



BEAR CREEK CAMP

Explore, celebrate & grow in God's creation!



Dear Parents or Guardians,

Thank you for choosing Bear Creek Camp for your child's Christian camp experience. Our summer theme is God Forever, Good Forever 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. We can carry God's love into the future.

Summer 2019 was amazing and we know that Summer 2020 is going to be incredible! We have some fantastic things planned for your camper's week here as we use the amazing space we have here at BCC. God is good and will continue to be the topic of the week as we explore, celebrate, and grow together!

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 3-4:30pm on Sunday (Wednesday for Try Camp Block B) and conclude at 9am on Saturday (Wednesday for Try Camp Block A) with the Closing Program. Please take a moment to see the "During Camp" and "Post Camp" sections for more information.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions concerning your 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, our property and for God's amazing love to cover all that are here.

In Christ's Name,

Karen Hesel

Karen Hesel
Program Director

"For the Lord is good and God's love endures forever; God's faithfulness continues through all generations." Psalm 100:5

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.

We do not allow clothing or jewelry that is: overly revealing or sexually suggestive; vulgar or has violent themes; derogatory of others; cultic; promotes illegal or unhealthy behavior, drugs, alcohol, or smoking. Bear Creek Camp requires that close-toed, closed-heel shoes be worn during any running activity. Hiking boots are strongly encouraged for hiking, however sturdy sneakers are allowed in the absence of boots. Flip flops are only permitted at tent sites and at the lake. Flip flops may not be worn while traveling to these areas.

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

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| — Bible | — Old Clothes (things you don't mind getting dirty) |
| — Notebook | — Dress Clothes for Dance Night |
| — Pens/Pencils | — Sturdy Shoes for Hiking |
| — Sleeping Bag | — Extra pair of shoes (in case yours get wet) |
| — Pillow | — Backpack (if you have one, no need to buy one) |
| — Towels and Washcloth | — Rain Gear |
| — Toothbrush and Toothpaste | — Flashlight |
| — Comb/Brush | — Personal Water Bottle |
| — Sunscreen and Insect Repellent | — Camera (if desired) |
| — Medication (if you need them) | |
| — Swimsuit (in good taste) | |
| — Clothes for all weather (Shorts, Jeans, T-Shirts, Sweatshirt, socks, etc) | |

Please mark all belongings with the camper's name. Lost and found items will be displayed during the Closing Program and will be kept at the office for a while after the week of camp is over. Please contact the camp if you are missing something and we will do our best to locate it. All remaining items will be donated to charity. 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.

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 & tents 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** (phones are a distraction from the growth and bonding we work hard to cultivate at camp)
- Knives or other weapons
- Fireworks
- Money, 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 child 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 works really hard to accommodate food allergies and restriction. We want to meet the same needs campers have met at home. Bear Creek Camp needs your help to get accurate information in advance of their time at camp.

MAIL, EMAILS AND PHOTOS

Receiving mail at camp is something campers and staff look forward to and there 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:
 - Log onto your registration account (this account already exists so please do not create a new account, but contact the office for assistance in signing in)
 - Under "Additional Options" select Email a Camper
 - Write and submit email, which will then be delivered to your camper at the next lunch
 - Emails submitted after 4:30 pm on Friday will not be delivered
 - Family members and friends can send emails when you create a "Friend Account" for them online
- 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 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 2020 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 3-4:30 pm for Try Camp Block A and Full Week Campers in the Pavilion (first building on the left as you come into main camp). For Try Camp Block B, Check-In is on Wednesday from 3-4:30 pm at the Camp Office. When you arrive at the Pavilion you will find a few different stations for Check-In. Please make sure to visit all of them in order to fully Check-In your camper. ALL MEDICATIONS MUST BE IN THEIR ORIGINAL LABELED CONTAINERS (even large volume) and be turned in to the Healthcare Manager during Check-In. If there are any changes to medications that were on the Health Form submitted previously please inform the Healthcare Manager of them.

