



Bethelwoods Guests,

Here at Bethelwoods the safety and security of our campers, guests, and staff is our highest priority. Rest assured that remains the case throughout the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 coronavirus. We are closely monitoring the situation as it unfolds and will follow guidelines set by the CDC, South Carolina DHEC, and our local, state, and federal governments in an effort to keep Bethelwoods a clean and healthy environment for our campers, guests, and staff.

We face a time of uncertainty in the coming weeks. As we face these challenges, Bethelwoods is dedicated to finding solutions that will allow us to keep our campers, guests, and staff safe, but also allows us to remain a place set apart to encounter God's love through creation and community.

Currently we have rescheduled/ cancelled all groups and programs for the remainder of March and first week of April. As time moves on we will assess further needs for rescheduling and cancellation. That being said the latest guidelines from the CDC and SCDHEC indicate that gatherings of 50 people or more should be postponed for eight weeks. Therefore we are recommending that all groups with reservations of 50 or more between now and May 10th look at postponing their event. We will be in touch with each of you over the next few days. Any groups that have reservations less than 50 people are also free to make other arrangements as well.

Bethelwoods cancellation policy states that an event cancelled within 90 days results in a forfeit of the deposit. However, due to the circumstances surrounding COVID-19, we are temporarily suspending that policy. All cancellations of reservations between now and May 10th will not forfeit their deposit. If we reschedule your group to a later date, all deposits and fees associated with your event will be forwarded to that new date. If you choose to cancel your event all together you will be reimbursed for the deposit and all fees paid towards your event.

Please know that Bethelwoods is a not-for profit organization who relies on our retreats, events, and camps to sustain our ministry year-round. We will therefore humbly accept any tax-deductible donations should you so desire.

Once we have started hosting guests at Bethelwoods again, here are steps we have taken in response to suggestions by the CDC, SCDHEC, and our government officials;

- All procedures and products used to clean our buildings meet CDC guidelines. We have also instituted stricter guidelines on what surfaces get sanitized and how often.

- Our food service follows the guidelines of SCDHEC and ServSafe. We have retrained staff in areas of sanitation that are most important to stop the spread of disease.
- Displayed signs in prominent places around camp to inform our staff and guests about ways to keep themselves healthy, and to encourage hand washing.
- Staff are instructed to stay home when sick, have been exposed to those who are sick, or have traveled to areas that have been particularly affected by the virus.

We could also use your help to maintain a healthy and safe environment for all Bethelwoods guests and staff:

- Ask members of your group to stay home if they are sick, have been sick, have been exposed to those who are sick, or have traveled to areas that have been affected by the virus.
- Encourage frequent hand washing and hand- sanitizing.
- Encourage creative greeting techniques that do not involve handshakes or hugs.

We thank you for partnering with us to hold your events and retreats. We also thank you for your patience during this time of uncertainty. And we look forward to working with each of you to find solutions that will fit the needs of your organizations and to partner with you in the future to bring your organizations to Bethelwoods.

Please join us as we pray for those world-wide whose lives have been changed by this virus, to pray for calm in this hectic world, and to pray for wise decision making and leadership. We thank you for your support and look forward to continuing to make Bethelwoods a safe, fun, and life-changing experience for our campers, guests, and staff.

Sincerely,

Stephen McDonald
Camp Director