



УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ДИТЯЧА ОСЕЛЯ
«ЗЕЛЕНИЙ ГАЙ»
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX YOUTH CAMP
«GREEN GROVE» (On Wakaw Lake)
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Celebrating Unity and Tradition: Green Grove Ukrainian Orthodox Summer Camp 2023

Green Grove Ukrainian Orthodox Summer Camp at Wakaw Lake has been a beacon of Ukrainian culture, religion, language and community for generations. Our mission is the promotion of the Ukrainian Orthodox religion, Ukrainian culture and the promotion of fellowship amongst youth.

Youth Camp (2 Weeks) July 9 to 23:

The Ukrainian Orthodox Youth Camp, directed by Jordan Welbourne for his second year, spanning two weeks, brought together 71 young participants from various backgrounds and locations (11 displaced Ukrainians). This unique experience allowed them to immerse themselves in the traditions and values that have shaped the Ukrainian community.

Through workshops (Karen Pidskalny Sopatyk-Ukrainian Museum of Canada), and hands-on activities and crafts, they learned about the Ukrainian Orthodox faith, language, and culture. The weather was pleasant during the two weeks and lots of outdoor activities were enjoyed especially archery, Kozak games, canoeing, flag football and swimming!

We received lots of food donations but special mention to All Saints Saskatoon and Holy Trinity Saskatoon for donating holubsti and verynyky! A parent of one of the campers organized a cooking bee and made the children and staff pelmeni which was new to our most of our Canadian campers and a taste of home for the young ones from Ukraine. What a wonderful treat for all!

Dance and music have always been integral to Ukrainian culture. Campers were immersed in the art of Ukrainian dance and singing combining older and newer renditions, with daily classes and performances. These activities not only celebrated our heritage but also promoted physical fitness and teamwork.

Everyday the campers engaged in religious services, learning about Orthodox traditions, and understanding the spiritual significance of our heritage. Father Michal Lomazkiewicz instructed the first week and Father Patrick Powalinsky the second week. Father Patrick's schedule was as follows: Monday: Introductions & Feast days of the Nativity; Tuesday: Baptism of Jesus Christ, Baptism of Ukraine and activities of the Jordan Feast; Wednesday: Pascha, and cultural aspects Thursday; Pentecost and cultural aspects Friday: the Sacraments of Communion and Confession. What a great time the campers had learning about baptisms in the lake and evening swim by Father Patrick! Ukrainian language lessons were taught by our counselors who did an amazing job which is an integral part of the experience, helping campers connect with their roots and fostering linguistic diversity.

The session concluded with Holy Communion and Divine Liturgy for all our campers and Orthodox community officiated by Father Peter Wasylenko. It all culminated with a colorful concert and all campers contributing their dancing, singing and poetry talent.

Teen Camp (1 Week) July 23 to 30:

Teen Camp immediately followed youth camp under the direction of Berit Johnson for the second year! It was a condensed and relaxed version of the youth camp, catering specifically to teenagers. It provided a platform for 20 teens (7 displaced from Ukraine) to explore their faith and cultural identity while forming lifelong friendships.

Activities included religious discussions with Father Taras Makowsky and Father Patrick Powalinsky, cultural showcases from several guest speakers including Emily Johnson (petrikivka), Valya Matushenko & Masha Shpak (dance workshop), NASHI (presentation on human trafficking), Judy-Ann Chabun (art), Marnie Howlett (culture talk), Azaria Antosh (nature hike) and Berit Johnson (embroidery and tryzub pendants), that reinforced the importance of our strong heritage. Outdoor activities such as flag football, swimming, canoeing, games, keep the teens active while promoting teamwork and cooperation.

We have several youth campers graduating from Youth camp so, we are hoping to have a bigger session next year!

Camp Projects:

As the bathroom project concluded, the camp initiated a fundraising campaign for the reconstruction of the schoolhouse. A heartfelt thank you goes to Bernie Kapaniak, Robert Rudy, and Mike Kotelko for spearheading this incredible project and overseeing the much-needed work. Their efforts were vital in ensuring that the children have a conducive learning environment and preserving a building that is part of our history.

Ongoing Support:

The success of Green Grove camp would not be possible without the financial support we get from many organizations. This summer Canada Ukrainian Foundation and Vesna Festival have supported 11 youth and 7 teens financially to attend our camp. Green Grove Camp would also like to thank SUS and UCC for their generous and dedicated financial support over the many years. Along with the support of our churches, members and Orthodox community and friends we have been able to ensure our campers get the best summer experience while promoting our Ukrainian culture and faith. In turn, we also promote the importance of supporting these organizations.

Looking Ahead:

As we celebrate this year's camp, we are excited to announce that next year will mark the 75th anniversary of the Green Grove Ukrainian Orthodox Summer Camp. This momentous occasion promises to be a grand celebration of our heritage and the values that have guided us throughout the years. We invite all past and future campers, as well as the broader Ukrainian Orthodox community, to join us in commemorating this milestone which will take place from Saturday July 20 to Sunday July 21, 2024.

The success of the camp hinges on the invaluable volunteer hours (from our Board members and volunteers) and financial support we receive from our Ukrainian Orthodox community, parishes, levies,

and grants. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Schevchenko Foundation, UCC, and SUS for their unwavering support. Special thanks to Tanya Maximiuk for diligently auditing our financials. To everyone who contributed to another triumphant youth camp session, your collective efforts made this achievement possible. We eagerly anticipate another remarkable year ahead and express our gratitude to each and every one of you for making it all happen!

In conclusion, Green Grove Ukrainian Orthodox Summer Camp remains a cherished institution that not only imparts knowledge and appreciation for Ukrainian culture and Orthodox faith but also nurtures lifelong friendships and a sense of belonging. The generous support of our community ensures that this tradition continues to thrive, paving the way for future generations to connect with their heritage and strengthen the Ukrainian Orthodox community in Canada.

Lesia Kotelko Lange

President

Green Grove Ukrainian Orthodox Camp