foot, mini-van or truck and travel on trails within the local Yaha Tinda valley. Daily, the hikes vary from 2 to 8 kilometers, on-trail and off-trail, through forests, and beside mountain creeks and lakes. The groups may gain anywhere from 200 to 600 meters of elevation along the way. Camping sites are situated by mountain forests, creeks or lakes. Side trips may include exploration of viewpoints, mountain passes, or waterfalls.

GRAY JAY KANANASKIN HORSE 13Y FEMALE \$1415 + GST			GRAY JAY KANANASKIN HORSE 13Y MALE \$1415 + GST		
Session	Dates	Barcode	Session	Dates	Barcode
1	Jul 8 – 20	134253	1	Jul 8 – 20	134257
2	Jul 22 – Aug 3	134254	2	Jul 22 – Aug 3	134258
3	Aug 5 – 17	134255	3	Aug 5 – 17	134259
4	Aug 19 – 31	134256	4	Aug 19 – 31	134260