

Summer Wind Symphony Camp 2026 Junior Coaches Application Package

Thank you for your interest in applying for a Junior Coach position for the 2026 Summer Youth Wind Symphony Camp. Please read through the following guidelines carefully prior to submitting your application. Application forms can be found at the end of this package. We look forward to reviewing your application!

Application Deadline: March 31st 2026

What is a Junior Coach?

A junior coach is passionate about music and mentoring young aspiring musicians. The coach attends the Junior Wind Symphony Camp to assist in daily tasks and act as a role model in rehearsal etiquette, musicianship, and capability on their instrument. A junior coach does not replace the role of the professional musician coaches who will be working with students for sectionals, but will play an important role in fostering and enhancing the camp experience for young students.

What do I receive in exchange for becoming a Junior Coach?

In return for a junior coach's dedication during the Junior Wind Symphony Camp, junior coaches receive a 50% discount on tuition for the following Senior Wind Symphony Camp. Junior coaches will also receive a letter of recommendation from the Executive Director or Conductor of the Vancouver Youth Wind Symphony and proof of volunteer services.

What if more than one person applies on my instrument?

Due to the nature of junior coaches and their pivotal role in the junior wind symphony camp, we are limiting the number of junior coaches to one per instrument. In the event that more than one qualified student applies for a position, we may ask for an in-person blind (anonymous) audition on your instrument to make the final decision. Further details are outlined on page 3, under section "What are In-Person Blind Auditions?"

When are the Summer 2026 Wind Symphony Camps?

Junior Wind Symphony Camp Dates:

Tuesday August 4 - Friday August 7 2026, 9:00am - 3:00pm

Senior Wind Symphony Camp Dates:

Monday August 10 - Friday August 14 2026, 9:30am - 4:30pm

NOTE: Junior Coach applicants must be able to attend both weeks to be eligible

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What are the roles of a Junior Coach?

As a junior coach, you will:

- Be an exemplary role model in rehearsal etiquette
- Show expertise in musical expression and rhythmic accuracy
- Answer questions regarding fingerings, notes, or technique during rehearsals when a professional coach is not present
- Assist in confirming part seating arrangements within the section as required
- Participate in the creation, photography, and videoing of social media and website content
- Ensure students are comfortable with their overall camp experience
- Report any instances of bullying or accidents to an adult
- Attend one training session in late July or early August to prepare
- Assist in preparation of music folders and music sorting

As a junior coach, you may be asked to:

- Help show students to their sectional rooms within the building
- Assist with the handing out of new repertoire or music
- Volunteer as front of house for the concert
- Work with individual students who may be struggling with a particular rhythm or fingering
- Demonstrate a particular rhythm, articulation, or passage of music from the repertoire for your section in front of the ensemble

As a junior coach, you **will not** be expected to:

- Play or perform any solos in the ensemble (unless there is no student playing the particular part in question)
- Look after students on your own without adult supervision
- Lend or allow students to use or touch your instrument

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What are in-person blind auditions?

An in-person audition will only be required if more than one qualified person applies for a junior coaching position on their instrument.

A blind audition is common practice in professional orchestras to ensure fairness in the audition process. This means that the panel of judges and the performer are separated by a screen. The performer is expected to not speak or make noises that will reveal their identity and will perform a provided excerpt. The judges will only identify the performers by number.

We will have someone present to greet and randomly hand out numbers to performers who are auditioning. They will act as the main contact person if you have any questions during the audition process, or would like to relay something to the judges. This person does not hold any position within the judging process and is present strictly as a mediator for the audition process.

We feel that in the event of more than one qualified applicant on their instrument, this is the fairest way to determine who wins the junior coach position, especially as this is the first year that we are offering this opportunity.

In the event that in-person blind auditions need to be held, the proposed timeline is as follows:

April 7 2026: E-mails indicating whether you have been accepted as a junior coach, or if in-person anonymous auditions must be held. An excerpt will be attached to the email if you are required to participate in the audition.

May 9 & 10 2026: Tentative dates for in-person blind auditions, location TBD.

May 11 2026 by 9:00pm: E-mail notifications to all participants with results.

More detailed information will be sent out in the event that an in-person blind audition needs to be held. If you have any questions about this process, please feel free to reach out.

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Eligibility

To apply to be a junior coach, you **must**:

- Be a student entering Grade 11, Grade 12, or first year university in September 2026
- Currently take private lessons on your instrument
- Be responsible and respectful
- Be able to attend both the junior and senior youth wind symphony camp weeks
- Demonstrate, through an audition process, competency on your instrument
- Be able to attend a training and orientation session in late July or early August

Preference will be given to students who are interested in pursuing music education in the future.

Application Steps

1. Fill out the following application form
2. Include a 250 word maximum letter of intent
3. Include 2 reference letters written by non-family members (such as from your private teacher, school band teacher, or other mentor in your life)
4. A video recording of you performing two contrasting pieces or etudes of choice

The video recording can be done on a phone, as long as the video and audio quality are acceptable. Videos can be uploaded to youtube as an unlisted video or to a shareable drive. Please include the hyperlink in your email.

Submit all of the above to Mia Gazley at mia.gazley@vymf.org with the subject line **VYWS Summer Coaching Application**. If you have any questions or concerns throughout the process, please reach out to Mia at any time.

Timeline

March 31 2026: Applications due

April 7 2026: Initial acceptance emailed; if more than one instrument applied, in-person blind audition information emailed out

May 9 & 10 2026: Tentative in-person blind audition dates

May 11 2026 by 9:00pm: E-mail notification with audition results

May 15 2026 by 11:59pm: Confirmation of acceptance from the student should be emailed by this time. A lack of a response will be understood as declining the position, and the position may be sent to the next qualified applicant.

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Junior Coaches Application Form

Please print clearly or complete using a computer. Completed forms may be emailed to mia.gazley@vymf.org by March 31st.

Personal Information

Applicant First Name		Applicant Last Name	
Preferred Pronouns	Birthdate (DD-MM-YYYY)	Coaching Instrument	
Home Address			
Student Phone Number		Student E-mail Address	
Parent/Guardian Name		Parent/Guardian E-mail Address	

Musical Background

What is your primary instrument? _____

How many years have you been playing this instrument? _____

Do you have a secondary instrument that you are comfortable playing in a wind ensemble setting?

What other instruments do you have experience with? _____

Who is your private lesson teacher? _____

How long have you been taking private lessons? _____

[illegible]

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3. Are there any other circumstances that we should be aware of that will aid in your application? (if more space is needed, please attach a separate document)

Other Materials Checklist

Please be sure to include the following items:

- ☐ A letter of intent no more than 250 words
- ☐ Two reference letters written by non-family members, such as a private teacher, coach, or other mentor
- ☐ A link to a video recording of you performing two contrasting pieces or etudes of choice

I, the parent/guardian of _____, understand that my child is applying for the opportunity to become a junior coach for the Vancouver Youth Wind Symphony junior summer camp. I support my child throughout this process and understand my child's intent to become a junior coach.

Parent/Guardian Full Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

I, the applicant, have completed the above accurately and to the best of my ability and understand that I am applying for the position of Junior Coach for the Vancouver Youth Wind Symphony Summer Camp 2026.

Applicant Name

Applicant Signature

Date: _____