



BEAR CREEK CAMP

Explore, celebrate & grow in God's creation!

The Lord is good! God's love and faithfulness will last forever. PSALM 100:5

**continuing
promise**

BCCsummer2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for choosing Bear Creek Camp for your camper's Christian camp experience. Our Summer 2021 theme is Continuing Promise based off of Psalm 100:5. We will explore the ways God was faithful to people throughout the bible and the ways God's love impacts our lives today.

With the loss of Summer 2020, the anticipation for Summer 2021 is unprecedented! We are committed to providing a camp experience that is safe, healthy, and fully lives into the mission of Bear Creek Camp of bringing individuals together into community to explore, celebrate, and grow in God's creation.

In this time of uncertainty we are working hard to make sure that we capture the essential elements of the Bear Creek experience while also keeping our campers, families, and staff as safe as possible. We are closely following the recommendations of state and national health authorities, the American Camp Association, and Lutheran Outdoor Ministries to ensure that all that we do is done with an intentional eye towards safety. Aspects of our programming will necessarily be different this summer than summers before, and we will continue to communicate these changes with you all as our camper families leading up to your camper's time here at Bear Creek.

The following information is intended to help you and your camper prepare for camp and have the best possible experience at Bear Creek Camp. Even if you are a long-time Bear Creek Camp camper, please take a few minutes to read through the packet as some things may have changed.

The camp week will start with Check-In from 3:00 to 4:30 PM on Sunday and Check-Out on Friday from 4:00 to 5:00 PM. (Wednesday at 9:00 AM for Try Camp). Please take a moment to see the "Preparing for Camp," "During Camp," and "Post Camp" sections for more information.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions concerning your camper's week at Bear Creek Camp. We can be reached by phone at (570) 472-3741 or email at bccamp@bearcreekcamp.org. Also, like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram to see updates from camp!

We need your prayers for this summer. Please pray for our campers, our staff, and for God's amazing love to cover all that are here.

In Christ,

Collin Grooms
Executive Director

Kaitlyn Blend
Program Director

PREPARING FOR CAMP

PACKING

Please send sturdy and comfortable clothing with your camper. Campers will be very active during the week and clothing will get dirty, wet, and muddy as they tromp through woods, splash in mud puddles, and play in the creek. Please send only items that you and your camper won't be upset if they are ruined. No laundry opportunities are available for campers; please pack enough clothes for the entire duration of the camp session. All clothes should also have appropriate language and imagery.

Aside from comfortable clothes, shoes should also be comfortable as well as effective. Activity shoes that will be worn during games, walks, and daily camp should be close-toed. Flip flops will only be allowed in cabins and at the lake. Hiking boots are strongly encouraged for hiking, however, sturdy sneakers are allowed in the absence of boots.

PACKING LIST – Campers should bring the following items for their use at camp.

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| — At least 10 face masks (2 per day) | — Sturdy Closed-Toe Shoes |
| — Personal Water Bottle | — Extra pair of shoes (in case yours get wet) |
| — Sleeping Bag | — Backpack (if you have one, no need to buy one) |
| — Pillow | — Dress Clothes for Dance Night |
| — Towels and Washcloth | — Rain Gear |
| — Toothbrush and Toothpaste | — Bible |
| — Comb/Brush | — Notebook |
| — Sunscreen and Insect Repellent | — Pens/Pencils |
| — Swimsuit | — Flashlight |
| — Clothes for all weather (Shorts, Jeans, T-Shirts, Sweatshirt, socks, etc.) | — Camera (if desired) |
| — Old Clothes (things you don't mind getting dirty) | — Medication (if you need them) |
| | — 14-Day Pre-Camp Health Practice Form |

Please mark all belongings with the camper's name. Lost and found items will be kept at the office for a maximum of three months after the last session of summer camp. Please contact the camp if you are missing something and we will do our best to locate it. There is no need to bring any personal sports equipment, but if equipment is brought, Bear Creek Camp assumes no responsibility of lost or damaged items and all equipment must be properly stored when not in use.

ITEMS NOT TO BRING TO CAMP

These items will be taken from campers and held until the end of the week. Possession of weapons or drugs may result in the immediate removal of the camper from camp. Your help and assistance on keeping these items home would be greatly appreciated.

- Food (The camp provides good nutritious meals. Food in the cabins only encourages rodents and other animals to invade which can cause unsafe and unclean conditions.)
- Electronics (**CELL PHONES**, personal music devices, video game systems, etc.)
- **Cell phones** (aside from taking away from the camp experience, phones can be easily lost or damaged which Bear Creek assumes no responsibility of.)
- Knives, weapons, or any fire-related substance
- Cash, jewelry, or other valuables
- Alcohol, tobacco products, other drugs, or any drug paraphernalia

MEDICATIONS

Please have medication, both prescription and over-the-counter, with you during the Check-In process. All medications must be stored with the Healthcare Manager while at camp; this includes any over-the-counter medications your camper might take. If your camper regularly takes over-the-counter medications or must take a specific kind, please bring these with you.

