



N-SID-SEN
Camp & Retreat Center



PILGRIM FIRS
camp & conference center

Reshaping the Summer Camp Experience - FAQ

Overview

Beginning in 2018, the summer camps offered through N-Sid-Sen and Pilgrim Firs will seek to offer youth (middle school and high school ages) two different summer camp experiences. A more traditional summer camp experience will be hosted at N-Sid-Sen with a continued emphasis of adventure-based activities on the water. Pilgrim Firs will offer congregations mission and service oriented weeks that integrates aspects of traditional camp experiences.

What are the goals through this shift?

Currently we are competing against ourselves in offering similar youth camp experiences at our two sites with a smaller youth demographic in our churches. At the same time, we are stretched each year to find enough volunteer leaders to fill both staffs. The goals through this shift are to grow the youth camps at N-Sid-Sen and provide new opportunities for youth and churches to participate in service camps at Pilgrim Firs.

What will be the major differences between the two camps?

Camps at N-Sid-Sen will continue to offer youth a traditional summer camp experience that builds on the strengths of our volunteer leaders from around the conference. There will be intentional cultural, leader, and experiential integration from both sites built into the camps.

The week at Pilgrim Firs will be designed as a base camp for local churches doing volunteer work with area social service agencies, environmental organizations and other non-profits. Evenings will include debrief time and learning activities as well as more traditional camp activities such as beach time, talent shows, dances, campfires and the likes.

How was it decided to offer the different camps at the two sites?

There are several factors that precipitated the shift. The primary goal of our two sites is, and always has been, to provide outdoor ministry opportunities for our congregations and church members. In looking at the number of potential congregations that this reshaping entails, it is hoped that we offer more congregations and individuals an opportunity to participate in some form of outdoor ministry on one or both sites.

The two sites were looked at for the strengths they offer. N-Sid-Sen, translated as “point of inspiration”, offers campers a place to be inspired and reflect on their gifts, and how their gifts can contribute to shaping a more loving and just world. Being located on beautiful Lake Couer d’Alene also provides the opportunity for more outdoor adventures. Pilgrim Firs, on the other hand, has often been described as a space that nurtures and stimulates the creative spirit. As a peaceful oasis amid urban and rural areas with tremendous human service needs, it is ideally situated for service/mission camps.

How will staffing be handled at Pilgrim Firs Mission/Service Camps?

Pilgrim Firs Mission/Service Camps will be directed by Pilgrim Firs staff. The weeks will be particularly designed for churches, both smaller and larger, that want to send their youth and adult leaders on a mission/service trip but would find it helpful to have the details of housing, food, work projects and schedule done for them.

Will churches be required to send adults with their youth to Pilgrim Firs Service Camps?

Yes and no. Churches that are sending one or two youth are encouraged to send an adult leader to participate and assist in transportation and supervision. Churches with three or more youth are required to send adult leadership to participate in the service week and provide transportation and supervision throughout the week.

Will youth without an adult leader be welcomed at Pilgrim Firs Service Weeks?

Yes. There will be opportunities for individual youth to join in the service camp experience as we look for ways to integrate them into the various projects with attending church groups.

How will this “Reshaping the Summer Camp Experience” be rolled out in 2017?

2017 will be a transition year as we make this shift. During the high school camp week, youth from Pilgrim Firs will travel by bus to N-Sid-Sen to participate in 2 full days of camp with the goal of getting to know more about the site, camp culture, and building connections with youth attending that camp. Due to the amount of transit time going to N-Sid-Sen, the high school camp at Pilgrim Firs will last an extra day, ending on Sunday, July 2.

For more information or questions please contact:

Mark Boyd
Managing Director
N-Sid-Sen Camp & Retreat Center
Mark@N-Sid-Sen.org
Office - 208-689-3489

Wade Zick
Managing Director
Pilgrim Firs Camp & Conference Center
Wade@Pilgrim-Firs.Org
Office -360-876-2031