



2018 Annual CampOUT! Stewardship Report



"The space and sense of community was really wonderful... I could really just be myself and have fun and I don't get that opportunity often."
- _ 2018 camper

CampOUT! is a social justice leadership summer camp for queer, trans, Two-Spirit, and allied youth ages 14-21 from BC and the Yukon.

Message from Camp Director, Anna White

As we wrap up our ninth year and move into our tenth, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the collaborative efforts of so many in creating this gem of a project. Nine years ago, conversations about gender and sexuality alliances in schools, gender non conformity, inclusive sexual health education, and trans health were on the fringe of society. Now they are at the center of many policy processes, educational reforms, and community development initiatives. The youth we created this camp program for are connecting with each other, service providers, educational institutions, and together are centering issues of gender, race, sexuality, ability, age, and indigeneity at every opportunity available. It is a privilege to work with and for these amazing young leaders. We're excited to share stories from the last year with you, enjoy reading!

It is with great respect that we lift up those who've contributed to make UBC the home for this project: The Jane Rule Endowment for the study of Human Relationships, The Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice, Access & Diversity, UBC VP Students, alumni UBC, and The School of Population and Public Health.

And, a big CampOUT! cheer for the organizations and individuals who've shared their time, treasure, and talents to raise the funds each year to make this educational community experience financially accessible for all youth across BC and the Yukon!

On behalf of the participants this summer who came from literally every corner of the province, **thank you.**

Message from Parents:
*"Thanks so much for the incredible CampOUT experience! Our son had a wonderful time learning, having fun and connecting with peers and role models.

We appreciate all you do!

From the bottom of our hearts thank-you,

Stacey and Brent Manson"*

Here's what campers had to say about 2018 CampOUT!



I loved being a part of a community, and being surrounded by people who can truly understand me, more than many of my friends. I also really like the accepting, affirming, and loving energy of this camp.

I liked the big dance before the last day. I felt 100% queer and okay with it.



I loved the camp leaders and volunteers because they let me talk to them and they understood & listened.

I liked the opportunity to learn more about LGBT history as well as connect with others.



I loved how I felt that I could be my full self, because I had a supportive environment.

I enjoyed being able to be open about my identity in ways I never have been before. There aren't any real queer spaces where I live so being surrounded by others of trans experience was very refreshing.



I learned about how to take space and make space.

I learned to be more confident with myself and learned how to make new friends.

I learned to swim!

Our Vision is a community where:

- “Normal” doesn’t exist.
- All forms of diversity are celebrated.
- We are agents of change.
- Each person’s individual journey is affirmed.
- People are welcome as they are.

How do we bring this vision to life?

Our work is done in a way that values capacity building, connecting communities, upstream prevention, healthy relationships, intersectional social justice, and accessibility.



Grounded in the theoretical framework of the Social Change Model of Leadership (Komives, 2009), CampOUT! creates positive and meaningful social change by addressing root problems youth are facing. Research shows that the health and wellness of youth increases when they have strong support systems and feel connected. We facilitate those connections! CampOUT! provides a space for LGBTQ2S+ youth to develop personal and interpersonal skills, group skills, support systems, and fosters resilient community development. Our intergenerational leadership team is key to the sense of belonging that campers experience at CampOUT!. The diversity of age, race, identity, and experience creates an opportunity for youth to connect with a wide range of ‘possibility models’. Stereotypes about queer, trans, and Two-Spirit communities that are reflected in the media are broken down and in turn campers’ imaginations are set free. Campers make connections that impact their lives in positive ways beyond camp.

Who is bringing the vision to life? Thank you to: [alumni UBC](#) for helping us fundraise; to the [BC Teachers Federation](#) for outreach; to the [Faculty of Arts](#) for support on website development, online forms, administration, and communications; and to our [Community Advisory Committee](#) for the many hours of selections, problem solving, reflection, education, program development, and supporting with airport pick-ups and drop-offs for travelling campers! It takes many minds to bring this vision to life! A big thank you to the 2018 leadership team and to our 2018 Camp Assistants Michael Wilkinson and Hanna Jarrett and to the [UBC WorkLearn Program](#) for subsidizing their wages.

