

Water Activities at Silver Lake

Swimming and canoeing are part of the Silver Lake camp experience. These are both considered high risk areas at camp and have many guidelines around them to ensure the safety of campers and staff.

Silver Lake Mennonite Camp is part of the Ontario Camp Association which means that Silver Lake follows their guidelines to be a part of the association. Silver Lake has been a member for many years.

Silver Lake also follows the guidelines set out by Ontario Physical Education Association. This is what schools need to follow for all of their activities and field trips. To host public school here at Silver Lake we also need to follow the OPHEA guidelines when providing activities.

Guidelines followed for swimming

2 National Lifeguarding (NL) staff for 1-25 swimmers

3 National Lifeguarding (NL) staff for 26-100

National Lifeguarding (NL) staff must be at least 18 years of age during Outdoor Education programs and at least 17 years of age during the Summer Camp program.

All participants that want to swim in the deep end will perform and pass a swim test. If the swim test is not passed they will only be allowed to swim in the shallow end and not in the deep end.

Personal floatation devices are worn by anyone who wants to use the water trampoline which is located in the deep end.

Other safety rules that are followed while at the swimming pond are site specific and similar to those at any public pool.

Guidelines followed for Canoeing

A minimum of 1 Bronze Cross certified staff supervising canoeing

1 ORCKA certified staff teaching and supervising canoeing for all Outdoor Education. Summer Camp regulations do not require this certification and while the summer camp program does not always have this certification it does always have staff with canoeing experience who have Bronze Cross or National Lifeguard certification.

All participants will perform a swim test. If a person does not pass they are required to wear a Personal Flotation Device (which is a bit different from a life jacket).

All canoers including those who pass the swim test wear a life jacket. All Silver Lake canoers wear a Personal Flotation Device.

There are other site-specific safety rules that will be followed while canoeing.