



CAMP REPORT

- Summer 2024 -



ZAJAC
RANCH

604-739-0444 | info@zajac.com | www.zajacranch.com

ABOUT US

For 20 years, the Zajac Ranch for Children has been dedicated to our belief that no child or young adult should be excluded from the transformational benefits of a summer camp experience. Our mission at the Zajac Ranch is to develop and operate an accessible, innovative, and inclusive facility for youth with complex medical conditions, who otherwise would not have the opportunity to attend camp.



OUR VISION

Provide memorable experiences that empower campers of all abilities to participate, develop life-long skills, create lasting friendships, build independence, and have fun.

In fulfilling our Mission and Vision, Zajac Ranch for Children is guided by the following Values:



"Every kid should get to go to summer camp. **Let's work on that together.**"

~ Mel Zajac, Founder



RESPECT and appreciation for the value and diversity we each represent

INCLUSIVE opportunities that welcome all participants regardless of ability

EMPOWER through opportunities

COMPASSION empathy and concern for the well-being of others

INTEGRITY and consideration for one another

EMBRACE the possibilities

EXPERIENCE the thrill of participating

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CAMP SUMMARY

This is a special year for the Zajac Ranch for Children as it marks our 20th year anniversary since we first opened our doors. Since 2004, the Zajac Ranch has welcomed thousands of kids, from BC and beyond, every summer to provide transformative camp experiences for those living with complex medical conditions.

This summer, we introduced new exciting changes at the Zajac Ranch. We continued to enhance our facilities, including a complete replacement of our climbing wall to ensure we are meeting all industry-standard safety requirements. We have new farm animals that call the Zajac Ranch their home, including two miniature goats named Joey and Bandit. Additionally, many of our staff were new to the ranch, introducing a new wave of ideas and enthusiasm for our summer camp season!

The changes at the Zajac Ranch were met with overwhelming enthusiasm by our campers, as they allowed our campers to experience new opportunities and challenge themselves. All of the activities are tailored to foster personal growth, resilience, and friendship, creating an environment where the campers felt supported. Our dedicated staff and volunteers worked tirelessly to maintain a safe and nurturing environment, where the emphasis is on fun, learning, and personal development.

As we celebrate this milestone anniversary, we are filled with gratitude for the community of supporters, donors, and partners who have made our mission possible. Looking ahead, we are excited to continue evolving and expanding our programs to serve even more youth in BC and providing them with the unforgettable experience of summer camp at Zajac Ranch. Here's to another 20 years of laughter, growth, and cherished memories!

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TESTIMONIAL

“My son had an amazing experience at Zajac! He really connected with his camp counselor and has made new friends. The opportunities he was given at camp have helped him in so many ways. **It was such a positive experience and he has already asked me when he gets to go back to camp!!**”

~ Parent, Autism Spectrum Disorder Camp 2024



CAMP STATISTICS

This past summer, we welcomed a total of **355** of campers over the 10 weeks of our summer camp sessions. Furthermore, over **40 different medical conditions and illnesses** were represented at our camp this year.

Here are the following activities that were identified as our camper's favourites:

#1 - ARCHERY

#2 - SKYNET

#3 - SWIMMING

#4 - HORSEBACK RIDING

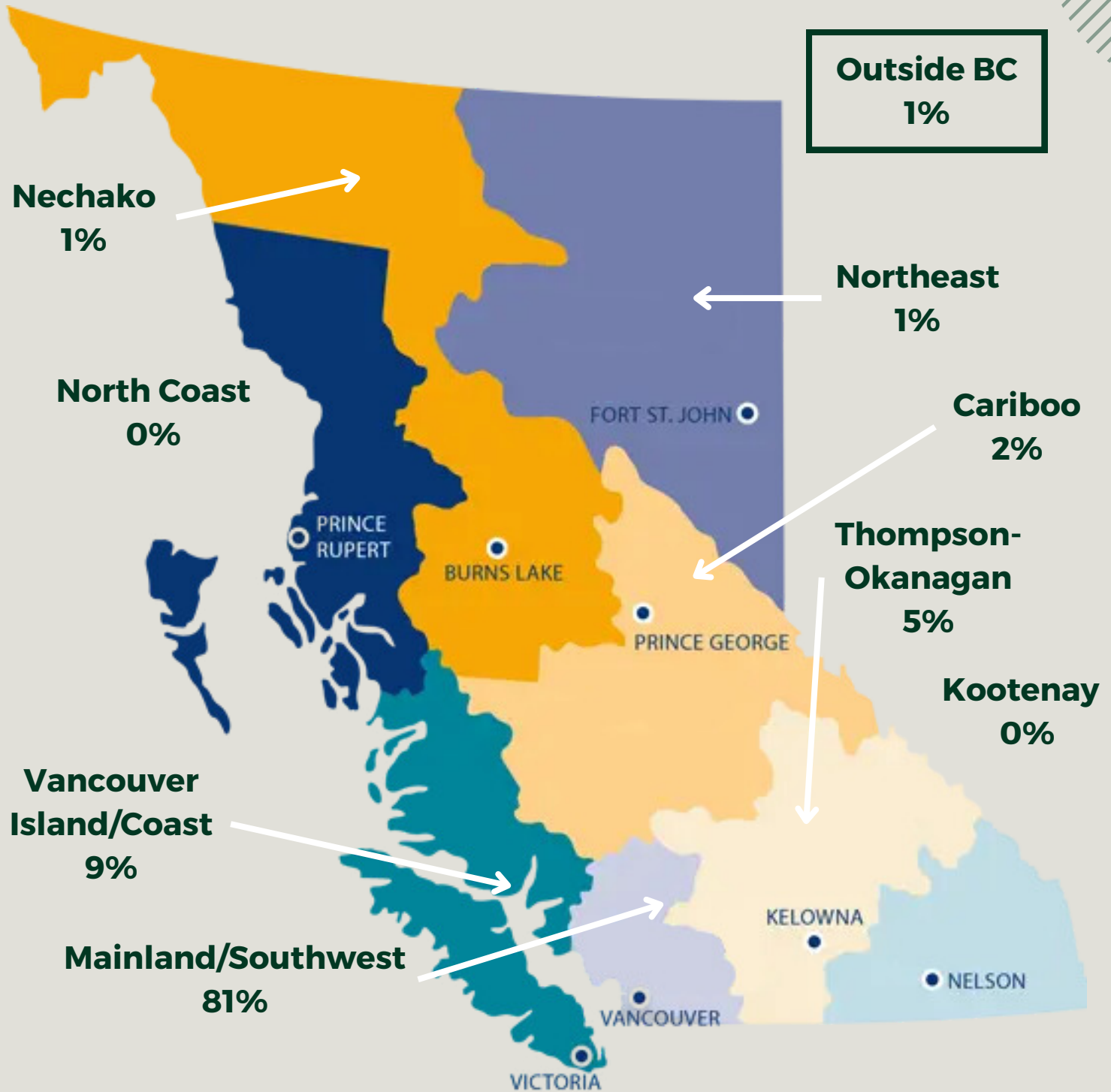
#5 - MAKING FRIENDS



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In 2024, our campers came from...



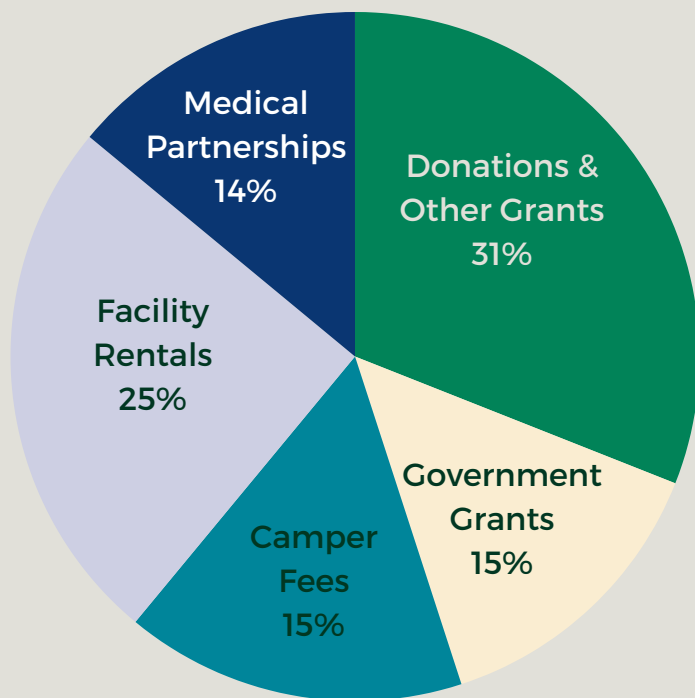
**We are proud to serve the province of BC
and beyond!**