What does camp look like?

We get on a boat together and embark on a journey of self-discovery, community building, and learning. We also encounter challenges – being away from what is familiar, getting bitten by mosquitos, unlearning harmful language, and unpacking our privilege. At CampOUT! we practise key skills for being community members:

- Balancing our needs, with those of others, while working towards a common goal
- Engaging in courageous conversations
- Taking risks
- Navigating social interactions
- Accepting ourselves while striving for ongoing growth and learning



Why CampOUT!?

While most initiatives for queer, trans & allied youth are urban, CampOUT! is an opportunity to have a safe and fun experience in nature. The trust, honesty, humor, and openness that can be cultivated in a camping situation is empowering and inspiring. CampOUT! makes this type of community building possible for youth who may not feel safe or inspired to attend other queer & trans youth initiatives, or other summer camps. Parents report that campers experiences at CampOUT! have strengthened their whole family and community.

How much does it cost?

With cost creep over the past ten years, the 2019 camp will actually cost us \$1000 per camper to run the program. In order to bring campers from all walks of life and from all around the province, we commit to making the camp as financially accessible as possible. We only asked for a \$30 commitment fee from campers for 2018. Travel reimbursements are available for all youth and we connect youth with service providers to support travel arrangements.

Who are our Funders?

This year we received major donations from [Lush](#) and [Scotiabank](#).

Our [donors, sponsors and partners](#) each year are a mix of individual philanthropists, local businesses, parents of past campers, LGBTQ2+ sports teams, United Churches and youth groups, community members and allies. Every dollar raised goes directly to the CampOUT! program. Thank you everyone!

Our History

In 2009, UBC's School of Population & Public Health received permission to run University of Alberta's Camp Flyrely to collect research on sexual minority youth in BC. The findings endorsed the need for an outdoor camp experience that was catered to the needs of BC communities and drew on the strengths of existing community members and organizations. Janet Mee, Director of UBC Access & Diversity in Student Development agreed to house the project in 2009 with the ongoing support of Fred Lee, Director of Alumni Engagement at alumni UBC. UBC has a mission to share resources with the wider community and provides the infrastructural support and core funding for CampOUT! For this project to be as meaningful and impactful as it strives to be, it is key that it is supported by the wider community beyond UBC.

This year our Community Advisory Committee was supported by folks from [Trans Care BC](#), [The B.C. Teachers Federation](#), [Out In Schools](#), [Qmunity's GAB Youth](#), [Queerest and Dearest Anglican Family Camp](#), [Love Intersections](#), and [PeerNet BC](#). UBC staff and faculty from [Alumni Affairs](#), [Education](#), [Equity & Inclusion](#), [Human Resources](#), [Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality & Social Justice](#), and [Access & Diversity](#) are members as well. Campers and Cabin Leaders from the past are valuable advisors on this committee. Our advising community partners make us stronger, more relevant, connected, and adaptable in order to meet the ever changing needs of BCs youth.

UBC's Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice

We offer our heartfelt thanks to the *Jane Rule Endowment for the Study of Human Relationships* and the Faculty of Arts for supporting the work of CampOUT! to operate out of UBC's [Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Social Justice](#) (GRSJ). We are surrounded by students and faculty engaging in social justice education and are pleased that CampOUT! can provide a very real example of theory in practice! GRSJ provides us with a supportive institutional infrastructure and operational resources. By supporting CampOUT! GRSJ is helping to fulfill the University's commitment to foster safer learning spaces and strengthen community outreach both at the Institute, on campus, and in the wider community.

What happened at camp this year?



