



Bethelwoods

Camp and Conference Center

2017 Parent Guide for Resident Camp

What is summer camp at Bethelwoods?

Bethelwoods is located on 157 acres blanketed by the abundance of majestic hardwoods trees. As campers explore this naturally adventurous setting, they will learn to appreciate God's world while experiencing their own growth. Removed from the fast pace of everyday life, campers will simply have fun. The small group atmosphere of camp will encourage the growth of friendships. Led by an experienced counselor throughout their stay, every group of camper will experience all that Bethelwoods has to offer. The presence of God is abundant and integrated into many activities that campers and staff engage in daily. From morning worship to evening campfires, from the lake to the swimming pool, from first time experiences and old traditions camp gives campers the chance to create unforgettable memories while building confidence and character. Through it all, campers will have the opportunity to grow in their relationship with a loving, exciting, and unfailing God.



Bethelwoods is the camp and conference center of Providence and Charleston Atlantic Presbyteries.



What can I expect as a parent?

Camp Bethelwoods desires to provide the best possible experience for all campers, and that begins with our relationship with you, the parent. We want to maintain open communication with you at all times, from before your camper's experience begins throughout their entire stay. You can expect your camper to be taken care of by quality staff who truly care for your camper, facilities that will provide campers a comfortable stay, and great memories that will last a lifetime. We understand that separation can be difficult for both parent and camper. Please call us if you believe that your camper is having trouble at camp, and we will investigate the situation immediately. We have found that camper's concerns that arise within the first 24 hours of camp that are communicated home are soon resolved as the week progresses and campers grow more comfortable with their new surroundings.

What can I expect for my camper?

You can expect counselors who truly care for every camper in their group, positive outdoor experiences, small group devotions and camp-wide worship experiences, crazy games, new friendships, songs, campfires, new challenges, personal growth opportunities and traditional camp activities. We encourage parents to get to know their camper's counselors on opening day. Our entire staff is committed not only to giving your camper a positive and fun experience, but a safe one where they can learn and grow. We desire for all who come to camp to leave with a greater understanding and appreciation for God, for themselves and for one another.

Camper Check-In

Registration takes place on the opening day of camp each week, Sunday afternoons from 3-5 pm. Arriving between the designated times will allow our staff to give you the attention needed with no disruptions to our programs. Once you arrive at Bethelwoods, you will be directed to the camper check-in location and luggage drop off. There you will complete check in and visit the camp nurse. After that you can meet a member of our leadership team, say your good byes, and their camp week has begun! If you will be arriving late, please contact us as early as possible.



Things to Bring for Check-In

- It is encouraged to pay fully before you arrive to camp. However, if you have not bring a payment method to pay any remaining balance
- Any prescribed medications in their original containers with proper, original labels to check in with the camp nurse
- Money to place in your camper's store account. We recommend \$15-\$20 for drinks and snacks for the week.

Family Pets

Family pets are not allowed at Bethelwoods, please leave your pets at home.

No Shows

When a registered camper does not show up for a session, the camp will attempt to contact the parents. There will be no refund of payments



Family Worship and Camper Check-out

We invite you and your family to join us for our closing worship, Friday afternoon at 5:00pm the day of your camper's departure. Pick up is directly afterwards. **Your photo ID is required to pick up campers.** Be sure that if you are not the adult that will be picking up your child that the appropriate person has been designated correctly during check-in. All luggage pick up will be at Horton Lodge after the closing worship service.

Cancellations and Refunds

Cancellations may be made at any time. However, refunds will only be issued for cancellations made prior to June 1, 2015. The \$50 deposit is non-refundable. All payments become non-refundable after June 1st. We are no longer able to offer refunds for any reason after June 1st.



What to Bring to Camp

Campers will be outdoors for large parts of the day and should bring attire suited for that environment.

- Clothes—enough for their entire stay including long pants and sweatshirt
- Undergarments
- Hat
- Sleepwear
- Toiletries
- Towels
- Insect Repellent
- Sunscreen
- Modest Swimsuit(s)
- Sleeping bag/bed linens
- Pillow
- Tennis shoes
- Sandals for pool and shower time
- Water bottle
- Bible
- Rain jacket or poncho
- Flashlight
- Prescribed medications
- Addressed, stamped envelopes
- Note pad & pen



What NOT to Bring

- Weapons of any kind
- Drugs and alcohol
- Expensive electronics
- Cell phones
- iPods, Tablets
- CD Players, TVs
- Video Games
- Food of any kind
- Cash
- Personal sports equipment

Bethelwoods is not responsible for the damage or theft of any items brought to camp.

Cell Phones

We have found that the use of cell phones during a camper's stay can be a negative agitation to the camp atmosphere, as well as a hindrance to the relationships that campers form during their experience. Cell phone use also exacerbates homesickness. Therefore we ask that you **do not send cell phones with your camper**. If an emergency arises at home contact the camp office and we will get word to your camper. Likewise if any emergencies arise at camp we will contact you at the numbers you provide.



Transportation

Bethelwoods will provide transportation from the Charleston area 3 weeks throughout the summer. Transportation will be provided for the weeks of: June 19-24th, July 10-15th, and July 17th-22nd. Departure time on Sundays will be 1:00pm. Campers will arrive back on Fridays at 6:00pm. The cost for transportation is \$40 per camper and this option can be added after registration. Feel free to call us if you have any questions about which camps would be eligible for transportation. Location for pick up and drop off will be announced soon.

First Time Campers

It can be difficult sleeping away from home for the first time. We hope to work with parents to give these campers a wonderful experience. Encouragement leading up to the camp week can be extremely beneficial. Campers love receiving messages from home. Positive letters and emails can be a great way to help new campers acclimate to their new surroundings.



