

## CROTEAU LAKE BACKCOUNTRY HOST INFORMATION SHEET

Thank you for your interest in the Croteau Lake Host Program in Strathcona Provincial Park. We hope this information will help you decide if this volunteer opportunity is right for you.

Applicants must be aware that this area is remote and hosts need to be prepared with backcountry hiking, camping, and outdoor skills to ensure a good experience and reduce the risk of encountering problems. Hosts must be willing and prepared to provide basic labour to help maintain the group site and to be comfortable meeting and greeting park visitors at the backcountry site to provide information as needed.

Since the inaugural year in 2019, the application process begins with submission of an applications starting in January, with decisions and scheduling offers to follow based on the order that applications are received. We would like all potential hosts to commit to a minimum of one week time slots (arriving and departing on Thursdays). However, we may consider shorter periods if the weekend is included.

Generally, the responsibilities of the hosts are to greet visitors, inform groups about camping and park etiquette, maintain group site facilities, advise Area Supervisor and Park Rangers about activities and/or issues observed, and work on any approved or assigned special projects appropriate to each host.

A Croteau Lake Host manual and visitor orientation sheet will be provided to each confirmed host. This will provide more detail about park information and hosting duties. Here are some points that lay out the basics:

- Supplied equipment includes: a wall tent on wooden raised tent pad; camp cots; cooking stove & fuel along with cookware and place settings; lantern; table and chairs; lockable large metal box for storage; pop-up tent for outdoor kitchen; water filter and large water container; cleaning supplies; tarp; tools.
- Hosts are required to pack in their own food, sleeping bag, sleeping pad (cots are not insulated) and personal items needed for the duration of their hosting shift. The relatively easy trail hike to Croteau Lake is approximately 6Km with elevation gain of 250m.

- Valid Occupational First Aid (OFA) Level 1 First Aid Certificate or equivalent is required. A first aid kit is provided at Croteau Lake by BC Parks.
- A 1-week minimum term for Park Hosts is preferred, but we may consider shorter terms as long as a weekend is part of the stay. Hosting periods start on the day you hike in, and end on the day you hike out.
- Please ensure you are available and committed to hosting the week you apply for. Although cancellations are understandable under certain circumstances, this creates difficulty for the Strathcona team, and we rely on hosts keeping to the schedule.
- Due to the remote location, there must be two adults in the hosting party. The following application is on behalf of yourself as the primary host and the other adult co-host(s) in your party. As the primary host, you are responsible to find another adult co-host.
- All adults in the hosting party must consent to and pass a Vulnerable Sector Criminal Records Check – more information will be provided to successful applicants.
- Pets are not permitted under this volunteer program.
- Preferred experience and qualifications include a combination of wilderness hiking, camping, customer service, and public engagement work.
- Hosts are expected to be in good health and capable of physical exertion. Hosts should be willing to do basic light duties as required.
- Successful applicants to this program will sign a BC Parks Volunteer Agreement.
- An InReach satellite communication device will be provided for required daily safety check-ins. Note - Cell service is sporadic depending on service provider but can be accessed in certain locations near Croteau Lake.
- There is a small solar battery bank provided to hosts for charging electronics.

We will contact all interested applicants and successful applicants will be offered hosting dates based on the order applications were received.

Thank you very much for your interest in this volunteer host opportunity. We look forward to connecting with you.

Sincerely,

Jessie Moore  
Strathcona Area Supervisor

## Application Process

Interested parties are asked to complete the online application form. Applications go live on the [BC Parks website](#) in January of each year.

If you have any questions about the program or would like to be notified when applications go live, please reach out to [bcparks.volunteers@gov.bc.ca](mailto:bcparks.volunteers@gov.bc.ca)

Applications will be reviewed and BC Parks staff will confirm dates with successful applicants based on the order applications were received.

Successful completion of electronic criminal records check and signing a volunteer agreement are requirements of this volunteer program. Information will be sent to applicants. Confirmed hosts will have until June to provide a copy of valid first aid certification (for yourself or an adult co-host in your party).

The BC Parks team will invite confirmed hosts to attend an orientation and Q&A session via Zoom in June.