2018 programming centered on the theme ***Our Time, Our Space!*** We created opportunities to nurture curiosity about ourselves, all beings, and the systems we exist in. We asked: How are connections made? How are we impacted, supported, and challenged by our connections? Participants gained new perspective, built community, and celebrated our many strengths and differences. Creative and experiential workshops were held in the following program streams:

Arts & Performance

- **Releasing the Rebel:** A writing workshop
- **Textual Healing:** Finding identity and healing through comics and media
- **Paper Places:** An origami workshop
- **Art Journaling**
- **Zine Scene**

Health

- **Gender Journeys**
- **HIV 101**
- **Sexual Health & Wellbeing**
- **Intro to Parkour:** Opportunities for Movement
- **Your Body is Strong!** The no-gym-pass-no-equipment-required Fitness Plan

Community Building & Leadership

- **Go Smudge Yourself:** An Intro to 4 Sacred Medicines
- **A Walk in the Woods:** A Beginner's Ecological Hike
- **LGBTQ2+ History Scavenger Hunt**
- **Tarot Toolkit:** A beginner's guide to using tarot for self-reflection and discovery
- **Affinity Groups:** Indigenous Space, QTBIPOC Space, White Settler Space
- **Fundraising in Real Life**
- **Finding your Voice & Agency at Work**
- **Rise Up!** An Introduction to Rad Activism!
- **Writing for Change!**

Camp Wide Activities and Sessions

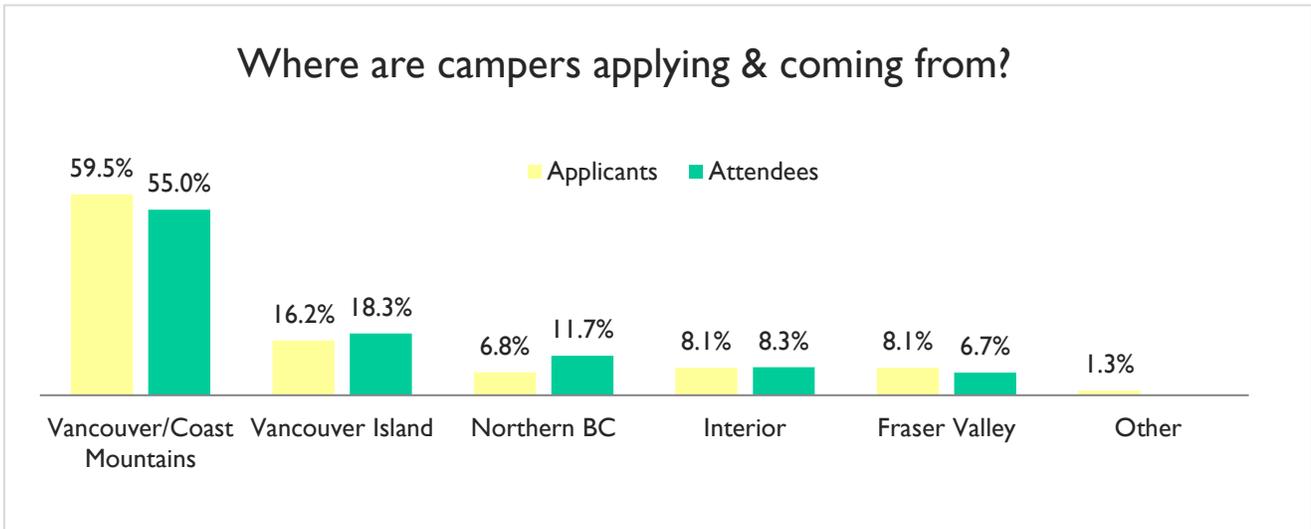
- **Trees of Me, We, and Change** (*experiential intersectional anti-oppression training*)
- **Sexual Health Q&A**
- **Community Celebration and Showcase**
- **Community Dance**
- **Happy Note Envelopes**

Campy!

