

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



**BEAR CREEK CAMP**

Explore, celebrate & grow in God's creation!

In the midst of our fastest ever registration, we are encouraged by the interest and excitement for youth residential summer camp for this year! Despite the challenges and program modifications, our community has shown that they are ready to join together to explore, celebrate, and grow here at Bear Creek Camp this summer.

To keep our campers, families, and staff as safe and healthy as possible this summer, we must follow restrictions as outlined by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and CDC and choose to follow recommendations from the American Camp Association in regards to our operating procedures.

As outlined prior to the start of registration, our overall session capacity would be reduced to 50% and our cabin ratio would be limited to 5 campers and 1 counselor per cabin. These modifications allow for social distancing between campers and cohorts in activities throughout the day and six feet of space between heads while sleeping in bunks in the cabins.

With this in mind, we find ourselves with a good challenge to have, sessions that are filling quicker than anticipated. As of this writing, nearly all available spots for Senior Girls in any session have been filled with some sessions having waitlists of more than five potential participants. Other age groups across all sessions are filling quickly and we anticipate demand may exceed capacity in other areas.

As mentioned, our registration software has a waitlist function that allows campers to be placed in line in order of registration. There is no deposit needed to be paid to be placed on the waitlist and campers can be on the waitlist for multiple sessions. If you are interested in attending camp this summer and there are no available spots, it is important to place your camper on the waitlist so that we can gauge interest should we have the opportunity to offer more openings.

Our goal is to provide a camp experience to as many campers as possible while continuing to follow guidelines and recommendations for safety and health of all. We do not intend to expand access beyond our current cabins as our overall camp capacity would then exceed beyond 50%. We may consider reallocating cabin assignments to different age groups. We will make our first decisions on reallocating beginning on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

If cabins are reallocated to different age groups, campers will be contacted by the camp office in order of their placement on the waitlist for each session that reallocated spots are made available. Campers that are offered new registration spots will be housed in cabins at sites that are non-traditional to their age group. Program activities will continue to follow the quest group cohort

model and program design will continue to be tailored to the developmental stages of each age group.

In addition to this date for considering reallocation, we are delaying the availability for multi-session registrations. We will now allow multi-session registrations starting on May 1<sup>st</sup>, if there are remaining open spots in sessions (this is a change from the originally published, April 1<sup>st</sup>).

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We know the value of the Bear Creek Camp experience for all campers, families and congregations. We continue to strive to make sure that we are able to provide camp in Summer 2021 in ways that are safe, sustainable, and enriching for as many individuals as possible.

We commit to continuing to communicate any 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.