

Parent Handbook

# Bethelwoods 2026



# Welcome

We are excited that your young person is coming to camp this summer! We have an excellent program planned to make this an unforgettable camp experience for your young person.

This handbook is designed to orient you to Bethelwoods Camp, answer any questions, and share life expectations at Bethelwoods during summer camp.

We strive to create an environment that is safe for all who come here, nurtures spiritual growth, and is fun! As you'll learn in this handbook, we do this through the selection and training of our staff.

Many people worldwide come together to make camp happen each summer. Our summer staff is a big family, and each member brings with them a love for outdoor ministry. Many of our staff are behind the scenes working and praying to make each summer camp experience unforgettable!

Please get in touch with us if you have any questions about camp after reading this handbook. We are happy to answer any questions about camp and to share more about the camping experience at Bethelwoods with you. We are looking forward to seeing you and your young person this summer!

Grace and Peace,

Bethelwoods Staff





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# *Meet the Staff*

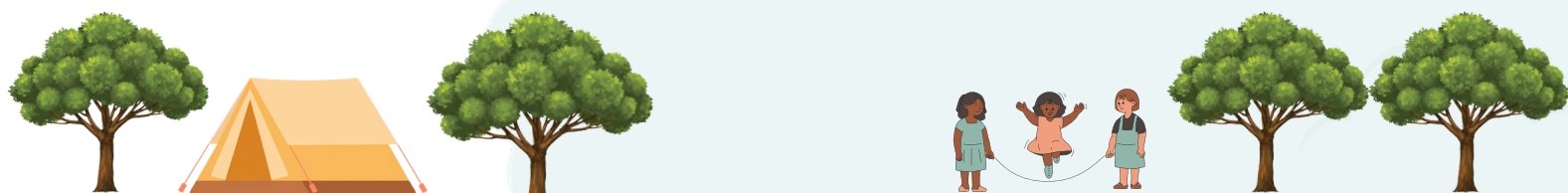
**Ralph Sweeney**  
**Executive Director**  
**Ralph@Bethelwoods.org**

**Elston (EJ) Hart**  
**Program Director**  
**Elston@Bethelwoods.org**

**Wendy Heatherington**  
**Office Manager/Food Service Manager**  
**Wendy@Bethelwoods.org**

Each summer, Bethelwoods hires a staff of 25-30 program and support staff. These people are dedicated and committed to the ministry at Bethelwoods. All counselors have completed an intensive staff training. Our staff are chosen for their enthusiasm and screened utilizing background checks and references. Our summer staff come from all over the world. We have local staff from the Carolinas, many from all over the United States, and even a handful of international staff. Each week a Volunteer Worship leader joins Bethelwoods to share in worship, Bible study, and camp fun with campers and staff. Worship Leaders are usually pastors or church educators from Providence or Charleston Atlantic Presbyteries.

Bethelwoods believes that a quality staff is the "key ingredient" to a successful and safe camping experience. All of the staff are enthusiastic and dedicated Christians. They have been screened, selected, and trained to ensure an exciting and meaningful camp experience. The counselors are all certified in First Aid and CPR and receive eleven days of intense training at the beginning of the summer and ongoing instruction throughout the season. This training equips the staff with skills that enable them to create a physically, emotionally and spiritually safe environment for all campers.





# Packing List

## Clothing

Long pants/jeans

Shorts

Swim Suit

Closed Toed Shoes

Sandals with back strap

Socks and undergarments

Shirts

Sleepwear

Jacket, sweater and/or sweatshirt

Plastic raincoat or poncho

Hat

## Bedding

Pillow and pillowcase

Sheets & blanket OR

A sleeping bag

## Day Camp

Swim Suit

Towel

Water Bottle

Sunscreen

Insect Repellent

Tennis Shoes

Change of Clothes

Small Backpack

Book (optional for rest time)

Pillow (optional for rest time)

Small Backpack

## Personal Items

Bible

Beach towel/bath towel/ washcloth

Soap & Shampoo

Toothbrush and toothpaste

Comb/Hairbrush

Insect repellent/Sunscreen

Water bottle

Dirty clothes bag

## Things to Leave At Home

Portable Electronic Devices (Cell phones, iPads, computers, etc.)

