

Signing up for Workshops & The Leadership Track

The Leadership Track

The Camp fyrefly Leadership Track has been created for youth who wish to further develop their leadership skills, expand their knowledge of community service, and enhance their awareness of social justice issues facing the queer community.

Special recognition will be offered to those who complete four (4) Leadership Track workshops. Those that choose the Leadership Track will receive a certificate of distinction mailed to them after Camp fyrefly has ended. These workshops will focus on a diverse range of skills such as professional development, advocacy, and knowledge about human rights, gender stereotypes, and healthy living.

Signing up for workshops

There will be several workshop options available each day. At each meal preceding a workshop session, presenters will describe their workshop, and sign-up sheets will be made available at this point. All participants are required to sign up for one of the workshops held during each session. The number of participants allowed to attend each workshop session is limited, so it would be a good idea to have a backup selection.

Artist-in-Residence Workshops

Re-Imagining Home

For some of us, our homes are places of great love and support, for others they can be less comfortable. Some of us have strong ties to our family of origin and others of us build our own families. Some of us do both. This workshop explores what home and family means to us and lets us re-imagine the homes and families we would or have built. We will share some stories, do some drawing and share some more. For this workshop you should bring an object from home that represents or reminds you of the place you call “home”.

Telling Our Stories: Leaving Behind our History

Aboriginal scholar, Thomas King tells us, “The truth about stories is that, that’s all we are,” but what if we know nothing about our LGBTTQ&A ancestors; what if we don’t know “our stories”? No, this workshop is not a history lesson, rather it is a chance to think about how we would like to be remembered and a chance to try out telling those stories. We will workshop some of our own stories, think about why we often tell our coming-out stories and get to know each other and ourselves a little better.

This is Me: At Least this is how I Remember it

What if you got to retell your memories about when you first knew you were LGBTTQ&A and they were all good ones? What if all of us only knew about discovering our identities as moments of great joy? In this workshop we will recreate those memories as happy ones if they weren’t already and hilarious ones if they were already good to begin with. We will share some stories, do some drawing and share some more. For this workshop you should bring a photo from home that shows you at the age where you first were discovering that you were LGBTTQ&A.

Leadership Track Workshops

Building Your Activist Toolbox

This is an overview of local, national and international queer history and how those victories have led us to today's realities. A "tool box" of activism concepts will be developed.

How to Handle Your Money

This presentation will touch on basic banking awareness. It will cover the benefits and costs of not having a bank account versus having one as well as how to choose the account. The second part of the workshop will be around budgeting, why you should budget and how you do it. The final piece will be about credit. You will learn the awareness of why it's important as well as how to make smart credit decisions and safeguard your credit.

Media Awareness: Heteronormativity in Advertising

Participants will begin by reviewing the concepts of homophobia, heterosexism, transphobia and heteronormativity. Using print and television ads, they will discuss what messages are being communicated (explicitly and implicitly) by mass media. Media is a reflection of culture, and when individuals don't see themselves represented in the culture being communicated by media, there's an inherent sense of loss and disenfranchisement. We will create ads that reflect their identity and have the opportunity to showcase their creations to the group.

What is a Hate Crime?

The Edmonton Police Service's Hate Crimes Unit advocates for human rights, safety, security, and inclusiveness for all identifiable communities in Edmonton. At the end of the presentation the participants will have an understanding of what a Hate Crime/Hate Incident is, what is being done about Hate Crimes, and what role we all play in making Edmonton a more inclusive and safe city to live in.

Writing Outside the Lines

This workshop is intended to encourage participants to write – fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction – the margins and beyond. It will foster self-expression – and if time permits – performance/presentation.

General Workshop Descriptions

Advocacy 101

Participants will be given an overview of advocacy – what it is, when to use it, strategies and where you can go for help with more complex issues.

Animal Survival Game

Animal Survival is a “run and chase” game of tag played in the forested river valley. It develops an awareness of the natural environment by role playing, so that the participants can develop a knowledge about, an understanding of, and an appreciation towards, wild animals.