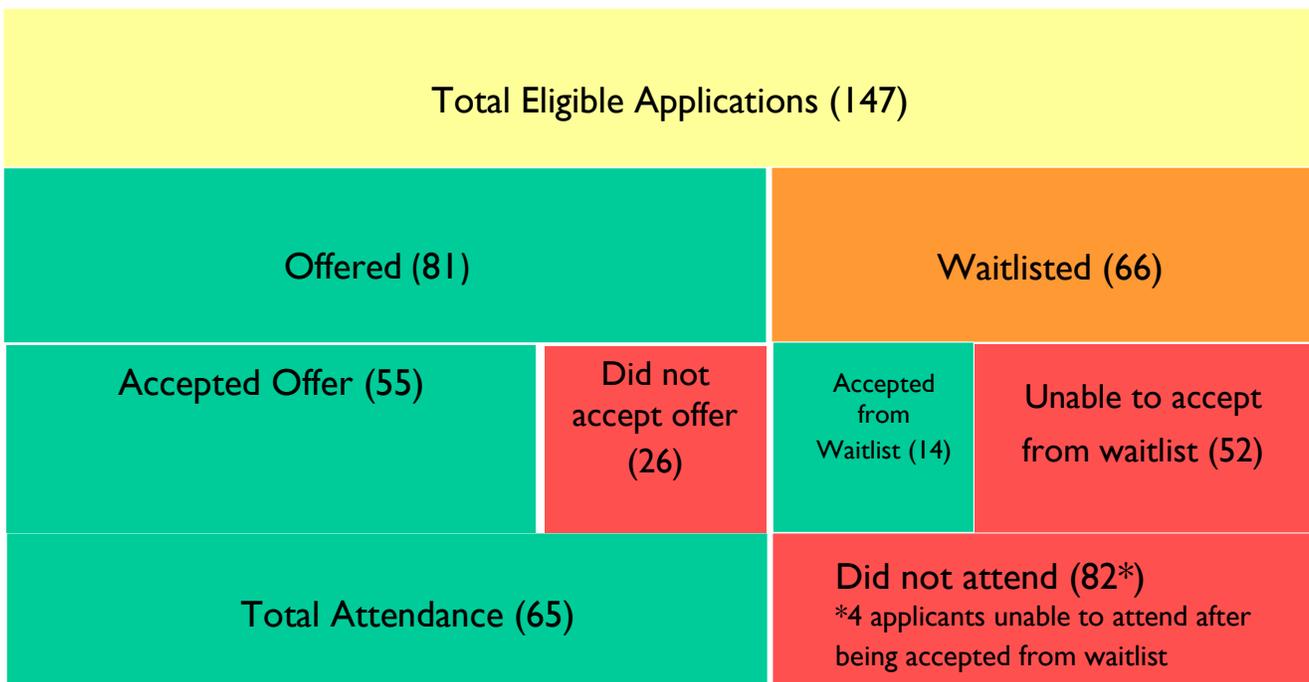
- **Ocean Canoeing**
- **Swim Like a Seal!** Swim lessons for beginners
- **Juggling**
- **Stargazing**
- **Night hike**
- **Swimming, Arts & Crafts, sports, and Campfires**

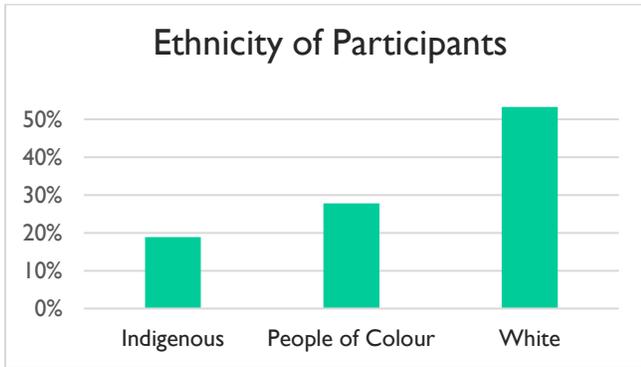
Who attended CampOUT! in 2018?

We received applications from across the province and prioritized applicants from rural communities. Campers attending from the following regions: Vancouver & Coast Mountains (55%), Vancouver Island (18.3%), Northern BC (11.7%), Interior (8.3%), and Fraser Valley (6.7%). Each paid a nominal fee of \$30 to attend. Travel reimbursements were provided to those who needed assistance.



