



# POCONO PLATEAU

CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

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**CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS**

**SUMMER 2024**

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## WELCOME TO SUMMER 2024!

We are excited for camp this summer! Summer camp is a place for fun adventures, meeting new friends, and creating lifelong memories. Camp also offers an opportunity to experience God in new ways through outdoor recreation, fellowship, and challenge. Campers will have time to reflect on their relationship with God and the gospel of Jesus Christ in Bible studies and evening chapels.

This summer, we welcome volunteer camp chaplains into our summer community! Each week, we will have two United Methodist clergy on site to lead and assist with bible discovery times and evening chapels. The chaplains are giving of their time for the week because they believe in the powerful impact of summer camp on the faith formation and development of our children, youth, and young adults.

Our summer theme for overnight camp is "THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING". Campers will learn about the amazing power of God's grace and unconditional love in our lives. The theme verse is from Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." During the week, campers will learn about how God's grace shapes our Hearts, Identity, Purpose, Community, and Perspective. If you would like more information about our camp's biblical curriculum, feel free to email me at [director@poconoplateau.org](mailto:director@poconoplateau.org). You can also reach out if your family does not currently attend church and are interested in learning more. We are happy to connect you with resources and options in your local area.

Please see below for some important information about your child's week of camp.

Grace and peace,  
**Carmen O'Shea, Camp Director**

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## GENERAL DETAILS

### PARENT COMMUNICATIONS –

You will receive a text the week prior to your child's camp session from the Remind app. This will go to the cell phones listed for camper registration. We will use the Remind app to send logistical information about drop off and pick up and any reminders or details that need to be sent out during the week. You do not need to have the Remind app installed on your phone. If you do not want to be included in the text distribution list, please email [director@poconoplateau.org](mailto:director@poconoplateau.org). You can also opt out once you receive the introductory text.

### During the camp week:

You can call our office at 570-676-3665 or email [camp@poconoplateau.org](mailto:camp@poconoplateau.org) for general questions and communications. If there is an emergency and you need to reach someone on site off hours, call Carmen at 470-314-1515



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**CAMP PHOTOS** – We will provide a camp group photo for all campers at the end of the week at no additional charge.

### CAMP STORE

Parents can pay for spending money for the camp store through online registration or in person at camp check in. Campers are not allowed to bring cash and instead will use their camp store card based on funds applied. Campers can purchase ice cream, snacks, soda, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and other items. Remaining balances will be considered donations to the store unless a refund is requested. **General prices:** Soda \$1.00, candy \$1.00, ice cream novelties \$1.50-\$2.00, Tshirts \$18.00, sweatshirts \$30-\$40.

### BUNKMATE REQUESTS

During the online registration process, parents have the option to provide a requested bunkmate for their child. Both children need to request each other for us to honor the request. We try our best to match up campers with their requested bunkmate, but it is not always possible. Requests need to be made at least 2 weeks prior to the start of camp.

### CAMPER COMMUNICATION

- **Phone:** Campers may not make or receive phone calls unless there is an emergency. The camp staff will be able to contact parents/guardians if necessary. We realize some campers are not used to this and if there is an issue with homesickness, we will permit the parent to communicate with the camper if needed using a camp or counselor phone.
- **Email:** Emails are generally checked once a day in the afternoon. In the Subject Line, please include the camper's name and the camp number/camp name. Email address: [mycamper@poconoplateau.org](mailto:mycamper@poconoplateau.org).
- **Postal Mail:** If mailing through the post office, also include Camper Name, and the camp number/camp name and mail to 304 Pocono Plateau Road, Cresco, PA 18326.
- **Daily Photos:** We will share photos throughout the summer on our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/poconoplateaucamp>

### SWIM EVALUATIONS

For the safety of all campers, it's important to determine swimming ability. Campers typically have swim evaluations with our lifeguards on Monday afternoons before waterfront time and will be put into one of three groups: beginner, intermediate, and advanced. All campers will wear a life jacket when on the Wibit (inflatable obstacle course).

### CHAPEL NOTE

On the last night of camp for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, campers will be invited to participate in an Agape Meal during their final chapel. This is a time of fellowship to reflect on the week, share food together, and strengthen the community formed at camp. It is important to note that this is not a communion sacrament. Agape Meals represent the meals Jesus shared with disciples during his ministry and expressing the koinonia (community, sharing, fellowship) enjoyed by the early Christians.



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## WHAT TO BRING

We suggest putting your name on your luggage and sleeping bag. If you can, label your clothes with your name, as well.

### Forms Needed:

For returning parents, the health history form, photo release, and camper release forms previously collected in paper form are now built into the online registration platform. Only two forms should be brought to camp at check in:

- If applicable, **Authorized Medical Release Form, signed by doctor. Bring medication in original container.**
- **Signed Parent/Camper Covenant available on our website under summer camp**

### Packing List:

- Bible, pen, or pencil
- Reusable water bottle
- Sleeping bag and pillow
- Bath towel and washcloth

- Clothing for the week -- plan for sun and rain and layers for cool evenings. Note: crop tops are not allowed.
- Rain jacket
- Two or more pairs of sneakers or hiking boots
- Flip flops (for bathroom/shower)
- Toiletries (toothpaste/brush, soap and shampoo, deodorant, personal care items)
- Beach towel
- Swimsuit (Please make a modest selection. Staff reserves the right to require swimmers with overly revealing swimsuits to wear a t-shirt.)
- Flashlight
- