



YMCA Calgary

Camp Chief Hector YMCA Summer Camp

PIONEER 14-15Y – GRAY JAY

PROGRAM OPTIONS:

Horse
Hike



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 new 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 Pioneer packing list](#).

Building healthy communities



PIONEER 14/15Y – GRAY JAY

HORSE

Campers in this program will develop their horsemanship, hiking and leadership skills during their time at Camp as they explore the Yaha Tinda area both on horseback and in hiking boots.

Campers are expected to 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 head to the corrals to meet their horses and to discuss their levels of experience with horses. They will spend time both in the arenas and on trails in the surrounding area.
- The group will spend approximately 5 days riding and learning about horsemanship and horse care.
- Groups discuss how each person may manage the risks associated with horsemanship. The group learns and reviews how to groom and saddle a horse. The group then heads to a riding arena where they may mount their horses and ride, learning and reviewing the basics of horsemanship and getting to know their horses. The campers play mounted games in the arenas, learning more about the various gaits of horses and expand their riding skills.
- Some time is spent exploring on horseback the spectacular mountain trails found throughout Yaha Tinda - trails that cross the meadows, hills, creeks, rivers and through forests
- At the corrals, campers help to care for their horses and learn about equine risk management, training, feeding, first aid and horse behaviour.

Overnight Backcountry Trip:

- This focus of this trip will be for the group to have a fun experience together and for campers to explore and develop a sense of belonging in the natural world. Groups will travel between 2 to 8 kilometres per day and spend the night at an established backcountry campsite.
- The group will head out for a day trip first, to get to know or relearn the basics of travelling as a group.
- The group will discuss risk management topics such as wildlife concerns, kitchen practices, rockfall, snowfields, weather systems, creek/river crossings and identifying and avoiding exposure to heights.
- The hikes average from 2 to 8 kilometers daily, on trails and off trails, through forests, and beside mountain creeks and lakes. The groups may gain anywhere from 200 to 600 meters in elevation daily along the way. Camping sites are situated by mountain forests, creeks or lakes. Side trips while on the hike may include exploration of viewpoints, mountain passes and waterfalls.
- On the last day of the backpacking trip, the group returns to the Gray Jay site, where they share stories of their explorations and successes.

Rafting

- The group will participate in a day-long rafting trip down the Red Deer River. This experience is led by guides from Inside Out Experiences.



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GRAY JAY PIONEER HORSE 14-15Y FEMALE \$1545 + GST			GRAY JAY PIONEER HORSE 14-15Y MALE \$1545 + GST		
Session	Dates	Barcode	Session	Dates	Barcode
1	Jul 8 – 20	134146	1		
2			2	Jul 22 – Aug 3	134153
3	Aug 5 – 17	134148	3		
4	Aug 19 – 31	134149	4		

**PIONEER 14/15Y – GRAY JAY
HIKE**

Campers in this program will develop their hiking and leadership skills during their time at Camp as they explore the Yaha Tinda area.

Campers share their personal goals and develop group goals for both their backpacking trip and camp experience. 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.

Day Hike

- Before leaving on their camping trip, the group will explore the local area on a day hike, during which campers will learn basic skills, increase their comfort level and continue developing as leaders and teammates.

5-Day Backpacking Trip:

- The group will discuss risk management topics such as wildlife concerns, kitchen practices, rockfall, snowfields, weather systems, creek/river crossings and identifying and avoiding exposure to heights.
- The hikes average from 5 to 15 kilometers daily, on trails and off trails, through forests, and beside mountain creeks and lakes. The groups may gain anywhere from 200 to 900 meters in elevation daily along the way. Camping sites are situated by mountain forests, creeks or lakes. Side trips while on the hike may include exploration of viewpoints, mountain passes and waterfalls.
- On the last day of the backpacking trip, the group returns to the Gray Jay site, where they share stories of their explorations and successes.

Rafting

- The group will participate in a day-long rafting trip down the Red Deer River. This experience is led by guides from Inside Out Experiences.

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Session	Dates	Barcode	Session	Dates	Barcode
1			1	Jul 8 – 20	134276
2	Jul 22 – Aug 3	134274	2		
3			3	Aug 5 – 17	134277
4	Aug 19 – 31	134275	4		