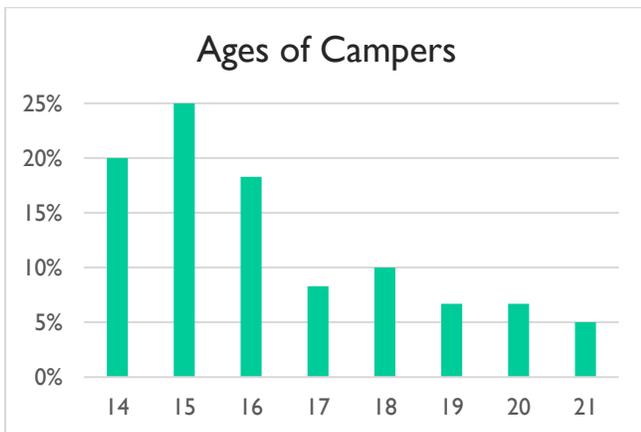
95 applicants were offered a place at CampOUT! and 65 Campers attended the program. Queer, trans, questioning, two-spirit, and allied youth in BC have vastly different experiences from one another based on their communities, families, cultural experiences, support systems, school, and community resources. The campers at CampOUT! reflected this diversity .





The **ethnicities** of all participants (campers + leadership team) were:

18.9% Indigenous,
27.8% non-Indigenous BPOC, and
53.3% white

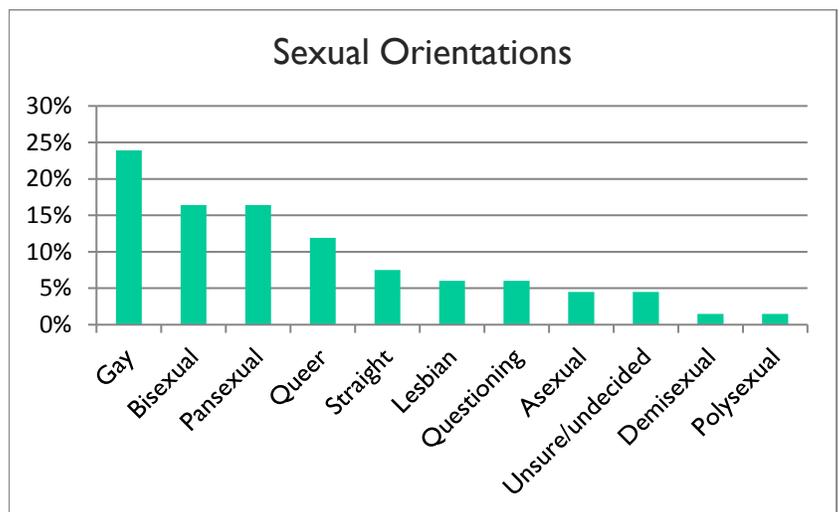


Campers were between **14 and 21 years of age**, with the following distribution:

- Fourteen (20%)
- Fifteen (25%)
- Sixteen (18.3%)
- Seventeen (8.3%)
- Eighteen (10%)
- Nineteen (6.7%)
- Twenty (6.7%)
- Twenty-one (5%)

Campers **self-identified as the following sexual orientations** prior to camp (*non-exclusively*):

- Bisexual (16.4%)
- Pansexual (16.4%)
- Queer (11.9%)
- Gay (23.9%)
- Lesbian (6%)
- Asexual (4.5%)
- Demisexual (1.5%)
- Polysexual (1.5%)
- Questioning (6%)
- Straight (7.5%)
- Unsure/undecided (4.5%)



Campers **self-identified their gender*** prior to camp using the following identities (*non-exclusively*):

Broad Identity	Identity Detail	Percent % *
Men Total (cis & trans)		33.4%
	Boy	21.7%
	Male	11.7%
Women Total (cis & trans)		21.6%
	Girl	13.3%
	Female	8.3%
Trans Total		20.1%
	Trans man	11.7%
	Trans masculine	1.7%
	Trans non- binary	1.7%
	Trans boy	5%
	Trans girl	6.67%
	Trans feminine	1.7%
Gender Non-Conforming Total		18.3%
	Gender queer	3.3%
	Genderfluid	1.7%
	Non-Binary	8.3%
	Agender	3.3%
	Androgynous	1.7%
Two Spirit		5%
Femme		1.7%
Questioning		1.7%

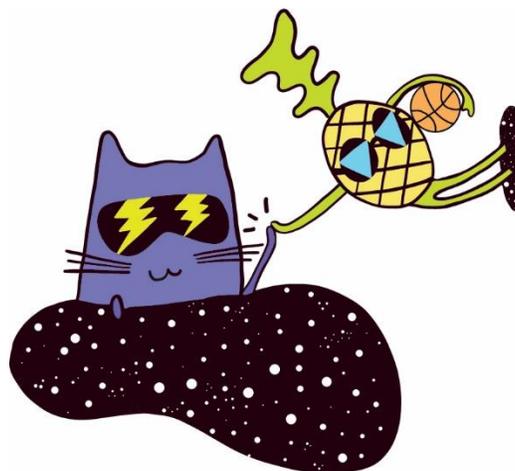
Note: Identities are not exclusive. Total percentage does not equal 100%



Community quotes from 2018!

