UBC CampOUT! is a leadership and learning summer camp for queer, trans, and Two-Spirit youth from across BC & the Yukon. Since 2009, our supporters have made it possible for us to facilitate transformative, land-based leadership development opportunities for over 800 LGBTQ2+ youth. Prioritizing participants from rural, remote, and Indigenous communities,

UBC CampOUT! brings us together to learn about decolonizing, anti-racist and disability justice approaches to education and leadership from each other and from mentors in community.
Dear CampOUT! Family,

Thank you for showing up in beautiful ways to make sure that queer, trans, and Two-Spirit youth across BC felt cared for and supported in 2020. We are grateful for your support as we learn new ways to do what we do best: connecting sexual and gender diverse youth from across BC with each other, resources, and networks of support!

As many of you know, we made the difficult decision to cancel CampOUT! on Chà7ellknech (Gambier Island) to protect our campers and their home communities from COVID-19, but we brought the energy of CampOUT! to youth by pivoting our program and uplifting the resiliency and creativity of 2SLGBTQ+ communities. We brought past leaders and community partners together to collaboratively develop synchronous virtual programming for queer, trans, and Two-Spirit youth inspiring kindness, connection, and learning. Online sessions included games, film screenings, and breakout group discussions. We are feeling inspired to bring what we have learned towards an even more comprehensive series of virtual campy connections in 2021.

Read on for quotes, program information, and statistics from 2020 camp program participants.
Typically, the camp is held on Gambier Island, but our pivot to online sessions lets us support youth during the pandemic while keeping their communities and elders safe. Through engaging virtual workshops and activities, youth make new friends, connect with resources, and inspire each other.

Our focus on health, wellness, leadership, and creativity is based on what youth are asking for at this time. CampOUT! participants gain social and life skills, inspiration, and beautiful networks of support!
How did we go virtual in a pandemic?

As many of us learned this year - friendship is more precious than gold. Our partners collaborated with us in early May to create a virtual series called ZoomOUT! to connect the 2020 camp applicants.

A big shout out to Out In Schools who shared amazing facilitators and provided access to phenomenal films inspiring learning and connection.

Thank you to the West Kootenay Teacher Education Program for providing a safe office space on unceded Sinixt territory in Nelson BC. Our Camp Director was able to access UBC secure internet and borrow desktop monitors needed to host a quality online camp program!

Gratitude to The Indian Residential School Survivors Society for supporting Elder Gertie from Shíshálh (Sechelt) Nation to continue her good work with us offering guidance and cultural support.
What did we do at ZoomOUT?!

Just like at camp, we had smaller 'cabin groups' to get to know each other better. We played games, shared stories, met new people, learned useful things, and had our minds and hearts filled by everyone's brilliance. Unlike camp, instead of walking over to the 'Care Cabin' if campers needed support, they could message their leader and the Camp Director would connect with the youth through the chat function and relocate with them over to the Zoom 'Care Cabin' breakout room to connect with Elder Gertie and/or one of our amazing 'Camp Care Bears' (trained child and youth mental health workers) to receive support and learn about specific resources online and in their home communities.
2020 Participant Feedback:

“I really loved all the workshops provided and enjoyed the ones I was able to participate in!”

“I really appreciated seeing everyone’s faces and connecting virtually”

“Thank you for making this! I was really upset when camp was cancelled”

“I love the games and stuff where we get to know each other in our breakout groups!”

The best part of ZoomOUT! was:

“making friends and learning more about the community”

“being able to meet new people without the pressure of being in a whole new space”
CampOUT! Parent and Caregiver Webinar

In collaboration with Trans Care BC, we offered our annual CampOUT! Parent/Caregiver Day as a webinar on July 6th to all support people in camp applicants' lives to better equip their caregivers in supporting LGBTQ2S+ youth.

The content and focus of this online session was informed by the youth who participated in ZoomOUT!

Thank you to the incredible health navigators at Trans Care BC for offering education and for sharing caregiver resources.

And thank you to Out in Schools for introducing 'Gendy the unicorn' to parents and caregivers!

Thank you to two parents of past campers, Mary Ann Saunders and Mikara Pettman for helping create and lead the session!

CampOUT! continues to center connection and learning in all we do.
2020 Takeaways – things we learned:

- It takes a lot of planning and coordination to offer truly engaging, interactive, and anti-oppressive online programming.
- Virtual programming can be more inclusive for some neuro-diverse youth.
- Creativity is key for using technology in new ways to support diverse people in myriad locations.
- When we can’t do experiential land-based learning in person, film is a great catalyst for discussion, learning, and sharing.
- Closed captioning, re-speaking, and stenography are great accessibility tools and also have limitations.
- Gathering at camp after the pandemic will be healing and restorative for queer, trans, and Two-Spirit communities.
- Being as relations with each other and the land is very special and a powerful way to learn ... we miss it!
2020 CampOUT! Data Presentations

145 applicants / 50 participants

As CampOUT! is an educational leadership program, 'participants' includes campers and leaders.

Note: Because programming was offered virtually this year, we were able to include additional youth who hadn't applied for camp. As the data for these charts has been compiled from original application submissions, there are several participants from whom demographic data was not collected. These participants are represented as "unspecified" in this presentation.
BMPOC stands for Black, Mixed Race, & People of Colour.
Sexual Identities

Pansexual
Bisexual
Unspecified
Queer
Asexual
Gay
Lesbian
Questioning
Straight
Fluid
Homoflexible
Polyamorous
Polysexual

Love is never wrong
Participant Gender Identities

Note: To show the gender diversity of CampOUT’s community, the outer ring uses the exact language of applicants to describe their own identities; the inner ring uses three larger gender categories. Some youth used multiple words to define their gender and/or sexual identity.
Our Approach: **Radical Generosity!** As the only BC summer camp for LGBTQ2S+ youth across the province, CampOUT! prioritizes offering a financially accessible program so that youth from all walks of life can participate. Annually we support 90 youth ages 14-30, thanks to the generous support of donors. It costs us over $1000 per participant to cover all associated program, travel, food, and accommodation costs and the camp is FREE for all youth.

Over 800 emerging leaders have gone on to serve many communities including higher education, social services, not-for-profits, municipal politics, K-12 education, service industry, grassroots organizing, and the arts.
Thank you to the CampOUT! Community Advisory Committee

we are so grateful to our community partners offering in kind support and time
Thank you to all our 2020 supporters!

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THE SPROUT FOUNDATION
Fighting for economic justice, health and representation for LGBTQ girls and women.

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