Smart Watches (Apples, Samsung, etc.)

Personal Gaming Systems Laptops

Snacks/Gum/Drinks

Alcohol

Drugs

Weapons

Knives

Fireworks

Pets

Jewelry & Other Valuables



# *Arrival & Departure*

## **Arrival & Check-In**

Check-in is from 4:00-5:30 pm on Sunday

Please bring with you to check-in all forms, if not previously returned or completed online (health history, emergency contact, etc.), medication, and remaining balances

## **Step 1: Welcome and Forms Table**

Pick up any forms you need to complete before your check-in

## **Step 2: Check-in and Balance Due**

Check in with Bethelwoods staff to find out where you are staying and who your counselor is. Forms and Balances due will be turned in at this time as well as camp store money.

## **Step 3: Health Center**

Turn in your health history form and all medication here. The form must be fully completed. Please bring medication in the original container with name and directions. Medications should be turned in to the Health Center staff in a zip lock bag labeled with the camper's name.

## **Closing Worship & Check-out**

**Closing Worship begins at 5:00 pm on Friday Afternoon**

**MEDICATION:** Please sign out any medication from the health care professional.

**SIGN OUT:** Parents will need to sign out campers with their counselor. Please make sure you update who is allowed to pick up you child, only authorized persons will be able to sign out campers. A picture ID is required.

**LUGGAGE:** Campers luggage will be packed and ready for loading at Horton Lodge. Please do not pick up luggage before the closing program.



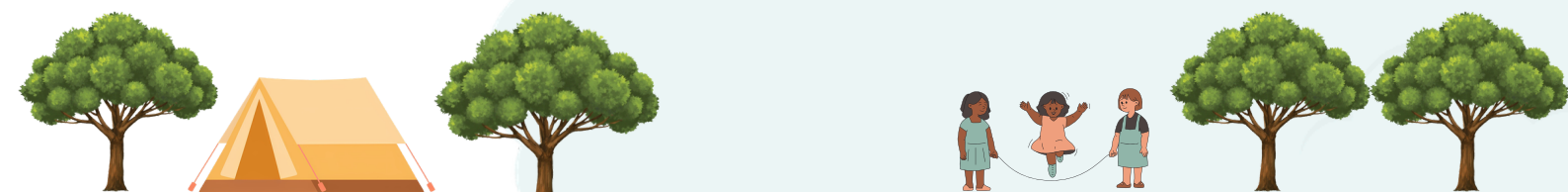
# *Camper Expectations*

Camp is an inclusive place where campers can be themselves. To promote and protect an atmosphere of inclusivity for all campers, Bethelwoods has expectations that all campers and staff must meet. All members of the camp community are expected to treat one another as a Child of God with respect, care, and honesty, in a socially acceptable manner. Disrespectful behavior, constant disobedience, or refusal to carry out instructions will result in disciplinary actions.

Discipline will be approached through the notion of teaching about choices. Our approach to discipline is grounded in grace. A Bethelwoods Staff member may use the following ways to help your young person grow in self-discipline: a glance from a counselor, a quiet word, time away from an activity or removal of privileges.

If these measures are not effective, a Director will be informed, which can lead to phone calls made home and possibly being sent home without a refund.

We care about your young person and their safety so we have this disciplinary procedure in place to protect them and ensure everyone has a great camp experience. We are looking forward to a fun, safe, and memorable summer!



# *A Day In The Life*

8:00am Rise and Shine  
8:30am Breakfast  
9:15am Morning Watch  
9:40am Block 1- Bible Study  
10:30am Block 2  
11:20am Block 3  
12:30pm Lunch  
1:15pm Rest Time  
2:30pm Block 4  
3:40pm. Block 5  
4:50pm. Block 6  
6:00pm Dinner  
6:45pm Free Time  
7:30pm Worship  
8:30pm Evening activity  
9:15pm Snack/ Night meds  
10:30pm Lights Out



## Activities

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Archery         | Swimming       |
| Arts and Crafts | Team Building  |
| Canoeing        | Games          |
| Slingshots      | Giant soccer   |
| Gaga Ball       | Fishing        |
| Hiking          | and much more! |





