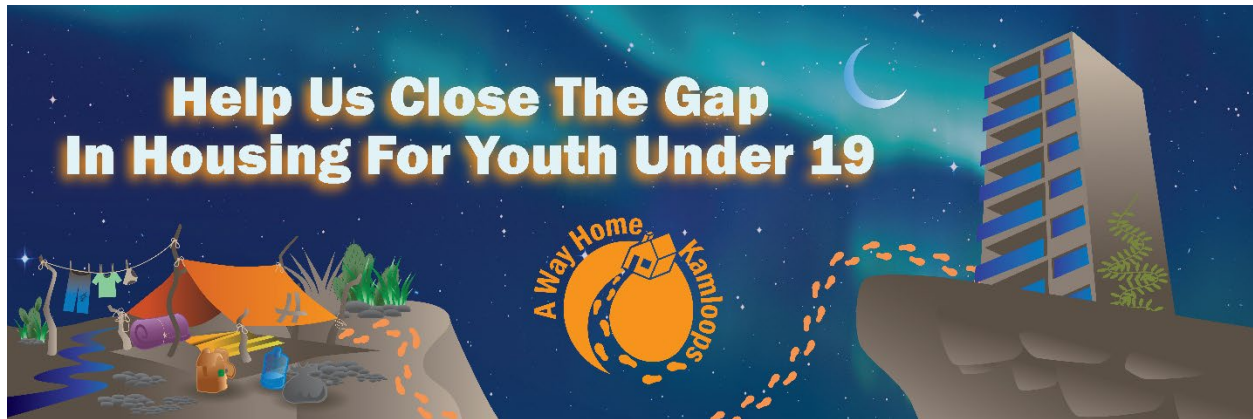




**You can be part of the change for homeless youth by getting involved in the 10th annual Campout to End Youth Homelessness!**

***What is Campout?*** Campers spend a December night outside to experience what youth who don't have a home experience every day while raising much needed funds for A Way Home Kamloops youth housing programs.

### ***Why Do We Campout?***

- Youth homelessness is a significant issue that often leads to long term homelessness and effects younger and younger folks every year. A Way Home Kamloops is raising funds to create a new program for youth ages 16-19 who have no other appropriate housing options
- Youth are still aging out of Foster Care without appropriate housing or supports
- Youth who are housed are sometimes living in unsafe, unstable or inappropriate homes
- The longer a youth has been homeless the more trauma they experience and the greater the chance that they will experience homelessness more often and for longer periods
- There is a lack of supportive housing for youth in our community. In the last youth specific homeless count we found over 150 youth who needed housing in Kamloops.

### ***How Does Campout Make A Difference?***

- People who Campout get a one-night glimpse into what it means to sleep outside in Kamloops
- Campers learn about AWHK programs and meet the staff who support youth in our housing.
- Every cent raised through community pledges goes to AWHK Housing Programs that help youth who are at risk of, or experiencing homelessness.

## Ways To Get Involved

### 1. Campout at McDonald Park.

- Sign up online and then come in person and spend time with AWHK staff and other campers taking part in activities at MacDonald Park.
- Sign up early to raise as many pledges as possible before the night of the Campout, December 4<sup>th</sup> 2026.

### 2. Campout as a Team

- Creating a team is a great way to unite for a cause, gather your co-workers, family or friends and come together to shine a light on youth homelessness
- Create your team page at the Campout link here:  
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/a-way-home-kamloops-society/p2p/campout2026/>
- We will be highlighting exceptional teams on our social media, so get creative, come up with a descriptive team name, and share on your own social media
- Each donation over \$20 will receive a charitable tax receipt

### 3. Campout Remotely

- You can create your own version of camping at home and join by Zoom (see link below)
- In the past, campers have joined from the store fronts of their businesses, backyards, front porches, balconies, cars, and even from their living rooms
- Youth homelessness is a spectrum from sleeping rough outside, to couch surfing and being precariously or inappropriately housed. However you decide to camp, you will be shining a light on youth homelessness
- You can camp in cardboard boxes, tarps, tents, blankets on the floor, on a couch, or in your car

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87114315701?pwd=v0N4P1jtcD2UX2VLbf0r4ksGVNR6sZ.1>

### 4. Pledge your Support For Our Campers

- Our Campers campout to raise awareness and dollars for AWHK programs
- You can show your support for their passion by visiting the link below, clicking on their name and donating to their effort
- If you don't know anyone who is camping choose any person or a team to pledge your support to!

