



FAQs

What is Bimini Connects?

It is an online camp experience. We are designing Bimini Connects to be as engaging as possible. Of course, we would rather be meeting you in person at Camp Bimini, but since that is not possible, our goals are to stay connected to you and to bring some Camp Bimini to you! The sense of community and belonging still is a focal value of ours. We are hoping to create smaller groups, according to age, within those registered so we can connect with and create a community among Bimini Connects participants and staff.

How many sessions will there be and what are they like?

There will be 3-5 sessions/activities per day (Monday to Friday) beginning June 21, 2020 and finishing on August 14, 2020. We will have four two-week sessions over that time, each with their own theme. Each session will be approximately 15-20 minutes with instruction and then a chance to do the activity so screen time is balanced. We will gear activities to a younger age range and an older age range. Some activities may be for all ages. The supplies for crafts and other activities will be items that are readily available at home. We will give you a heads up for supplies a couple weeks in advance with a reminder that week. We will encourage kids to send us photos of their experience at home. That's right: eight weeks of programming!

What is the fee?

This is a per family fee.

TIER A	TIER B	TIER C
\$97.35 + 12.65 (HST) = \$110.00	\$137.17 + 17.83 (HST) = \$155.00	\$185.84 + 24.16 (HST) = \$210.00

TIER SYSTEM EXPLAINED

At Camp Bimini we want everyone to be able to take part in our program. Our prices are subsidized to allow all families to afford camp. This is why 'church camp' prices have historically been much lower than private camp, even when we offer the same or higher level of supervision and activities. Realizing that families have different abilities to pay, Camp Bimini offers a voluntary three-tier payment program.

Every family can choose the level of payment that is right for their situation. Tier A is the traditionally subsidized rate, Tier C is the rate that is closer to the full cost of camp, while Tier B is the mid-point. We recognize that Tier A is still difficult for some families to cover, and The Gift of Camp will continue to be available for families that require assistance.

Please know that every child will receive the same level of care and attention you expect from a Camp Bimini program, regardless of which tier of pricing your family chooses. If your family chooses Tier B or C, you will be helping Camp Bimini to upgrade the facilities and prepare for future generations of camping. This program is voluntary and in no way influences the experience campers receive, yet it offers the opportunity for families to take an active role in supporting the true cost of their child's camp experience. Only the Camp Bimini Administrator and Coordinator will have access to the tier that you have selected and that information is used only for billing purposes.

Do I need to do all of the activities in order to participate?

We understand that these are also busy times for folks. We do not want to add to that stress! You can participate at your speed. Activities will not be unlocked until the day scheduled but will be available until August 14th, 2020.

What technology requirements do I need to do this?

You will need an internet-enabled device. Any printouts will be sent in PDF format to your email or available on our portal. There will be links to follow, resources to explore and challenges for you to engage with in real life. For any live events, you may need either a computer with webcam and mic (many computers have these included already) OR a tablet OR a smartphone.

What are you doing to ensure the online safety of participants?

We recognize that the online world presents a different set of risks. We are taking steps to reduce those risks and create an environment that is safe for all our campers. Once registered, you will receive a login and password for Bimini Connects for our online portal so that only those registered in Bimini Connects has access to the content and will receive links via email.

The majority of our sessions will be prerecorded so campers will click on the videos once they are unlocked. On Wednesdays, we plan to do a couple interactive activities using Google Meet or Zoom. We will ensure a minimum of two Camp Bimini staff members are present when using either platform. Here are some of the ways we will minimize risks:

Google Meet: We only share meeting links with registered program participants. All participants will need to be allowed into the meeting by a Camp Bimini staff member and unwanted users will not be permitted into the meeting. We will be keeping Screen Sharing privileges only to staff. Participants can only be in a meeting when staff are present.

Zoom: We only share Zoom meeting IDs with registered program participants. We never post the meeting IDs on our website or social media. All participants will require a password to join the Zoom meeting. We will be using the waiting room function so our staff will only be letting registered program participants into the meeting. We will be keeping Screen Sharing privileges only to staff. We will disable the ability for participants to record the meeting through Zoom. We will adjust the settings so that participants can only be in a meeting when staff are present. Private chat between participants is disabled.

We will provide virtual background options so participants can feel and look like they are present on-site and it will protect the background activities of the household (and hide those dishes you just can't get done!)

We will also review online safety tips with campers and their families throughout the summer.

What is the extent of parent/caregiver involvement in Bimini Connects?

The short answer is: it depends. We will strive to have the activities to not fully rely on parental or caregiver guidance and supervision. The level of guidance and supervision will depend on each child and his/her age and abilities. For live activities, parents or caregivers can be present to be part of the experience if they wish. For our prerecorded sessions, we are aiming that sessions online will give instruction for 15-20 minutes and then the camper would be given a task or activity to do perhaps outside or away from the computer.

Is this online format forever?

Once the temporary closure due to COVID-19 is over and we can safely meet at Camp Bimini, we will be returning to in-person programs. However, if there is demand to continue online programs throughout the year, we would consider continuing some online options.

What do I do if I want to register?

This is easy! If you are already registered for summer 2020, please complete the survey on the email sent to you and indicate you would like to register and which tier you choose. We can subtract the registration fee for Bimini Connects off your refund. We will register you!

What if I know another family who would like to register?

This too is easy! Have them go to our website and register just like you did for summer 2020! Bimini Connects will be an option. Ensure they register only one child for payment since this is a per family fee.

If you need financial assistance to register for camp, please contact the camp at campbimini@cyg.net for further information about our Gift of Camp fund.

CAMP BIMINI ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

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Now follow us on Instagram and Facebook, just search for Camp Bimini!



3180 Perth Road 113, RR 1, St. Pauls, ON N0K 1V0

campbimini@cyg.net

www.campbimini.ca

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We believe that Camp Bimini is a place where God's creation comes together with respect for each other and the environment. It is our goal to give every child and youth a camping experience where they feel loved and valued for who they are. We strive to be welcoming and inclusive of each individual and provide a safe and nurturing place where campers may experience nature, grow spiritually and create lifelong friendships.