

## Important Information

### PLEASE READ BEFORE YOU REGISTER - REGISTRATION OPENS MID-JANUARY 2025

**AGE RESTRICTIONS:** Spring Break Camps at VanDusen Botanical Garden are run by the Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association (VBGA) and are designed for children ages 5-10. **Children must be 5 years of age or older on the day of the program AND have completed or be currently attending Kindergarten.** Our registration system will not accept campers who are not at least 5 years old on the day of the program, and if a child is suspected to not be attending or completed kindergarten, parents/guardians will be contacted by an administrator.

**HEALTH/ILLNESS:** Please note that wearing a mask does not excuse or negate the presence of active cold or flu symptoms – **campers are not permitted to attend camps if experiencing/displaying active cold or flu symptoms and may be sent home at staff's discretion.**

**PROGRAM LOGISTICS:** Spring Break Camps will take place **outdoors rain or shine**, with some covered outdoor spaces available for lunchtime and stationary activities. Please ensure campers are dressed for the weather and have additional layers or a change of clothes available if needed. Indoor spaces are limited and only available in instances of extreme weather or other safety hazards. **Youth attending our programs should be prepared to use porta-potties located throughout the Garden** and their accompanying outdoor hand washing stations; there are indoor washrooms available in the Visitor Centre but due to the expanse of the Garden, access is not always feasible or efficient.

**ADDITIONAL SUPPORT:** Please also note that although we strive to provide an inclusive environment for campers, **we are unable to provide 1-to-1 support** due to our current program format with group sizes of up to 24 campers. **If your child runs away from leaders, has difficulty following directions, or is unsafe towards themselves and others, you will need to provide an adult to attend camp to support their behaviour. If we find during camp that your child is disrespectful of others or the Garden or is having difficulty following instructions, we will ask you to provide an adult for the remainder of the camp.** During registration, you will be asked whether your child has any allergies, medical conditions, or other specific needs that may require support from staff or an external party, as well as strategies to support those needs. We welcome guardian-provided support aids to join children in our camps, but this must be pre-arranged with our administrative team; we also welcome any other follow-up information you are able to provide prior to their attendance.

**Monday March 17<sup>th</sup> – Bustling Birds**

*As spring arrives, the birds of VanDusen keep themselves busy! Search high and low for some common local species that brave the cold or rain, and learn more about nests, food sources, and what it really takes to be a bird in a Botanical Garden – could you do it?*

**Tuesday March 18<sup>th</sup> – Alien Invaders**

*Aliens have invaded the Garden and only campers can help uncover who they are and how they got here! Explore concepts of invasive and native species while learning about basic identification techniques and unique adaptations of some of the plants that now call VanDusen home.*

**Wednesday March 19<sup>th</sup> – Crafty Critters**

*Calling all crafty critters! Let the Garden be your inspiration in this creative camp – from bright colours and clever patterns to unique structures and art that changes with time. Campers will explore art at VanDusen and express themselves through a take-home nature craft.*

**Thursday March 20<sup>th</sup> – Dirt to Dinner**

*Explore the incredible journey that food takes to find its way to your plate! Learn about plant parts and life cycles, pollination, and decomposition through crafts and yummy taste tests. Visit the VanDusen Beehives and Veggie Garden, and explore the vibrant life in the soil beneath our feet and under logs.*

**Friday March 21<sup>st</sup> – Wonders of Water**

*Take a journey through the water cycle and create your own watershed as you learn why water is so important for biodiversity on earth. Explore VanDusen Botanical Garden for examples of aquatic ecosystems and organisms – what will you discover just below the surface?*

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**Monday March 24<sup>th</sup> – Bugs & Beyond**

*Did you know that all bugs are insects but not all insects are bugs? Look down by your feet, in the water, and up at the sky for things that fly, crawl, skim, or burrow; From introductory classification to learning how these creatures grow and eat, we're buzzing for you to join us in the Garden for a day of exploration!*

**Tuesday March 25<sup>th</sup> - Food Web Frenzy**

*Have you ever heard the phrase “everything is connected”? Campers will learn about some species that rely on each other to survive in the Garden, and which ones cause a little bit of trouble. Go on a scavenger hunt for native species in the Garden, or test your luck at a game of Urban Wildlife Bingo – do you know which animals call VanDusen home?*

**Wednesday March 26<sup>th</sup> - Whimsical Woodlands**

*Flutter in for a whimsical day in the world of fairies and woodland creatures. Create your own miniature garden with enchanting greenery, and hear folklore about which plants are most likely to attract magical creatures. Make tiny toadstools and other charming trinkets to take home with you and treasure forever.*

**Thursday March 27<sup>th</sup> – Dirt to Dinner**

*Explore the incredible journey that food takes to find its way to your plate! Learn about plant parts and life cycles, pollination, and decomposition through crafts and yummy taste tests. Visit the VanDusen Beehives and Veggie Garden, and explore the vibrant life in the soil beneath our feet and under logs.*

**Friday March 28<sup>th</sup> - Ancient Planet**

*Travel back in time to learn about the ancient history of some of the Garden's popular species. From billions of years ago through present day, discover how certain plants evolved, solve the mystery of continents on the move, and capture a moment in time with a fossil craft to take home!*

<b>Cohort</b>	<b>Start/Sign-In Time</b>	<b>End/Sign-Out Time</b>	<b>Ages</b>
Red	8:40 am	3:40 pm	5-7
Blue	8:50 am	3:50 pm	7-10
Yellow	9:00 am	4:00 pm	5-7
After Care	cohort end time	5:00 latest	5-10