



Overnight Camp Handbook

Welcome!

Welcome to Bethelwoods Summer Camp 2020!

We are excited your child is coming to camp this summer! We have a wonderful program planned that will make this an unforgettable camp experience for your child. This handbook is designed to orient you to Bethelwoods Camp, to answer any questions you have, and share with you the expectation of life at Bethelwoods during summer camp.

We strive to make an environment that is safe for all who come here, that nurtures spiritual growth, and that of course is fun! We carefully select our staff to ensure a safe and fun environment, and they complete two weeks of training on many different topics, from how to lead a Bible study to behavior management to facilitating canoeing.

Many people from around the world 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!

If you have any questions about camp after reading this handbook, please contact us. We are happy answer any questions about camp and share with you more about the camping experience at Bethelwoods.

We are looking forward to meeting you and your camper this summer!

Blessings,

Bethelwoods Staff

Overnight Packing List

- Long pants/jeans
- Shorts
- Shirts
- Sleepwear
- Socks and undergarments
- Jacket
- Swimsuit
- Closed-toed shoes
- Sandals with back strap

- Plastic raincoat or poncho
- Hat
- Bath towel & washcloth
- Beach towel
- Toiletries
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen
- Bedding (Twin XL OR sleeping bag)

- Bible
- Writing materials
- Water bottle
- Books/coloring items
- Flashlight (and extra batteries)
- Small daypack for carrying items
- Camera
- Medication
- Dirty clothes bag

Bethelwoods DOES NOT allow the following items:

- Personal electronic devices (Kindle, Nook, Switch, iPad, etc.)
- Electronic watches (Apple Watch, Fitbit, etc.)
- Personal gaming systems
- Laptops
- Jewelry/other valuables

- Cellphones
- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Weapons/Knives
- Fireworks
- Pets
- Cash

Check-in and Check-out

Check-in is from 3:00-5:00pm on Sunday at Lake Lodge.

During check-in, we will check Camp Store deposits, have everyone review medical forms with the Camp Nurse, and then meet the counselors! Campers leave their luggage at Lake Lodge and have assistance transporting it to their cabins later in the day.

Closing Program begins at 5:00 pm on Friday afternoon at Horton Lodge.

During Closing Program, we will have a camp-style worship where we show parents what we have learned and done during the week. Camper's medication, luggage, and leftover Camp Store money will be available for pick-up at this time. Parents/Guardians will need to sign out campers with their counselors. Please make sure you update who is allowed to pick up your child; only authorized persons will be able to sign out campers. A photo ID is required to sign out your child.

General Information & FAQ

What **activities** will my camper participate in? *Campers will spend time participating in swimming, canoeing, slingshots, arts & crafts, daily Bible study, and more! On Wednesday of each week, we have a carnival-like all camp party, featuring a different theme each week.*

Weekly Themes:

- June 21-26: Time Travel
- June 28-July 3: Stars and Stripes
- July 5-10: Disney
- July 12-17: Harry Potter
- July 19-24: Christmas in July
- July 26-31: Heroes Unite
- August 2-7: Camp Olympics

What are the **behavioral expectations** of campers? *Campers are part of “family groups” based on their age/camp they registered for. These groups do all activities together, from meals to worship canoeing. Counselors rely on positive encouragement as a first tool to encourage the camper to join the group. Examples of a further discipline could be time out from an activity to cool down or processing a conversation with a member of leadership staff. Repeated behavior will result in calls home and possible dismissal from camp for the remainder of the session. Bullying in any form will result in immediate contact to parent/guardian and possible dismissal from the session. Physical violence (throwing, hitting, etc.) will likewise be grounds for immediate parent/guardian contact and dismissal for the remainder of the session.*

What can my camper get from the **camp store**? *Every camper receives a t-shirt with the cost of registration to camp. Campers usually visit the store 2-3 times a week to purchase snacks, water bottles, decals, or apparel. We put a \$20 maximum that can be loaded either online or at check-in. Our Camp Store does not accept cash from campers.*

What if my camper takes **medication** or needs **healthcare**? *We have a Camp Nurse who is present at Check-in and on site each day at camp. All medication must be given to the Camp Nurse, who will oversee and ensure its proper administration. In addition, each counselor is First Aid/CPR certified. In the event of sickness or injury the camper’s parents will be contacted. For accidents, injuries, or sickness that require treatment or outside medical assistance, the parents will be notified by a Bethelwoods Director or Camp Nurse.*

How does your camp deal with **homesickness**? *Our staff are trained to recognize the signs of homesickness. Studies show that most campers experience these moments, regardless of age. The counselor’s role is to support the camper through this journey with compassion and encouragement. We may ask what routines happen at home during meal or bedtimes to help the camper feel comfortable. We may offer them a stuffed animal to take care of for the week. Every child is unique, so we work to meet his/her needs. If you receive a homesick letter, please realize the feelings your camper had when they wrote the letter may have passed. If homesickness continues for an extended time, parents will receive a phone call from Bethelwoods Staff.*

General Information & FAQ

What sort of **food** is served at camp? *Our kitchen provides child-friendly meals with plenty of nutritious options. We do know how to cater to picky eaters! We are able to meet most dietary needs (i.e. Vegetarian, Gluten-free, or food allergies) and review health forms to ensure we are aware of any allergies.*

Can my child request a **cabinmate**? *Absolutely! We try, whenever possible, to honor cabinmate requests as long as the campers are signed up for the same camp. All camps participate in teambuilding activities their first day to build group identity connections, so we often find that coming without a cabinmate is even more fun!*

What if my camper **loses** something? *Please label your campers clothing and personal items. Lost and found items will be displayed at closing program 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.*

Can I **contact my camper**? *Camper mail can be sent to: (camper's name), Bethelwoods, 922 West Mount Gallant Road, York, SC 29745-7475. You can also email a letter to campermail@bethelwoods.org. Please limit all email to one page; we cannot process attached files. If you would like to receive a note from your camper by email, message sheets can be purchased at the camp store.*

Have more questions?

1. Check out our website: www.bethelwoods.org/overnightcamps
2. Call our office: 803-366-3722.
3. Email us at info@bethelwoods.org.
4. Like/message us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/BethelwoodsSummerCamp
5. Follow us on Instagram: [@bethelwoodscamp](https://www.instagram.com/bethelwoodscamp)
6. Read the latest news on the Camp Blog: <https://www.bethelwoods.org/camp-blog>.

We look forward to meeting you and your camper this summer!

