

07 March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

During the past two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has meant that many students have missed out on the opportunity to experience outdoor activities in an organised, social and supportive environment.

The Victorian Government is offering the chance for eligible students to attend a free camp program as part of the Positive Start in 2022 initiative, during the 2022 school holiday periods.

Free camps for eligible students

Camps are a great way for young people to build confidence, experience new activities, learn leadership skills, connect socially and make new friends.

Holiday camp programs can range from single overnight experiences to spending several nights away.

While on camp, your child may enjoy a range of social and adventure activities which could include team challenges, bushwalks, orienteering, hut building, cooking, painting with nature, rope courses, abseiling and canoeing. Camp providers will make every effort to ensure they are accessible to all students, and will list their facilities and available supports on the Positive Start website.

Express your interest today

Places are limited, so if you are interested in this opportunity for your child or children, register your interest as soon as possible. Registrations close on Friday 25 March 2022.

For further information, including how to register, visit <https://vacodata.educationapps.vic.gov.au/PositiveStartHolidayCamps> or scan the QR code.



Within two weeks of registering your child's interest, you will be provided with more information including a list of available holiday camps and how to book.

Information about free camps for eligible students

Which students are eligible for free holiday camps?

Students who meet one or more of the following criteria are eligible to attend a free holiday camp:

- attend a school that experienced closures of five days or more due to COVID-19 in 2021
- have an approved [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\)](#) application for 2022
- have a parent who holds a valid means-tested concession card (for example a Health Care Card, Job Seeker, Newstart Allowance, Disability Support Pension)
- reside in out-of-home care (temporary or permanent)
- are students with a disability
- are from a refugee background

- are Indigenous students.

When are the holiday camps?

The holiday camps will run in the 2022 school holidays – Term 1 (April), Term 2 (June/July) and Term 3 (September).

How much does it cost?

These camps are completely free of charge to eligible families. It will not cost you anything for your child to attend the camps. Most of the camps can organise transport from central locations; however, for some camps, parents may need to provide transport for their child. Specific information regarding transport will be supplied by the individual camp providers.

How old does my child need to be?

Students in Years 3 to 12 from the start of the 2022 school year can attend holiday camp programs.

Will my child get to go with their friends?

Your child may be able to go on camp with their friends if they book to go to the same camp and there are places available. However, your child's friends may not be eligible for the Positive Start free holiday camp funding. Only eligible families may book through Positive Start. Remember, your child will also have the chance to make new friends and build relationships with students from other schools.

What types of camps are there?

There will be a list of camps from which you can choose. Each camp will have a brief description including where it is, the length of the camp (number of days), the dates it is running, how to get there and a list of activities to help you decide which camp would best suit your child.

What general safety measures are in place to ensure camps are safe for students?

Camp facilities and sites are reviewed each year, and are accredited by an independent national accreditation scheme to ensure they meet best practice and that all students receive the best care. All camp activities are compliant with national safety standards. All staff members have Working with Children Checks, and undergo a thorough induction and checking process as part of working with the camp.

What COVIDSafe strategies are in place at camps?

All Positive Start in 2022 camps must put into place a COVIDSafe Plan that aligns with Department of Health advice. This includes operating under up-to-date COVIDSafe practices such as appropriate cleaning, activity design, food service, and accommodation density and layouts.

Yours sincerely,



Christina Utri
Principal