One of the awesome benefits of UBC housing this project is that folks from across the province can reach out to us with questions! We get to share our expertise, experience, and resources to contribute to organizations and individual learning about how to create inclusive land based programming for LGBTQ2+ youth and community!

Our friends from **Queerest and Dearest Family Camp**, August 28, 2018 had this to say:



"CampOUT was more than the inspiration for Queerest & Dearest. They were eager to share their knowledge and experience with us. They provided documents from their past camps that helped with scheduling, staff training, program planning and registration, and people involved with CampOUT can be found at every level of our Queerest & Dearest team. It was also really helpful to me as a first time camp director to receive personal support and encouragement from the CampOUT staff and Community Advisory Group. CampOUT's spirit and community is spreading to help transform more of the world to a place where LGBTQ2SIA+ people can flourish."

- Caitlin Reiley-Beck, Camp Director

The first ever **Yukon LGBTQ2S+ adult camp** (Town of Faro) had this to say:

"Being able to connect with UBC CampOUT! was a great support for me. This was the first ever queer camp being run in the Yukon, so knowing what other resources are available in western Canada was great! We're still not at the point where we feel we could run a camp targeted towards youth, but it is still something I'd like to see happen in the Yukon in the next 2-3 years."

- Roger Bower, Recreation Manager - Town of Faro

Trans Care BC (TCBC) announced two new groups in Vancouver for trans, gender diverse, and Two-Spirit youth this year. The groups are called **identiTY** (with the "TY" standing for Trans Youth) These new groups replace the previous trans youth drop-in known as TYDI. TCBC had this to say:

"Thank you again for allowing us to base our guide for these new groups off of the one from CampOUT!! Trans Care BC is proud a proud partner of CampOUT! BC. CampOUT! has been a key supporter of Trans Care BC's work, and have offered invaluable guidance, consultation, resources, and support to our youth programming across the province. Reciprocally, Trans Care BC has had the opportunity to work alongside the CampOUT! team in supporting the annual camp experience for LGBTQ2S+ in BC, and we consider this to be a real highlight of our work. Trans Care BC and CampOUT! also work together to offer a parent/caregiver day, which provides parents/caregivers of trans and gender creative children and youth the opportunity to connect with each other, share knowledge, and learn about available resources and supports. We look forward to continuing to build on and strengthen our partnership with CampOUT! in the years to come!"

We share these messages to show the ripple effect impacts of supporting CampOUT! This wee project has a huge impact in lives and communities. We could not do this work without everyone's generous support which is helping queer, trans, and Two-Spirit campers, leaders, and organizations to grow their capacity and connections through the work of CampOUT! **Thank you to all supporters who show up each month and each year to make this vision a reality. Join us to imagine the next 10 years!**



CampOUT! lives, learns, and breathes on the unceded, ancestral, and occupied, traditional lands of the x^wməθk^wəy̓əm (Musqueam), Səlílwətaʔ (Tsleil-Watuth), Stó:lō, Shíshálh (Sechelt) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nations of the Coast Salish peoples.



 @UBCampOUT

 @UBC_CampOUT

 @ubccampout

Contact Information:

Anna White, CampOUT! Camp Director
campout.director@ubc.ca

Phone:

Vancouver/Lower Mainland 604.822.8298
Toll Free 1.877.678.2267

Mailing Address:

UBC CampOUT!
Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice
The University of British Columbia
1097-1873 East Mall |Buchanan Tower (10th Floor)
Vancouver, British Columbia Canada V6T 1Z1

campout.ubc.ca