

Conference: BC Conference

Camp: **Camp Grafton**

Accreditor: Brodie Drake

Date: July 14, 2016

Comments: It is my recommendation that Camp Grafton receive full accreditation in 2016.

Scores: Mandatory: 100% Desirable: 100%

Annual Reporting: Complete

CONTEXT OF VISIT

The author was greeted warmly by staff as both the intermediate and Leaders-in-Training campers were near the end of some downtime/rest time at Camp Grafton. It was a great day to arrive to witness the Leaders-in-Training campers lead the intermediate campers in activities and put the skills they have been learning to use.

Leading the tour of Camp Grafton were Judy and Chris (Board Members), along with Caitlin (Camp Coordinator), Dan (Board Member), and Nikki (Camp Director) joining at various opportunities.

Camp Grafton runs as its own registered Society, and runs on a volunteer-based model with a high return rate of staff, mostly university students and previous campers.

Camp Grafton has been on a steady rise in enrollment over the past several years to the point that each camp is now at full capacity and has a waitlist. The demand for what is being offered by the camp is there! Camp Grafton, in re-opening itself approximately 11 years ago, has focused its efforts on lower risk activities. They would like to offer more adventure-based activities in the future by the opportunities that are offered from the location of the camp by the time their next accreditation takes place.

The Chapel is in a beautiful and tranquil location on the property, and gives the impression that you are in a completely separate place than camp, especially with the serenading creek right beside.

Through fundraising efforts and its volunteerism, Camp Grafton is able to continuing developing and maintaining the site. For instance, they recently built a new first aid cabin, as well as built a tunnel that runs under the road that runs through the property at a fraction of the cost. This reduces the need for campers and staff to cross the road to get to the waterfront. They are also making connections with businesses in the area that align in values, such as reducing environmental impacts, by picking up composting materials to reduce the amount of garbage being taken to the landfill.

Camp Grafton also rents out its facilities to help off-set camp costs. They have developed relationships with organizations such as the Volunteer Fire Department, and have been creative in building new relationships. For instance, a Frisbee golf, or disc golf, course has been added to the camp and the course has become part of a tour by the Frisbee golf community.

A. MISSION STATEMENT AND THEOLOGICAL VALUES

Camp Grafton reviewed their mission statement just this year. They also followed through on the recommendation made in the last accreditation report in 2012 by adding the mission statement to the brochure materials.

Every day begins with Chapel at Camp Grafton. An interesting thing to note is that each cabin is responsible for facilitating and leading chapel one of the mornings while they are at camp. This allows leaders and campers to co-create and engage in theological discussions, and makes campers active

participants in learning. The cabin will also be responsible for leading Vespers to bring reflection and closure at the end of the day.

B. GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Camp Grafton is governed by a Board of Directors and operates as its own non-profit society, and is currently meeting all standards relating to governance and accountability.

C. RECORDKEEPING

Camp Grafton complies with all standards related to recordkeeping. Confidential camper and staff/volunteer records are stored on site securely in the first aid cabin. Off site, documents are kept locked in a vault in Kamloops, in the basement of a company owned by a Board Member.

The previous accreditor recommended an addition of video release alongside photo release permission. Camp Grafton still does not utilize video for promotional materials, and therefore, have not added a video release. When they begin to look at using videos for promotional purposes, they know to include video permissions.

D. PROVINCIAL CAMPING ASSOCIATION

On July 12, 2016, BCCA accredited Camp Grafton, two days prior to this accreditor's visit. They received full accreditation for the next four years. The only recommendation brought forward was to include more bales of hay at their archery range.

There was no BCCA accreditation checklist given to Camp Grafton at this visit since their accreditor's need to file their reports with the BCCA before anything officially can be distributed.

E. CAMP STAFFING STANDARDS

Currently all staff are volunteers. Most of the camp leaders are university students and were campers themselves. New staff seems to hear about Camp Grafton through word of mouth and contact the camp about employment opportunities. Returning staff applying also go through an interview process to help them understand the responsibilities of the position and also decreases any sense of entitlement among staff.

Staff members receive regular verbal feedback throughout each week's camp, as well as a written one at the end of the week. If a staff member is at camp for the whole summer, they still receive written feedback each week. Staff is allotted one hour of rest each day and they sign up for whichever time slot works for them in their daily schedule.

All camp leaders are 18 years old and older. Leaders-in-Training (LIT's) are 14 years old and older, and are clearly defined as campers. Ratios at camp are 1 to 4. There are two leaders for each group of eight campers.

There are no camps for children under the age of seven. Junior camp starts at age eight. Camp Grafton does not offer camps specific to challenging populations. There have been circumstances where a caregiver or support worker has accompanied a camper to camp (e.g. a camper with special needs).

F. LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND STAFF MANUAL

The camp manual was recently updated in May 2016, and continues to comply with the camping standards.

G. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and safety documents are also kept in the vault in Kamloops along with confidential information.

Camp Grafton's water is pumped up the hill from the lake to a reservoir, where it is gravity fed down to the camp's engineered water treatment system. Water checks are completed daily, and water samples are submitted weekly to Interior Health.

In the previous accreditation, one of the recommendations was to include a policy regarding inhalers. Section 9.8 in the camp manual reflects this addition.

The first aid attendant is certified with OFA level 3.

H. EMERGENCY RESPONSE STANDARDS

All emergency response standards are being met. As with the camp manual as a whole, the emergency response policies have been updated as of May 2016.

The only recommendation at this time that this author could see is to review and clarify the severe weather policy, and in particular, what to do in case of lightning. This recommendation is made based on the occasion of lightning during the accreditation visit, and after the visit was complete, the author re-reviewed the policy and there was no mention of what to do specifically around lightning. This might help everyone be on the same page in future situations.

I. INSURANCE

All standards are being met related to Insurance. Organizations and community groups who use the camp for rental purposes are required to obtain a certificate of insurance. They are directed to an insurance broker who is well versed in Camp Grafton and has created a certificate specific to the camp.

J. PROGRAM SAFETY AND SUPERVISION

Currently, activities offered at Camp Grafton include swimming, archery, canoeing, arts and crafts, and camp fires (with lots of music). All program standards are being met.

Swim tests are performed at the beginning of each week. While canoeing, more experienced returning campers are paired with new campers or beginner paddlers.

K. OFF-SITE ACTIVITIES AND ADVENTURE CAMPING

Camp Grafton looks to the future to be able to offer off-site adventures, but currently does not offer any as part of the Grafton experience.

ITEMS REQUIRING ATTENTION:

There is nothing requiring immediate attention specific to the camping standards.

It is recommended to review the emergency response around the camp's severe weather policy to help clarify what is expected of everyone on site in the scenario of lightning. It is also understood by the author that according to UCC standards, a severe storm policy is not required, and the recommendation is made as something to consider based on the author's experience during the visit and reflection afterward.