



Program Prep Package: Big Canoe Charter

Thank you for booking a Lake Park Society (LPS) Big Canoe Charter. We're excited to spend the day with you! This package is designed to help prepare you and your guests for your visit. Please take the time to review this information carefully.

Feel free to contact education@clws.ca if you have any questions about your visit. For urgent or time-sensitive matters, please contact the Campground Office: (250) 702-8833 (open May 1st - Sep 30th, 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM).

Lake Park Society gratefully acknowledges that all of our programs occur on the unceded traditional territory of the Pentlatch, E'iksan, Sasitla and Sathloot peoples, also known as the K'ómox First Nation, who are the traditional and ongoing keepers of this land. We endeavour to be good guests who show care, respect, and gratitude to this land and its people in everything we do.

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Essential Information:

Where do we meet? Please meet us in front of the main Campground Office (just inside the yellow gate) at Cumberland Lake Park Campground, 1100 Comox Lake Road.

What time should we arrive? Please meet us at the scheduled start time. Your guides will be busy preparing the canoes prior to your visit, so please contact us if you need assistance before the scheduled start time.

When do we hand in our signed waivers? Fully completed LPS waivers for every participant, including minors, must be handed in at the start of your program. Waivers for minors require parent or guardian signatures. We recommend signing them before your visit, but will have them available to sign at the program start as well.

What should we bring? Please ensure that each participant packs all of the items included in our "What To Bring" list, which is attached in this document. Preparedness for weather and/or activities will have a big impact on our program choices - please take this seriously!

What if the weather is "bad"? Do everything possible to prepare for weather, rain or shine! Our route will be dependent on weather (especially winds). Please be prepared for our plans to adjust accordingly. LPS staff will be keeping a close eye on the forecast, and if it seems unsafe, your program will be adjusted or rescheduled. Our staff will contact you via the phone number provided if your program needs to be canceled due to weather. This may happen the evening before or morning of your program. No news is good news.

What if I have to cancel our program? Please contact us as soon as possible. If canceling more than 3 days in advance, contact our Program Manager at education@clws.ca. If canceling with less than 3 days notice, please *also* phone our campground office at (250) 702-8833 and leave a detailed message. See our [Terms of Service](#) for more information about our cancellation policy.

How many people can we bring? For our single canoe, our maximum group size is 13 people (minimum 8). For two canoes, our maximum group size is 26 people (minimum 15).



Are there bathrooms? There are single-stall (wheelchair-accessible and gender-inclusive) pit toilets (outhouses) at several locations in the park. There are flush toilets (both wheelchair-accessible gendered washrooms as well as a wheelchair-accessible gender-neutral single-stall “family” washroom) beside the concession, available from May 1st to September 30th.

Our schedule will include opportunities to use the bathroom. When away from the main campground area, there are no pit toilets. Participants are welcome to take a “nature pee” if needed. Staff carry a simple “nature pee” bathroom kit and can coach leave-no-trace practices to support this.

Can we go swimming? No. Our staff are not lifeguards and cannot supervise swimming during the canoe tour.

Will I get wet? On a typical canoe charter, it is unlikely you will get wet. You may be splashed accidentally by other paddlers while in the canoes, some water can accumulate on the bottom of the canoe, and your feet may get wet entering and exiting the canoes. You should be okay with anything you bring getting wet, just in case. See the “What to Bring” list attached in this document for more information.



Planning Your Canoe Charter: Important Considerations

The Big Canoe Charter always includes safety gear, paddling equipment and a brief paddling lesson. You LPS skippers will steer and provide safety guidance throughout the tour. Your group has the option to either:

- 1) Have no additional content provided by your LPS skippers. There is ample time for your group to facilitate their own discussions, activities or learning on the water and during stops along the shore. This could be a casual social activity or a structured learning event, or something in between.
- 2) Have LPS Skippers provide a guided interpretive tour of the Comox Lake, discussing the past and present stories of the area. When booking your tour, you will have the option to choose which approach you wish to take.

There is flexibility in the schedule for your day. In general, we try to:

- Spend no more than an hour in the canoe at a time, to give paddlers opportunities for bathroom breaks and movement breaks.
- Spend no more than 20-30 minutes paddling continuously to allow for a rest and water break. Consider stopping for a group break on the water while listening to a story, mindfulness moment or conversation.
- Stop in a sheltered location for learning and discussion on the water if desired (weather permitting).
- Schedule time for canoe loading/unloading. It typically takes 15 minutes to load the canoes and 10 minutes to unload them.
- Break up your paddle with a mid-way beach landing. There are a few nice locations to unload the canoes about 30-45 minutes paddle from the launch site. They are remote locations with no services or road access, and landing is dependent on water levels and weather conditions. Your guides can give recommendations on the day.



General 2.5 Hour Schedule

Grey items are optional

Elapsed Time	Location	Activity	Duration	Content
0:00	Main Office	Meet LPS Guides	15 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Welcome paddlers ➤ Collect waivers/consent forms ➤ LPS welcomes and shares housekeeping ➤ Last chance for water bottle fills and bathrooms
?		Optional Intro.	?	➤ Optional introduction or welcome by group lead
0:15	Campground Beach	Load Canoes / Skipper Talk	20 min	➤ How to enter and exit the canoe, basic safety and paddling skills.
0:35	Comox Lake	Paddle	30-90 mins	➤ Destination will depend on group needs and weather conditions and can be determined at the start of the program. Typical destinations include Coal Beach, Perseverance Creek, Whyte's Bay and Devil's Ladder.
2:05	Campground Beach	Unload Canoes	15 min	➤ Unloading takes time!
2:20	Main Office	Wrap Up	10 mins	➤ Conclude program and return gear
?		Optional Conclusion	?	➤ Optional conclusion or wrap up by group lead. Coordinate with LPS guides if time is required.
2:30		End	-	➤ Conclusion of program, staff pack away gear



Hello!

We are excited for your upcoming big canoe charter with Lake Park Society. Please review the following information to prepare for your visit.

Who is Lake Park Society (LPS)? LPS is a local non-profit society that aims to “create wonder and connection through outdoor experiences.” In addition to our community programs and events, we offer subsidized, nature-based school programs. Your kids or a young person you know might enjoy our summer camps! For more information about LPS’ mission, values, and programs, please visit our website: <https://cumberlandlakepark.ca>.

How can you prepare? Being well prepared makes a huge impact on the day, and can open our range of possible adventures! Please review our “What to Bring” list on the following page.

What about Safety? Safety is our top priority. All LPS educators are first aid certified and Paddle-Canada certified canoe skippers. Our 29’ big canoes are very stable, and your group may even paddle them lashed together, which means they are even more stable. Properly fitting PFDs are worn at all times on the water.

We only paddle in appropriate weather conditions. While our programs run rain or shine, our staff will adapt to address any safety concerns due to weather. We will inform you if conditions require cancelling your visit.

Thank you for taking the time to prepare for this fun day!

Sincerely,

Lake Park Society’s Education Team



What to Bring: Big Canoe Charter

While LPS will provide safety equipment and group gear, we rely on each participant to arrive prepared. This will help ensure that we have a fun day together! We will be spending the full day outside, rain or shine. It is often colder at Cumberland Lake Park than other parts of the Comox Valley. There are limited covered spaces, and no heated spaces. Please review the list below, and pack accordingly. We also encourage you to review this [“What to Wear for Outdoor Teaching and Learning”](#) graphic (credit: Child and Nature Alliance of Canada).

Each participant must have:

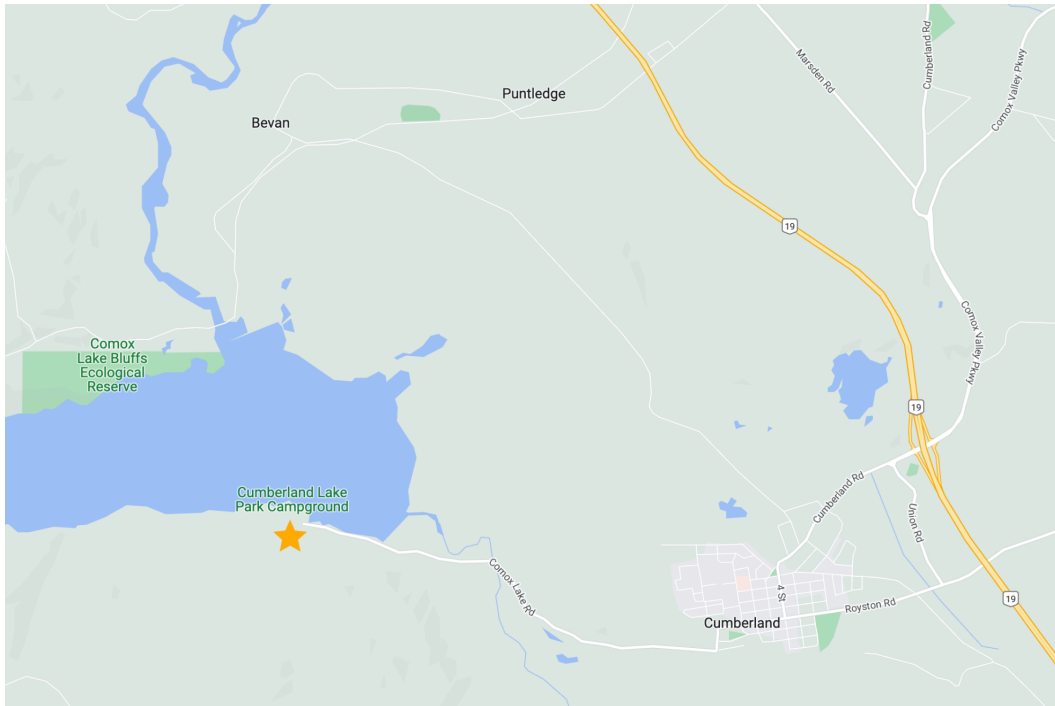
- Fully completed **consent form** (informed consent form for minors, waiver for adults)
- A comfortable and appropriately-sized **backpack**
- A **rain jacket** (*down jackets are not usually waterproof)
- Rain pants** (*these make a HUGE difference in a wet forest or canoe ride!)
- Comfortable, **closed-toe shoes** that you can hike, run, play, and get wet in.
- Clothes that can get adventurous** and come home dirty
- Warm layers** (*preferably wool or fleece - cotton gets cold when wet!)
- A full, **750+ mL water bottle**.
- A **snack**.
- A **warm hat and warm gloves** on cold days (even if it is sunny!)
- Sunscreen, sunglasses and a hat with a brim** on hot days
- Any necessary **medication(s) or other personal items**. Participants with any known anaphylactic allergy must bring an **EpiPen**, stored in a waterproof container/bag.

Please don't bring:

- Electronic devices** such as phones and cameras (unless in a waterproof case or bag)
- Lifejackets/PFDs**. Lake Park Society will provide approved PFDs/lifejackets, as well as all necessary canoe and safety equipment.

Site Maps

Find us at Cumberland Lake Park, marked by the gold star below:



Our meeting location is the main Campground Office located on the right after you drive through the first yellow gate.



LPS Waivers

A completed informed consent form (for minors) or release form (for adults) must be provided for each participant before the start of the program. Any participants who arrive without completed consent forms will not be able to take part in the program. Waivers must be witnessed to be considered complete.

Links to our informed consent forms (for minors) and waivers (for adults) are included below. Please:

- Print the forms (double sided if possible),
- Bring completed forms for all participants on the morning of your program.
- We will also have forms available at the start of the program

You may download and print them by following the links below:

[Informed Consent, Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risk \(For Minors\)](#)

[Release Voluntary Assumption of Risk \(For Adults\)](#)