



Ontario Camps Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 27, 2016

### **Summer Camp Experiences for Refugee Kids**

**Toronto, ON** – This summer, the Ontario Camps Association (OCA) is proud to offer 350 free spots to refugee children in Canadian summer camps across the country. Accredited Camps are providing hundreds of free spaces at their camps for children ages 4-15 who have come to Canada as refugees in the last three years.

Thanks to the generous donations from Accredited Camps across Ontario, we are offering free spots to a variety of camps, including:

- Day or overnight camps
- Specialty camps
- Religious or non-religious camps
- All boy, all girl, or co-ed camps
- One week or multi-week camps

Agencies, Organizations, Sponsors and Families must first complete an application form for the family. The two criteria for children to apply are they are refugees that have arrived in Canada in 2014, 2015 or 2016 and they are between the ages of 4-15.

Currently, kids from all over the world attend camp in Canada. Camp increases social connections, exposes children to the natural world, builds character and self-esteem. Camp is a time honoured tradition in Canada and we are pleased to invite new Canadians to join in this experience and enjoy Canada's natural beauty.

We are happy to be acknowledged and supported by the Liberal government. The Honourable John McCallum, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship has provided the attached letter of appreciation to the OCA.

The OCA has been coordinating with refugee support organizations and has the support of 25 agencies which will provide further guidance to the families and the camps. Other items such as clothing and camp supplies will be provided by the OCA's Preferred Vendors and organizations around the province.

### **About the Ontario Camps Association**

The OCA is a non-profit Association representing 450 camps in Ontario and servicing over 350,000 campers.



All accredited camps must abide by health and safety standards beyond federal and provincial legislation, and follow best practices by camp industry experts that cover all areas of camp management and program delivery. Each and every day, accredited camps commit to uphold the hundreds of standards that ensure the highest quality experience for children and youth in their care.

### **To Apply**

We encourage everyone interested in sending their children to camp to visit our website to submit an application:

[www.refugeesummer.ca](http://www.refugeesummer.ca);

Or contact us at:

1-844-485-0425

[refugeesummer@ontariocamps.ca](mailto:refugeesummer@ontariocamps.ca)

### **Contact**

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