

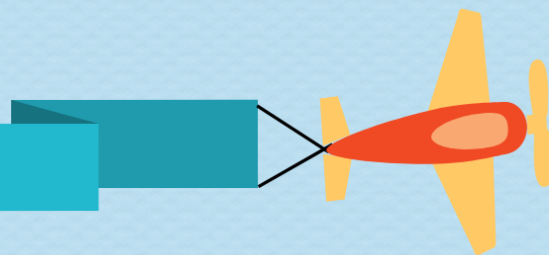


Camp Cosmos



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Aussi disponible en français!



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Camp Cosmos 

Established in 1971, Camp Cosmos is a Montreal landmark in terms of summer camps, well-known in the social services community. This summer, we received over 140 registrations between our two locations, maintaining impressive numbers while perfecting our services. We proudly welcome families from refugee, immigrant, and low income communities, providing a quality summer experience at a very low cost. We are always improving, looking for new ways to adapt to the needs of the families we serve and we are very happy to share this year's successes with you.



26 languages spoken by our campers



Brand new locations!

This year, our two camps moved to new premises. After months of searching for the perfect sites, we finally found two gems that suited our needs.

Our downtown camp made its home in Westmount Park United Church, in the middle of a wonderful playground of nature, while remaining easily accessible to our parents. Meanwhile, our West Island location is now the First Christian Reformed Church, in Dollard-des-Ormeaux, minutes away from a park and bus routes. Many thanks to our tenants for hosting us this year - we are looking forward to coming back in 2020!

By the numbers	2015	2017	2019
Campers	73	121	140
Counselors	6	10	11
Shadows	4	8	9
Leaders in Training	9	8	10
Campers with Disabilities	9	14	10
Languages spoken	15	27	26

Youth Leadership Program

Once again this summer, we included a unique Shadows-in-Training program component, where teenagers between 14 and 17 learn to assist our shadows in accompanying children who have special needs.

The CC Youth Leadership Program is a great opportunity for teenagers to learn valuable skills through our training and weekly workshops dedicated to their interests in social justice and childhood development.

Many thanks to St. Columba House for providing training to our young counselors during the school year.

Athletics & Well-being

This summer we further expanded our Athletics Program to include not only traditional sports-based programming but also initiatives with the overall well-being of our campers in mind. Our Athletics Coordinator planned various sporting activities alongside cooking and baking workshops in order to educate our campers about what kinds of fuel makes their bodies move in the games they love so much. During staff training, our counselors learned how to provide inclusive and accessible programming so that all of our campers were able to participate in moving their bodies and eating yummy nutritious food. Access to fresh garden vegetables and wide open green space at both our locations allowed us to run a successful and well-rounded Athletics and Well-being program that included activities such as dance workshops, volleyball and soccer tournaments.



Environmental Education

Summer 2019 saw the continued expansion of our Environmental Program. Our new locations have allowed us to have compost and recycling services on site for an even more convenient and educational approach to waste management for our campers. Campers reused and re-purposed materials for fun activities such as personalized plant pots and boat building contests. Hiking trips and visits to community gardens allowed our campers to really experience nature. The access to practically unlimited green space at our new camp locations has allowed us to increase the amount of time among trees, grass and wildlife more than ever before!

Intercultural Exchange

This year's Intercultural Program at Camp Cosmos continued to bring together the various cultures and communities that make up our camp community. Emphasis was placed on sharing aspects of campers' and their families' cultures, educating our campers about Indigenous issues and acknowledging the issues that immigrants to Canada may face in a comprehensible fashion. Our new Intercultural Coordinator took pride in creating fun and age-appropriate ways of presenting such topics and balancing them with fun activities such as body mapping, therapy dogs and cooking activities that enabled the children to understand the beautiful similarities and differences that exist between us all!

Accessibility

In 2019, we were able to hire 9 shadows to accompany our campers with special needs.

We were grateful for our fantastic team, lead by our Accessibility Directors, who provided support and resources for our campers who have disabilities. Four days of training helped them to adapt the daily camp activities to ensure that all our campers were included and able to participate.

At Camp Cosmos, we are proud to create a welcoming environment where each camper receives the support they need to shine.



Summer Highlights

Montreal

Our trips to Verdun Beach and Sentier Urbains, as well as our activity with therapy dogs, were huge successes. The staff and campers loved the new space, with its great kitchen, where we hosted cooking activities with our campers, and being located right next to beautiful Westmount Park was a joy!

West Island

Successes at our Dollard-des-Ormeaux camp included outings to Ubisoft World where kids played in ballpits and slides, and experimented with Virtual Reality. The Cap Saint Jacques natural reserve was also a great trip and our campers had the pleasure to collect butterflies, ants and other insects at the nature alley with a workshop hosted by GUEPE.



Adieu Phil!

After five years of faithful service as coordinator, downtown director and camp executive director overseeing our two sites in Montreal and on the West Island, Philippe Besner will be leaving us at the end of the year. Phil recently received the good news that he was accepted at the *Institut national de l'image et du son* where in January he will begin his studies in the field of film direction. Phil, many thanks for your contribution to Camp Cosmos over the years and best of luck as you pursue your dreams. Stay in touch!

2020 Here we come!

Camp Cosmos has been expanding quite a bit over the past few years.

This year, we decided to focus on maintaining our high standards of care in order to sustain our growth. In 2020 we hope to continue our efforts to improve our organisation, based on our values of inclusion and social justice, and to offer an affordable day camp experience to vulnerable communities.

Thank you!

Thanks to the many organizations we partnered with for fun activities this summer!

CKUT	Red Urban Project
CRAPAUD	SPCA
Eco-Quartier Saint James	Santropol Roulant
Jeunesse 2000	Sentier Urbain
Maison de la Culture	Shakti Rock Gym
Marie-Uguay	The Center for Community Organizations (CoCo)
Midnight Kitchen	Yoga avec Ying
Montreal	
Parks Canada	