Please bring medication in its original container with all prescription information on it placed in a zip-lock bag. Please mark the bag with the camper's name and place a 3x5 index card or piece of paper in the bag with the following information legibly written on it:

Camper's Name

Name of the medication and the dosage

Directions for taking the medication

When the medication is to be taken (camp standard times include breakfast, lunch, supper, and bed time; other times can be scheduled as needed).

ALLERGIES

Please ensure that all registration information lists all allergies and food restrictions for your camper. Our kitchen will accommodate any food allergies and restrictions, so we need to know your child's restrictions in advance to best prepare for their week at camp.

MAIL, EMAILS AND PHOTOS

Receiving mail at camp is something campers and staff look forward to. Here are a few options to do so.

- 1.) You may bring pre-written mail addressed to your camper on Sunday afternoon to drop off for distribution throughout the week. We will have boxes out to collect these letters at Check-In.
- 2.) One-way email can also be sent to campers during the week. Simply:
 - Send an email to campermail@bearcreekcamp.org
 - In the subject line: [Campers Name] [Age Group] [Cabin Number (if known)]
 - Write and submit email, which will then be delivered to your camper at the next lunch
- 3.) If you would like to send mail via the postal service please send it early in the week to ensure delivery to your camper. Please address mail in the following way:

Camper's Name

Bear Creek Camp

PO Box 278

Bear Creek, PA 18602

Throughout the summer we will also be posting photos on our website and Facebook page. Due to our internet policies and for camper's safety, all photos will be posted after the week has concluded.

REFUND POLICY

All registrations for residential programs are subject to a \$100 non-refundable deposit. Refunds for cancellations will be made according to the following schedule:

No-show or less than 1 week in advance: 50% refund of cost of camp. More than 1 week: refunded minus deposit. Cancellations due to medical reasons: Refunded 100% when we receive a doctor's certification.

Transferring to another 2021 summer session may be done at no charge in lieu of cancellation, subject to program openings and availability.

DURING CAMP

CHECK-IN

The camping week begins Sunday with Check-In from 3:00 to 4:30 PM for Full Week and Try Camp Campers. **Arrival times will be staggered and pre-assigned to reduce the number of people checking in at the same time. You will receive an email prior to your session of camp assigning your camper check-in and pick-up time.** Check-in stations will occur near the program sites for each age group.

We request that only one parent or guardian arrive with the camper to Check-in if possible. Everyone in the vehicle must wear a mask during Check-in. **Campers must bring their completed 14-Day Pre-Camp Health Practice Form with them to Check-in.** Campers who do not bring a completed form will not be allowed to attend camp. Each camper must take a Daily Health Assessment upon arrival including a temperature check. If a camper answers “yes” to any of the questions on the Daily Health Assessment they will not be allowed to attend. ALL MEDICATIONS MUST BE IN THEIR ORIGINAL LABELED CONTAINERS (even large volume) and then group into a clear ziplock bag with the camper’s full name on the outside to be turned in to the Healthcare Manager during Check-In. Any changes to medications from the submitted health form must be made at Check-in with the healthcare staff.

Following Check-In, one accompanying adult may take the camper to their cabin in order to get settled in. We encourage parents to minimize time within the cabin and interact with camp staff at a safe distance outdoors while masked. Please remember that you are still in charge of your children while at Check-In until they are taken to their camp sites. Bear Creek Camp will send email updates if any changes or emergencies occur that may affect pick-up or drop-off.

OPTIONAL ADDITIONS

Camp Store Money, Quest Group Photo (the group your camper will be with all week), and Weekly Highlight Video are additional items you have the option of purchasing. Please note campership money does not cover these items. Our Camp Store has a system which will show the amount in each camper’s personal store account; this will allow campers to purchase snacks and other store items during the week without carrying cash. The Camp Store will be open **each day** in the afternoon and visited by quest groups in a scheduled rotation. We also encourage online pre-ordering of larger items like shirts online at bearcreekcamp.org/store. Items can be selected for pickup upon session arrival. You can deposit any amount you would like into your camper’s camp store account through the CampBrain registration. We suggest **\$10-30**. We will limit the amount of soda and candy campers can buy each day. Money not spent can be refunded at the end of the week or, if you choose, donated to our Campership Fund. Please do not leave cash with your camper during the week; it cannot be used by the campers in the Camp Store during the week. A Weekly Highlight Video is available for \$12, a color 8x10 photo of your camper’s Quest Group is available for \$8, and a Photo/Video combo package is also available for \$15. All can be ordered prior to the week through the registration portal.

