

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



BCCsummer2021



BEAR CREEK CAMP

Explore, celebrate & grow in God's creation!

We appreciate you and your family as part of the Bear Creek Camp Community. We are optimistic about offering youth summer camp at BCC in Summer 2021. We continue to maintain as our number one priority the health and safety of our campers, families, and staff. As an accredited member of the American Camp Association and Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, we are supported by the resources of these two excellent camping networks. As we prepare to offer summer camp programs, we will continue to follow guidelines from local, state, and national health authorities as well as published recommendations from the ACA.

To accomplish our goals, we anticipate that there will be necessary changes to the 'typical' Bear Creek Camp summer program experience. These recommendations are based on guidelines from the CDC, Pennsylvania Health Department, and the American Camp Association. Each of these organizations are continually revising guidelines and we will also remain flexible knowing that much will change between now and this summer.

The following changes for residential camp in Summer 2021 are our initial steps to ensuring that we are providing a safe and enriching experience to all our campers. Each of these areas has an impact on the registration process and we want you to be aware prior to the release of our printed brochure materials and opening of summer camp registration later this winter.

Weekly Program Structure- Additional cleaning to facilities will be needed between each camper group as well as a 'rest period' to allow any particulates to settle within buildings. To accommodate this time, the typical residential camp schedule will be modified to end programs with camper pickup on Friday afternoon. This change will necessitate changes to the 'traditional' weekly schedule and we are working to make sure that all the aspects of a week at BCC continue to be included and executed with excellence.

Additionally, this change limits Try Camp sessions to only be available Sunday-Wednesday. To accommodate this reduction in offered sessions, we will be expanding the number of weeks that Try Camp is offered.

Cabins- Each housing unit is designated as a group of same-gendered campers and a staff member that are sharing sleeping space at an age-group designated program site. The cabin unit will have the most exposure to one another because of proximity during sleeping. Under current recommendations, campers and staff should have at minimum 6 feet between heads while sleeping. This arrangement will require intentional positioning of campers and reduce cabin capacity at all of the program sites to 5 campers and 1 staff per cabin. This change in cabin capacity reduces our overall camp capacity each session.

Multiple Session Registrations- With the reduction in overall capacity, we want to ensure that as many campers as possible have the opportunity to attend Bear Creek Camp in Summer 2021. Campers can register for additional sessions of camp following the April 1st Early Bird Registration deadline if spots are available.

Cohort Units- The BCC experience has traditionally been built around “quest groups” of two cabins in the same age group. This unit will function as a cohort and serve as the primary points of contact for both campers and staff throughout the week. Exposure amongst this group will naturally be higher as they will be directly participating in activities together throughout the week. All program activities will occur as cohort units to limit contact between campers as much as possible. This intentionality of program design will necessitate changes to the ‘traditional’ weekly activities and we are excited about the opportunities for new activities and new ways to experience lasting favorites.

Face Masks- Face masks will be worn in all areas where inter-cohort contact might be made. We will continue to follow state guidelines for appropriate use.

Off-Site Excursions- For Summer 2021, off-site excursions such as the rafting and canoe trips will not be offered. We deeply value these unique experiences and will be offering these types of activities in future summers.

There are additional areas of the camp experience that we anticipate having modifications including check-in procedures, food service, overnight outposting accommodations, and more. As we have more information on specifics, we will be sure to share them with our campers and families.

We are also planning to continue offering our on-site Nature Day Camp program. More information about this program and any necessary changes will be released at a later date.

We know that making the decision to come to camp for your family may be a difficult one and that each family will have different levels of comfort with transmission mitigation practices. Please contact us with any questions related to aspects of the camp experience not described above.

Summer 2021 Pricing- Recognizing that families have differing abilities to pay, for Summer 2021 we are introducing a voluntary tiered pricing structure. Rather than raise prices on all families, tiered pricing essentially asks families with greater financial means to consider selecting a rate the more closely reflects the true cost of camp. Tier selection does not influence the quality of the camp experience, but it does help us to continue to provide excellent programs, staffing, and facilities to everyone that attends BCC.

Tier A- Subsidized- In order to keep camp as affordable as possible, this tier is a rate that is supported by our greater camp community through donations to camperships and other fundraising efforts.

Tier B- Direct Cost- This tier more closely reflects the direct costs of the specific expenses incurred during a camper’s week including food, housing, summer staff, and program materials.

Tier C- True Cost- For families who are financially able to pay Tier C pricing, this more accurately reflects the true cost of camp including all aspects of maintaining facilities in good condition, insurance, utilities, and other expenses necessary in operating camp throughout the year. By choosing this tier, you provide for the long-term sustainability and growth of Bear Creek Camp.

	Classic Camp (Full Week)	Try Camp (Half Week)
Tier A- Subsidized	\$495	\$325
Tier B- Direct Cost	\$545	\$375
Tier C- True Cost	\$595	\$425

There will continue to be discounts available including the sibling discount and the bring-a-friend discount. There will also be a new Early Bird Incentive for anyone that finalizes their registration by March 31, 2021 of a free limited-edition BCC t-shirt that will be distributed upon arrival at Summer Camp.

We remained committed to the belief that everyone should have the opportunity to come to camp. The Bear Creek Camp Campership Fund that is supported by generous donors throughout the year will continue to provide funds for families in need of financial assistance. We also appreciate the support of local congregations that provide camperships directly to their congregations and communities.

We know the value of the Bear Creek Camp experience for all of your families and congregations. Everything above is an effort to make sure that we are able to provide camp in Summer 2021 in ways that are safe, sustainable, and enriching for everyone involved.

With the continued shifting landscape, it is expected that there will be further modifications to our procedures and the way that we are able to operate camp moving forward. We commit to continuing to communicate these changes with our families and congregations as they arise. Please continue to be in communication with BCC staff with questions that you, your family, and your congregation have about Summer 2021.