### 5. Sponsor the Event

This is A Way Home Kamloops' biggest fundraiser of the year and your business can benefit from being a sponsor while helping to end youth homelessness.

Contact us to become a sponsor: [admin@awayhomekamloops.com](mailto:admin@awayhomekamloops.com) 250-828-0446

***Title Sponsor who provides over \$5,000:***

- Have representative from your company give a prerecorded or live 3-minute presentation to virtual and in-person Campers
- Media mentions with event promotion
- Your signage displayed at the event
- Your logo on Partnership poster and the AWHK website
- Social media thank yous
- Charitable tax receipt

***Partner Sponsor who gives \$2,000-\$5,000:***

- Media mentions with event promotion
- Your logo on Partnership poster and the AWHK website
- Social media thank yous
- Charitable tax receipt

***Business Sponsor who gives \$250-\$2,000:***

- Your logo on Partnership poster and the AWHK website
- Social media thank yous
- Charitable tax receipt

***Contributor who gives under \$250 in cash or in-kind donations:***

- Your logo on Partnership poster and the AWHK website
- Social media thank yous

***In-Kind Donor:*** There are many things that we need to make the night a success and we appreciate donations of in-kind items. We will be looking for food for our campers, propane for our fire pits for the night, hot beverages, swag for campers and items like hand warmers to keep our campers warm through the night.

***WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU CAMPOUT***

4-5pm - Arrive & Set Up: Come to the park before dark to prepare or set up at home

6:00-9:00 – Food & Presentations Live and over Zoom discussion and presentation on the issues of youth homelessness

9:00-10:00 - Activities & Mingling: Complete your set up, take part in activities, and get to know your fellow campers

We can not pretend that this one night of sleeping outside is exactly what it is like to be homeless; this is just a glimpse into what it might feel like. We provide many luxuries such as snacks, warming stations, and lighting. We also make sure everyone is safe by providing staff, First Aid attendants and security. There are still a few things to be aware of:

### Weather!

The weather is unpredictable, it can be very cold or surprisingly warm, it can be wet and it may snow. You will want to be prepared with layers and options for changes in weather. Water-proof footwear and warm socks are a must!

### Sleep Pattern Changes

Where ever you camp your sleep patterns will likely be disrupted. You may get very little or no sleep so you may want to plan your next day accordingly.

### Support

There will be support on site. AWHK staff will be at the park along with Palladin Security Services. We will provide some activities, snacks, hot dogs and hot chocolate. We have a warming station in the *Parkview Community Centre* and indoor w/c facilities!

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Can children Campout?** Yes! If children under 19 years of age are with their legal guardian, they are welcome to Campout either at the park or at home.

**What does safety and security look like?** You will be sleeping in an open area surrounded by a security fence. Security onsite is walking the area all night. First Aid responders will be on site all night.

**Can I sleep in a tent?** Yes! Youth homelessness comes in many forms so be creative or play it a bit safe, it is up to you how you camp!

**Where, when and how do we set up our camps?** You can start setting up as early as 4:30pm on December 4th. There is on street parking nearby. You are responsible for bringing any of your camp supplies but we will have some large cardboard boxes and hand warmers on site for your use.

**Where is the bathroom?** We will have bathroom facilities very close by!

**What should I bring?** Layers of clothes, a flashlight, your phone all charged up so you can post on social media, your tent, box, or tarp with sleeping bag and blankets. You may also want to bring a water bottle, medications or special snacks if you have dietary restrictions.

**Who else will be there?** All the best people! There are a wide range of campers from individuals to work teams and friend groups; people who just learned about AWHK to people who have camped out every year for the last 8 years!

**Substance use on site?** No smoking, vaping or consumption of alcohol or substances is permitted on site

**What if I decide I can't handle it?** If it just get's too cold you are welcome to leave any time at all! We just ask that you take anything you brought with you out when you leave

**What happens after the event?** We leave the donation site open until January 15th so people can pledge their support for your experience into the new year.