Lost and Found

Misplaced items during the week will be placed out for you to look through during check-out. **Please label all of your camper's items with their FIRST and LAST name.** If you return home and realize something is missing, contact us and we will do our best to find it. We will hold it to be picked up or return it by mail if necessary. All we ask is that you reimburse us for the cost of postage. Items that have been clearly labeled have a much better chance of returning to their owner. At the end of summer all unclaimed lost and found items will be donated to charity.

Camp Discipline

Acceptable camp behavior will be reviewed with all campers before the first night of camp and all are expected to behave in accordance to these guidelines. Counselors and staff will set the tone in their behavior and speech. If discipline issues arise the counselor will speak to the camper individually with a leadership staff member, and if issues continue they will be dealt with by the Program Director. If problems persist, the camper may be sent home. **Physical altercations will result in immediate dismissal.** Only a camp director has the authority to send campers home. Campers sent home early for behavioral issues do not warrant a refund of fees.



Food & Meals

Our menu offers a variety of different and delicious well balanced meals, served family style. Vegetarian options are available by request, and we will gladly work with campers with food allergies. We serve all of our meals from Lake Lodge which received a Grade 'A' rating from the South Carolina DHEC. Those meals not served in Lake Lodge will be cooked over campfires under summer staff supervision or will be bag lunches for groups traveling offsite.



Camp Store

The camp store offers a large variety of snacks, drinks, clothing, and memorabilia are now available. Snacks and drinks range in price from \$.50 to \$4. Memorabilia ranges in price from \$1 up to \$12 for a t-shirt. During check-in on Sunday and check-out on Saturday the Camp Store is open on a cash/check basis only. During the week purchases are made by campers from their store accounts only. You are able to deposit into your camper's account during registration and check-in. You can deposit as little or as much as you would like into your camper's account. We recommend \$15—\$20 for a week of drinks and snacks. Campers will have the opportunity to go to the store several times over their camp week. You will have the opportunity to spend any remaining funds during check-out Saturday morning. Campers will not be allowed to have a negative balance during their week.

What if my camper needs medical assistance?

During summer camp, Bethelwoods has a medical professional on site during the day. They will be responsible for distributing all campers' prescribed medication through out the week. If a serious situation arises the camper will be taken to Piedmont Medical Center. If we think a camper has needs medical attention outside the norm, our policy is to contact the parent as soon as possible. If a camper is ill for longer than 12 hours with no indication of getting better, the parent will be notified and the camper will be sent home. Campers sent home for medical reasons do not warrant a refund of fees. However, accommodations will be made to bring the camper back for an additional week if possible. If your camper has any outstanding medical issues please be sure to note them on our medical form.



Staff Training

Staff are selected after extensive interviews, background and reference checks have been completed. Only those of the highest moral quality and caliber are chosen. Staff undergo an intensive training before summer begins. This includes counselor skills, program area mastery, outdoor living skills, CPR/First Aid training, how to deal with everything from homesickness to intergroup conflict. All lifeguards are certified by Red Cross.

Camper Medications

Camper medication will be collected during check-in to be secured in the health center during your child's stay at camp. Prescription medication needs to be in the original bottle with the proper label. Please provide only the amount for your child's stay at camp plus two doses. Medication will be administered per doctors instructions printed on the bottle. We stock most common over the counter medications similar to Advil, Benadryl, etc. Campers with inhalers and epi-pens will have 24 hour access to them.

Camp Activities

Camp is a place for everyone to try something new, at least once. Activities at Bethelwoods are largely lean to the adventurous side, with properly trained staff present and watching at all times. The bulk of our activities take place outdoors. Our staff encourage all campers to participate in all activities. All Bethelwoods activities, however, are 'Challenge by Choice'. Campers should come to camp with an adventurous attitude, ready and prepared to get dirty and have fun while doing it.

Camp activities include:

- Swimming
- Canoeing
- Arts & Crafts
- Archery
- Slingshots
- Fishing
- Environmental Education
- Outdoor Wilderness Living Skills
- Field Sports
- Low Ropes Challenge Course
- Play Court Activities
- Gaga Ball
- Camp Store
- Small Group Bible Study
- Large Group Worship
- Hayrides
- Talent Show
- Cook Breakfast over a campfire
- Cook Dinner over a campfire



What is camp's contact information?

If you need to contact the staff at camp for any reason, please call the office at 803-366-3277.

How can I contact my camper during their stay?

Mail from home is always a great surprise for campers, as well as a good deterrent for homesickness. Send mail to your camper to:

Camper's Name
c/o Bethelwoods
922 W. Mt. Gallant Rd
York, SC, 29745

Email is another easy way to contact your camper. Send E-mail messages to campermail@bethelwoods.org. E-mail messages are printed once daily and delivered to your camper. Your camper is not able to reply to these emails.

If you would like to send a care package, please do NOT include any food items as food is not allowed in the cabins.



Example Daily Schedule

8:30—9:15	Breakfast
9:15—9:30	Morning Watch
9:30—10:10	Camp Chores
10:15—11:15	Activity Block 1
11:20—12:20	Activity Block 2
12:30—1:15	Lunch
1:20—2:20	Rest Time
2:25—3:25	Activity Block 3
3:30—4:30	Activity Block 4
4:35—5:35	Activity Block 5
5:35—6:00	Cabin Time
6:00—6:45	Supper
6:50—7:50	Free Time
7:55—8:55	Evening Activity
9:00—9:30	Worship
9:30—9:50	Snack
10:00—10:30	Cabin Time
10:30	Lights Out*

*Time depends on age group