Assertive Spiritual Self Defence

The purpose of this workshop is to provide strategies for youth with a Christian background in dealing with spiritual attacks. The strategies can be used with any religion. The workshop will include a spiritual bill of rights – the rights not to discuss or argue and the right to set guidelines as to how the discussion will take place.

Cool Minds: Coping with Stress

This workshop will provide ways for teens to cope with stress and manage emotions. Using the concept of mindfulness as a foundation, participants will learn specific skills and strategies to keep their cool when their lives get stressful.

Healthy Relationships & Sexual Health

This multi-session workshop will allow all youth participants to speak to the experts on various topics addressing healthy relationships and sexual health. This workshop is mandatory for all participants. Workshop facilitators will give brief descriptions of their area of professional expertise at the beginning of each session, and will conclude with a session tailored to questions from the youth participants. Youth will move, in small groups, from room to room in order to ensure that they hear from each of the professionals.

I am no Demographic: I am me

This workshop is a safe and encouraging environment in which campers will use arts, crafts, writing and other mediums to express themselves. Campers may choose to submit their work to be included in a keepsake book for both Camp fyrefly and the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate. Imaginative journal, sketchbook and scrapbook supplies will be provided.

Influence & Individuality: Forms of Cultural Exclusion

In our society, our personal identity is subjected to all kinds of pressures and influences. This workshop is an exploration and debate of what makes us who we are, how we define ourselves in contrast with fellow queers and what factors get in the way of our individuality and its development. It will also cover the forms of exclusion within the queer community itself and how to recognize and deter them.

Intersectionality in Identity

Participants will develop an understanding of the complexity of how our identities are made up and will be introduced to the notion of “intersectional” in identity (the interaction of the various factors that influence our identity). You will also explore the other side of the coin, meaning how all of those other facets of our identities impact our sexual identities. The concept of intersectionality, and exploring what that means, supports the concept of queer – the liberation from rigid categories since there’s not just one category that an individual can be contained within.

Intro to Dance Composition: Finding Meaning in Movement

Youth, of all movement backgrounds and abilities, will be introduced to the idea of choreography. Using improvisational scores and games we will examine how emotions and ideas are conveyed through movement and theatricality.

Meteorology 101: A Tour of Weather & Climate

This workshop will be an introduction to weather and climate. It will consist of a review of the main elements of these sciences and a description of some of the careers in these areas. A portable weather station will be set up and the instruments used will be shown as well as the weather data collected. Finally, the participants will build their own electronic thermometers and connect them to a

datalogger which they will program.

Music for Social Change

This workshop is an opportunity for queer youth to interact with music as a tool for political expression (wherein lies self-expression). It will highlight the subtle and not so subtle ways music influences our thoughts and actions, and how we can use music to affect social change.

Persecution of Gays & the Hidden Holocaust

The purpose of this workshop is to make participants aware of the episode in LGBTQ history and to draw forward lessons that are applicable today. This discussion will be contextualized in the broader history of the Holocaust and in relation to the post-Stonewall LGBTQ movement.

Self Defence

The purpose of this workshop is to learn what it means to be aware, alert, and the importance of waking up your mind to your immediate surroundings. Also, it is designed to teach tactics and strategies and develop the ability to use them.

Stand Up & Speak Out: Playing with Improv

Participants will join the workshop facilitator, Charles Bidwell, in using Improv to tell their story. This workshop will playfully encourage assertiveness and cooperation through the use of unrehearsed dramatization of various life experiences.

The Forgotten T: Talking About the Trans Spectrum

This workshop will encourage youth to take control of their own fates and bodies when navigating medical and social situations in relation to falling within the trans spectrum of society. Participants will learn how to navigate through “dark times” and to go on to live happy and successful lives. For participants who do not fall within the trans spectrum, this workshop will provide specific knowledge to enable them to be a better ally for those who do.

Youth & Drugs: What to Know & Where to go

This workshop will provide an overview of youth substance use: the effects of drugs and alcohol, process of addiction, and where to go for support.