

APRIL 2025

GREATER VICTORIA POLICE
FOUNDATION 

POLICE CAMP 2025 SUMMARY



ANOTHER LIFE CHANGING OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH

Thanks to the incredible generosity of dozens of donors to the GVPF, Police Camp 2025 was another success. 50 youth from across our region started Camp as individuals, unsure of what to expect.

Eight days later, they graduated with confidence and pride, part of a second family. They built new friendships with their fellow participants, strong bonds with the volunteer police officers at Camp and armed with new life skills and perspectives.

The feedback we've had from the participants and parents has been overwhelming - and everything we hoped to accomplish when we started the Greater Victoria Police Foundation three years ago.

In the next few pages, we share some of the unique opportunities that these youth experienced.

It is an experience that these youth will remember for the rest of their lives and one which will help shape them as adults and future leaders in our community and country.

Thank you to all the donors and partners who made Police Camp 2025 possible.



DAY 1 - MARCH 15

The participants arrived at St. Margaret's School on a chilly morning, unsure of themselves and unsure of what to expect.

They were sorted into their teams, met their Team Leaders (volunteer police officers who were with them 24/7 for all eight days!) and showed to their on-site accommodations.

The initial briefing by Victoria PD Chief Constable Del Manak and Police Camp Director Kim Basi, retired Saanich PD put them at ease and outlined what they could expect from the week.

The rest of the day included:

- Dr. Reem Habtezion, an ICU doctor who shared unique perspectives of how police and health care professionals collaborate
- Retired Staff Sergeant Horsley providing an overview of the legal context for police officers - Charter of Rights and Freedoms, right to counsel, powers of arrest
- Additional briefings on radio usage and Contact/Cover
- And then there was Drill! More on that later...



DAY 2 - MARCH 16

By now, the Campers were getting more comfortable, with themselves, each other and the Team Leaders and other police volunteers who attended to share their unique skills and experiences.

They learned more skills which each team would put to use in the remaining evenings for Night Patrol.

This included:

- Traffic safety and investigations, with a special section on impaired driving and investigations
- They learned about police call responses from Constables Spencer Loverock and Dean Robson
- Radio usage followed
- They then got to put their learning to use by participating in traffic simulations including traffic stops and investigations
- While Blue Team undertook the first Night Patrol, the rest of the Campers participated in either individual or group recreation. One of the team leaders instructed them in basic martial arts techniques
- But we can't forget about the food! St. Margaret's laid out an incredible spread each day. We heard more than once that the meals were one of the best parts of Police Camp!

Turn In (bedtime) was at 10:00 p.m.



DAY 3 - MARCH 17

Just at the Campers thought they had everything down pat, Physical Fitness (PT) was introduced for the week...starting at 6:00 a.m.!

It's a sight to behold - 50 teens up and at 'em early in the morning...voluntarily.

Continuing their learning and skills building, Day 3 covered subject matter related to common offences, with an in-depth focus on controlled drugs and substances and a special presentation on health and wellness, including emotional and mental health. Simulations followed and then...more Drill!

It was Purple Team's evening for Night Patrols, while the rest enjoyed more team/individual recreation.

It was once again time for Turn In at 10:00 p.m.



DAY 4 - MARCH 18

After 6:00 a.m. PT and breakfast, the Campers gathered outside on frosty grass and chilly air to watch a demonstration by the Integrated Canine Unit. They asked lots of animated questions of the canine handlers - and the most popular question? What happens to your dog after it retires? (The answer = they live with their handlers!)

The Campers participated in learning sessions about:

- Shiprider
- Gang crime and intervention
- Criminal case studies and trials
- Integrated Mobile Crisis Response Team (a partnership between health care professionals and plain clothes police)

They thoroughly enjoyed a demonstration from the Public Safety Unit (most were surprised at how heavy the equipment is).

Finally, the entire group learned how to keep themselves and their families safe from fraud and online fraud from a presentation by GVPF partner RBC.

The group engaged in Drill and then it was Red Team's evening for Night Patrols, while the rest enjoyed more team/individual recreation.

It was once again time for Turn In at 10:00 p.m.



DAY 5 - MARCH 19

After 6:00 a.m. PT and breakfast, it was time for some sessions that would debunk ideas learned from TV shows like CSI.

The Campers spent most of the day learning about forensics - with most of this session experiential, hands-on learning. They learned how to dust for fingerprints, analyze evidence patterns and all of the science (biology, chemistry and physics, let alone technology) that is used.

They followed this with a fun (lots of laughs were had!) session on breaking and entering, most of which was learned through simulations.

The group engaged in more Drill, followed by crisis negotiations and then it was Yellow Team's evening for Night Patrols, while the rest enjoyed more team/individual recreation.

It was once again time for Turn In at 10:00 p.m.



DAY 6 - MARCH 20

After 6:00 a.m. PT and breakfast, the Campers experienced one of the most engaging and fun opportunities of the week.

They departed for the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, where they boarded 15 vessels from the RCMP, Shipriders and the CBSA for an incredible morning on the water learning about marine skills and policing in this extreme environment. But that was not all - a surprise visit by two helicopters complete an awe-filled morning, with demonstrations of how air and sea based teams work together.

The afternoon consisted of an interactive discussion about social media and how to stay safe online, along with a polygraph demonstration and career planning.

The group engaged in more Drill, and then it was Green Team's evening for the final night patrol.

It was once again time for Turn In at 10:00 p.m.





DAY 7 - MARCH 21

After 6:00 a.m. PT and breakfast, there was more fun in store.

The Campers got to interact with members of the Greater Victoria Emergency Response Team and learned about the high-risk situations that officers face.

They departed for the BC Aviation Museum in Saanich for an amazing demonstration of the Air Unit.

Upon returning to St. Margaret's, they spent time with Dr. Lydia Valleries, a psychologist, the Saanich Police Dive Unit and then more career planning.

The group engaged in more Drill, practice for Graduation, room cleaning and pack-up and then a final presentation by Police Camp Director Kim Basi.

It was then time for the final Turn In at 10:00 p.m.





DAY 8 - MARCH 22

Even on the last day...there was 6:00 a.m. PT!

But the excitement of Graduation Day kept the Campers energized.

All the Drill they practiced was put to good use in front of their families and GVPF guests.

Drill is not just for show - it is an essential component of team building, unity, *esprit de corps* and belongingness.

The moments of the week were shown in a captivating slide show created by volunteer Izzy Ivings.

Saanich PD Chief Constable Dean Duthie made the closing remarks and presented the completion certificates along with Red Team Co-Leader Saanich PD Cst. Aaron Grewal.

There were not many dry eyes in the room and the life-changing week was at an end, with many new friendships made and strong bridges built between 100+ police officers and these amazing youth of our region.





BUILDING BRIDGES

Police Camp leverages the unique experience and skills of 100+ volunteer officers.

While Police Camp relies on the unique opportunities of policing, it is not intended to recruit youth into law enforcement. Rather, it leans on these experiences to draw out life lessons and to teach skills, including teamwork and collaboration; resilience; tenacity; career planning; organization and time management and more. Most importantly, it aims to build strong, lasting connections between police agencies in our region and youth in these communities. We hope you agree that Police Camp 2025 was a significant step to accomplishing this goal.

Several articles were published about Police Camp this year - please click on the links below to review.

[GVPF Police Camp Video](#)

[Times Colonist](#)

[Greater Victoria police camp gives youth a glimpse of life behind the badge](#)

[Spring break police camp underway for local teens](#)

[Greater Victoria students witness the fur fly at Police Camp](#)

For more information, please visit gvpf.org