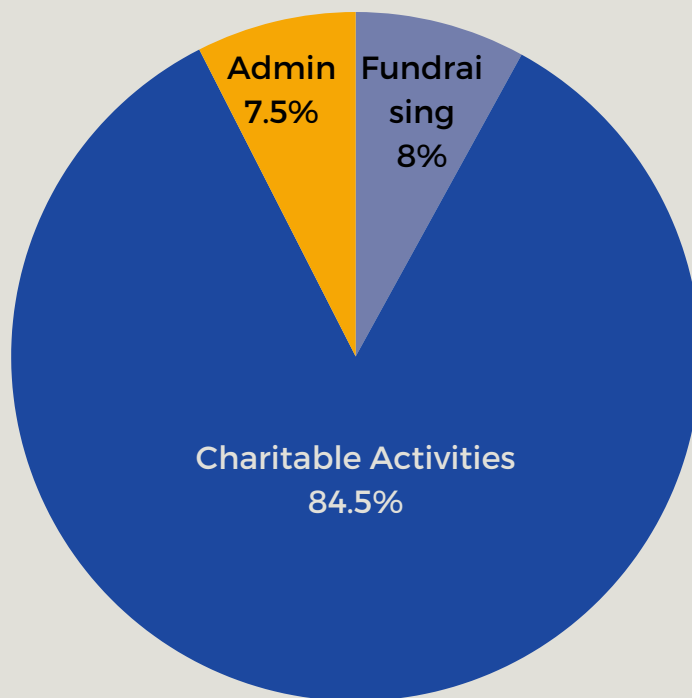
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Ranch strives to break down financial barriers by providing subsidies through the Zajac Campership Allowance Program to help families reduce the cost of fees by a minimum of 50% and up to 100% depending on need. Donor contributions go a long way in support of the Campership Allowance Program. None of what we do would be possible without our community support!

REVENUE



OPERATING EXPENSES





STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

This year, we welcomed a bright, energetic new team at the Zajac Ranch. Led by our Camp Director, Andrew Casey, our staff went above and beyond to ensure that all campers and their families were well taken care of and enjoying their time at the Ranch. In fact, feedback from PSW's, community partners and the families were saying this is the best team of staff they have seen at Zajac Ranch for Children! We are so lucky to have this amazing team and cannot wait to continue providing excellent service to our campers next year!

OUR GOALS FOR 2025

- 1 - To provide more camps year-round** with our new **Weekend Respite** and **Family Camp** programs
- 2 - Increase the number of campers** we support through our programs; **let's help more kids!**
- 3 - Complete our brand-new High Ropes** course in time for the 2025 Summer Camp season
- 4 - Continue to improve and provide high-quality care and support** for all of our campers!

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STAFF FUN FACTS

- Our staff this summer season came from all across the globe including England, Australia, Czech Republic and Turkey
- 5 staff members were previous Zajac campers!
- According to our Camp Director, Andrew, the favourite activity amongst our staff was the Zajac "Courts"; they loved making the kids laugh when they received their "sentences" of being dunked with water, getting pies to their face, and more!



CAMPER SPOTLIGHT

MEET JORDAN



The fact that Jordan is non-verbal hasn't stopped him from expressing in his own way how life-changing it was for him to attend Zajac Ranch. Jordan lives with a neurological disorder called lissencephaly, as well as cerebral palsy and epilepsy. Because of these diagnoses, he requires 1:1 support and is often denied the participation in certain activities children his age normally have access to – except when he is at Zajac Ranch.

Georgia, Jordan's caregiver who attended Zajac Ranch with him, was in awe of the welcoming, inclusive and empowering community they both encountered at camp. The impact Zajac Ranch made on Jordan left Georgia advocating for him to attend a second week, which he did. Both times, Jordan was welcomed with open arms!

Every activity was adapted so he could participate and there seemed to be no limits to what he could do – a welcome change to the barriers and limitations he encounters at home day in and day out. Jordan experienced everything to the fullest and enjoyed himself with no reservations. During Jordan's time at camp, he was able to dance with his peers under the lights of the disco ball, go on the sky net, and swim every day of camp!

When Jordan got back home, he was, in his parent's words, "bursting with new communication noises and gestures." This has given his parents hope in the fact that Jordan "can actually have fun while being safe and well cared for with his peers." Both weeks that Jordan was at camp allowed his family to also get some respite while resting assured that he was receiving excellent care.

Georgia addresses prospective parents by assuring them that "the staff and the nurses there are absolutely wonderful, they do everything in their power to make sure your child has a wonderful time – adapting as they go so every activity can be tried by everyone who would like to give it a go. Your child will honestly have a great time, I don't doubt it one bit." Jordan's parents are certain that partaking in everything Zajac Ranch has to offer has been a highlight of Jordan's life. They can't wait for him to go back in upcoming years and keep experiencing the joy of participating.



“Take a deep breath, let go and let it happen. **It will likely be the best thing you have done for your child.**”
– Jordan's parents.