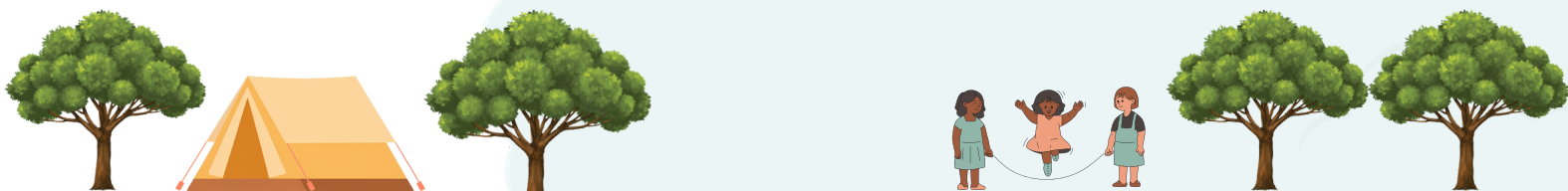
# Specialty Programs

**LIT Camp:** Our Leaders in Training program is specially designed for High School campers who want to develop Christian based leadership skills and explore their spiritual gifts. These campers get to spend a weekend at camp as well as have the opportunity to participate in a service based project that can be applied to service hours for School programs.

**Culinary Camp:** This unique camp features time each day for your young person to learn a little bit about the basics of food preparation. From food safety to basic cooking skills these campers get to experience the Bethelwoods kitchen in a brand new way.

**Night Owl:** Designed for campers 6th-8th grade completed, Night Owls spend the week with an adjusted schedule allowing them to experience Bethelwoods in a completely new way! From glow sports to stargazing, midnight dinners to night swims these campers have a week full of adventure.

**Outdoor Athletics:** This camp will focus heavily on playing camp sports (gaga ball, 9 sq, etc.). We will spend multiple blocks per day playing games and enjoying the thrill of competition and sportsman ship. Each camper will still get to participate in camp favorites, such as canoeing and archery, alongside daily Bible Study and worship. These campers, who've completed 3rd-5th Grades, join in focused team-building exercises and games to help promote community and sportsmanship in our faith-based atmosphere.



# Specialty Programs

**Fishing Camp:** Does your camper consider themselves fishermen/women? Well we have we got the camp for you! Join us for a week of fishing and learning about our aquatic eco system. Our campers are encouraged to bring their own rods and equipment as we cast, hook, and land big catches this week





# Day Camp

Day Camp is the perfect opportunity to get comfortable at camp. Our Day Campers get to experience many of the same great activities as our residential campers. From Bible Study to pool time, we strive to create a memorable experience that allows your young person to develop new friendships, learn more about God, and have a blast! Each week of Day Camp is different than the last, so come for a week or stay for the entire summer!

Drop off is daily between 7:15am - 8:15am. Breakfast, Lunch, and Snacks are provided. Our Day Campers get to swim everyday, so please remember to pack a swim suit and towel each day! Pick up is between 4:30pm-5:30pm.

\*Bethelwoods reserves the right to charge a \$50 late fee for campers picked up after 5:30pm.



## Daily Schedule

|         |               |
|---------|---------------|
| 7:30am  | Drop Off      |
| 8:30am  | Breakfast     |
| 9:15am  | Morning Watch |
| 9:40am  | Bible Study   |
| 10:30am | Block 1       |
| 11:20am | Block 2       |
| 12:30pm | Lunch         |
| 1:15pm  | Rest time     |
| 2:30pm  | Swim          |
| 3:50pm  | Games         |
| 4:30pm  | Check-out     |



# Summer Theme

## Love Thy Neighbor

| BETHELWOODS | THEME WEEKS                                         |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
|             | JUNE 7 – <b>INTERNATIONAL WEEK</b><br>JUNE 12       |
|             | JUNE 14– <b>SUPERHERO WEEK</b><br>JUNE 19           |
|             | JUNE 21– <b>OUT OF THIS WORLD</b><br>JUNE 26        |
|             | JUNE 28– <b>USA THEME WEEK</b><br>JULY 3            |
|             | JULY 5– <b>JERSEY/ATHLETIC TEAM WEEK</b><br>JULY 10 |
|             | JULY 12– <b>MOVIE WEEK</b><br>JULY 17               |
|             | JULY 19– <b>CHRISTMAS IN JULY</b><br>JULY 24        |

