

Volunteer Backcountry Host Opportunity-Kakwa Provincial Park

The Volunteer Park Host Program is a hospitality service to park visitors, they are the eyes, ears and heart of the park. The role of the host is to enhance visitor services and to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere for park visitors. By greeting park visitors and providing them with information about things to do in the park and surrounding area, volunteer park hosts offer an important service.



The backcountry host is stationed at the Kakwa Provincial Park cabin, which has sleeping quarters, a stove, a propane fridge, stove and heat) an external deck, a small dock, an outhouse, and water filtration for clean drinking water. There is solar power onsite. The host season runs from late June to early September. Hosts are required to commit to at least a 5–6 week period. Below is a list of qualifications and duties expected of the park host as well as some general park information. This is an excellent opportunity to spend time living in a hikers' paradise that showcases ice-clad mountains and extensive alpine meadows. Kakwa Provincial Park is located approximately 70 km north of McBride in British Columbia.

The backcountry host is responsible for the following:

- Greeting visitors that come into Kakwa Provincial Park and provide information to park users on cabin and camp use;
- Ensure the camp remains clean, and that park visitor's clean-up after themselves;
- Record and report a summary that contains any strange occurrences, conflicts with wildlife, contraventions of the Park Act and Regulations, and any accidents or near misses that occur, any findings of repairs that need to be completed within the park or facilities within the park;
- Maintain a park host journal (a record of weather, duties) and a visitor records journal; and
- Minor cleaning and maintenance as required.

In exchange for the duties listed above, BC Parks will:

- Provide a fully equipped cabin, camp furniture, cooking supplies, and other camp basics;
- Provide logistical support;
- Facilitate work projects that mutually benefit the park and the backcountry host; and
- Provide orientation for the selected hosts before they go into the park, instructing them on the use and maintenance of the water system, propane stove, use of the communication device system for checking in/out, and all other duties or equipment expected to be used.

Host Requirements:

- Available to commit to at least a 5–6-week host term in Kakwa Provincial Park;
- Must be in good health and in good physical condition in order to perform the duties required, to hike to other sites within the park, and to live in an isolated location without access to immediate medical aid;
- First aid training and current certification at OFA Level 1, and CPR (or equivalent) or higher;
- Experience with backcountry travel;
- For safety reasons, there must be at least two people in the host party;
- Hosts must sign a volunteer agreement and abide by all BC Park policies and regulations;
- A vulnerable sector Criminal Record Check is mandatory for all hosts;

Supplies:

Hosts must supply the following items for their stay:

- Food (for 6 weeks)
- Bug spray
- Clothing (suitable to all weather conditions, snow to heat)
- Sleeping bag, sleep foam for trips taken outside the cabin, sheet pillow and pillowcase
- Fishing gear, cameras, and other leisure time equipment
- Bear spray and knowledge of how to use it
- Medications (Tylenol, moleskin, etc.)
- Backcountry gear (pack, headlamps, water bottle etc.)
- Enthusiasm for the outdoors!

BC Parks supplies the following items during your stay:

- Shelter - Cabin
- Sleep foam on the beds in the cabin
- Propane stove with 4 burners, propane fridge and freezer
- Kitchen basics-pots, pans, cutlery, plates, glasses, dish clothes, toilet paper, paper towel, coffee pot, dish soap
- Water filtration system for clean drinking water
- Propane powered heater
- Solar power-lights, charging outlets, two-way radio
- InReach/satellite device for safety and navigation
- Mattresses to sleep on

Applications for this opportunity are posted on bcparks.ca in January of each year. If you are interested, please complete an application. Applications are finalized for each summer by the end of May.