Following Check-In you will then take your camper to their cabin/tent in order to get settled in. Please DO NOT take your camper to their sites before you are finished with Check-In. At their cabin/tent you will meet your child's counselor for the week and you will also be able to say your good-byes. All campers and counselors will come together for a large group time at 5 pm to start the week off. 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), Weekly Highlight DVD, and Canoe and Rafting Trips 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** during free time and on Sundays and Saturdays for those who wish to purchase camp shirts, sweatshirts, or other items. You can deposit any amount you would like into your camper's camp store account, we suggest **\$10-30**. We will limit the amount of soda and candy they 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 DVD is available for \$12, a color 8x10 photo of your camper's Quest Group is available for \$8, and a Photo/DVD combo package is also available for \$15. All can be ordered prior to the week or during Check-In. A one day Rafting Trip with a local rafting company is available to Junior High and Seniors campers during Sessions 1 and 8 for \$40. A one day Canoe Trip with a local canoe company is available for Seniors campers during Sessions 5 and 7 for \$75.

CAMP ACTIVITIES

Bear Creek Camp has many activities for your camper to enjoy. Campers will have the opportunity, with their counselors, 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 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 (a Quest Group are the campers that your child will be with all week long).

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 child 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:

- 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/tent site.
- Flashlights should be used for light in tents; open flames are prohibited.
- All trash and recycling should be put in the appropriate containers.
- Ropes courses are off limit unless accompanied by a trained staff member.
- Swimming and boating is not allowed unless a certified Bear Creek Camp Lifeguard is on duty guarding.
- Interactions between campers should exhibit respect for the individual and the individual's body; romantic interactions are not appropriate.
- Campers must be in their own cabin/tent 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 not have their cell phones 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 parents or guardian of any camper that is taken off site for medical reasons or who has to spend the night in our infirmary at the phone numbers they provided.

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.

TYPICAL DAILY SCHEDULE

8 – Breakfast
9 – Chapel
9:45 – Quest Group Time
12 – Lunch
1 – Discovery Time (bible study)
1:45 – Free Time

3:15 – Quest Group Time
5:30 – Dinner
6:30 – All-Camp Game
8 – Evening Activity
9:30 – Devos
10 – Lights Out

POST CAMP

SATURDAY DEPARTURES

The camp week concludes on Saturday morning at 9 am for Try Camp Block B and Full Week Campers in the Pavilion (the same location as Check-In). For Try Camp Block A the week concludes on Wednesday at 9 am by the Retreat Center cabins. Please come and join us for a Closing Program of worship, theme verses, and the Weekly Highlight DVD. Following the Closing Program your child will be your responsibility and you will be able to retrieve your child's things and head back home. The Camp Store will be open for purchases of apparel or driving snacks and we will also be selling the Weekly Highlight DVD if you did not buy one in advance.

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 at an unscheduled time, a parent or guardian must sign out in the office. Homesickness will be handled on a situation by situation basis and will most likely include conversations with the camper and with parents before any further steps are taken. It can be a real issue, but usually by the end of the week the once homesick kids do not want to leave camp.

NEEDS LIST

- Gift Cards to purchase Office and Program Supplies (Amazon, Wal-Mart, Michaels, Home Depot, etc.)
- Reams of 8.5"x11" copier paper
- Basketballs
- Volleyballs
- Footballs
- Soccer Balls
- Rubber Kickballs
- 15 Passenger Van
- Mini-Van/Sedan
- Mini Excavator
- Bobcat Machine
- Branch Clippers (Lopper)
- New Chain Saw
- DVD-R's
- 4-Wheeler (for the use of trail clearing)
- Pool/Billiard Balls
- Topfin Large Filter Cartridges for Fish
- Repto Filter - Medium Disposable Filter Cartridges for Turtles
- Birdseed
- Suet
- Your time and/or talents (many volunteer opportunities available)
- Audio Equipment or Donations for:
 - o Microphones
 - o Amplifier
 - o Speakers/Powered Speakers
 - o Mixing Board
- Donations for the purchase of:
 - o Harnesses
 - o Helmets
 - o Backpacks