Feel free to send your camper with any clothes that go along with the theme of the week





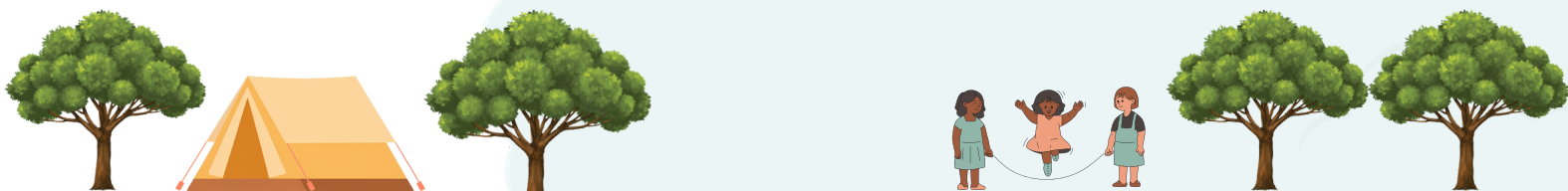
# Frequently Asked Questions

**FOOD:** Please do not send food with your camper to camp. Meals at camp are nutritionally balanced and prepared by our loving and experienced kitchen staff. Desserts are served at dinner each night and snacks offered in the evening as well as the camp store being open at certain times throughout the day. Dietary restrictions should be noted on the health history form and discussed with Bethelwoods staff at registration. For certain food allergies, campers may bring alternative items to be left in the camp kitchen, although we do our best to provide for most allergies and restrictions.

**LAUNDRY:** Laundry facilities are not available for camper use. Emergencies, such as bedwetting, will be handled by camp staff in a discreet manner. LIT and CIT campers will have a chance to use camp laundry facilities on the weekends.

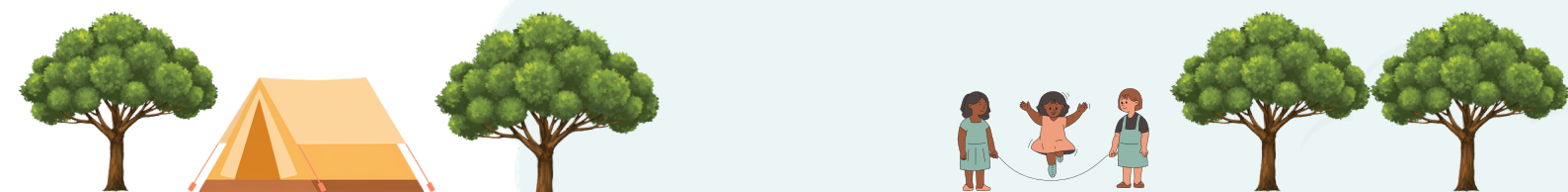
**LOST AND FOUND:** Please label your campers clothing and personal items. Lost and found items will be displayed at closing worship on Friday afternoon. All lost and found will be kept for 2 weeks after the end of a camp session before being donated to a local charity.

**VISITORS:** Visitors, even family and friends, are strongly discouraged. Due to the short time a camper is at camp, most visits have a negative effect and can sometime bring on homesickness. Bethelwoods staff is happy to give you a camp tour before the start of the camp session. This is also for the security of all campers. If you need to stop by camp for any reason, all visitors must check in at the office.



# *Frequently Asked Questions*

**CAMP EXPERIENCE:** While at Bethelwoods, your young person will be part of a "family group" usually comprised of a group of male campers (with their male counselor) and a group of female campers (with their female counselor). It is with this family unit that the camper will do most of the camp activities. In the evenings, these small groups come together for worship, snacks, and an evening activity (such as a campfire, all-camp swim, or field games). Camp days are filled with a variety of activities including Bible Study, archery for older campers, swimming in the pool, canoeing on the lake, arts and crafts, and a variety of games.



# *Contact Info*

## Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center

922 W Mt. Gallant Rd  
York, SC 29745

**Office:** (803) 366-3722

**Website:** [www.bethelwoods.org](http://www.bethelwoods.org)

**Email:** [Info@bethelwoods.org](mailto:Info@bethelwoods.org)