CAMP ACTIVITIES

Bear Creek Camp has many activities for your camper to enjoy. With their counselors, campers will have the opportunity to choose some of the activities that they will experience. Please either speak to your camper’s counselor or encourage your camper to speak with them about any special interest they have. Other factors including weather, scheduling, group dynamics, and staffing, may affect what activities will be available.

OVERNIGHT

All campers except Try Camp Campers will get to camp overnight on our property for at least one night. This experience gets the campers involved in developing their outdoor living skills and involves carrying personal and group gear, hiking, preparing meals cooked over campfires, setting up a tent, and basic back-country hygiene. Seniors campers will have the option of deciding on camping out more than one night with their Quest Group.

CAMPER BEHAVIOR

Bear Creek Camp strives to create an environment where all campers are respected and safe. The camp reserves the right to send home any camper who refuses to follow camp rules or, in the opinion of the director, is unable to function adequately in the camp setting. This is why we use a Behavior Contract that all campers and parents must sign prior to their week at camp. Please also discuss the following rules with your camper prior to their arrival to camp.

GENERAL CAMPER RULES:

- All COVID-19 precautions and non-pharmaceutical intervention protocols must be followed at all times.
- Illegal substances (cigarettes, alcohol, drugs, etc) are not permitted. Bear Creek Camp is a smoke-free environment.
- All medication must be given to the Healthcare Manager during Check-In.
- Everyone must wear shoes unless you are at the beach or at your cabin/site.
- Ropes courses should only be utilized when accompanied by a trained staff member.
- Swimming and boating is only allowed when a certified Bear Creek Camp Lifeguard is on duty guarding.
- Interactions between campers should exhibit respect for all individuals involved.
- Campers must be in their own cabin/sleeping area from lights out to morning wake up.
- Campers should treat all campers and staff, as well as their belongings, with respect.
- Campers should use camp property and supplies in the intended manner, treating them with respect; graffiti and vandalism are not permitted.
- Campers should leave their cell phones at home as they are a distraction from the respect, growth, and bonding we work hard to cultivate at camp

ILLNESS OR INJURY

Bear Creek Camp does not carry primary medical insurance for campers. Parents are financially responsible for the cost of any medical care needed during a camper's stay at Bear Creek Camp. We will contact the parent/guardian of a camper injury or illness with symptoms in line with our COVID-19 policy document or any illness or injury that requires the camper to be taken off-site for medical reasons or who has to spend the night in our infirmary at the phone numbers provided.

CAMPER CONTACT

The camp week is a very short time away from home and we have found that it is better if campers are not visited by parents, friends, and relatives nor receive phone calls during the week. If someone other than a parent/guardian is coming to pick up a camper they must be listed as authorized for pickup. If campers must leave a camp session early, a parent or guardian must sign out in the office. Due to COVID-19 protocols, returning to a camp session cannot occur.

HOMESICKNESS

Homesickness can be an obstacle to enjoying camp, but we as a staff can ensure best practices to handle the situation to best comfort your camper. Each occurrence of homesick will be handled on a situation by situation basis and will include conversations with the camper, and parents if needed, before any further steps are taken.

OUR STAFF

Our summer staff consists of both young adults who have completed at least one year of college and Junior Counselors who have just graduated from High School. Both groups go through training which includes skills in working with youth, the program for the summer, first-aid and CPR, responding to emergencies, common issues that arise at camp, and many other areas. All of our counselors are trained to help campers grow through their camp experience and they have the support of other staff to help them if needed. If your camper needs additional support while at camp, the camp staff will contact you to work through the situation. All Junior Counselors are paired with our college-aged counselors and will be assisting them throughout the day. Visiting pastors serve as camp chaplains and we also have a Healthcare Manager on-site who is certified as an EMT or nurse.

POST CAMP

FRIDAY DEPARTURES

The camp week concludes on Friday afternoon at 4:00 with Check-Out from 4:00 to 5:00 PM for Full Week Campers. For Try Campers the week concludes on Wednesday at 9:00 AM by the Retreat Center cabins. Check-outs will occur at the program sites and will be guided at each site by a member of the program staff to ensure efficient and safe departure.

POST CAMP FOLLOW-UP

Parents will receive a post-camp evaluation/survey to review with their camper. These evaluations help us shape the Bear Creek Camp program for the future and your thoughtful participation is appreciated.

COVID NOTICE

If a camper tests positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of departure from camp, please contact the camp office.

We appreciate your thoughtful attention to the above and ask that you please refer to bearcreekcamp.org/summer-camp and emails sent to registered camper families for the most up-to-date information regarding modified policies and operations for Summer 2021.

Please direct any questions to the camp office- bccamp@bearcreekcamp.org or 570.472.3741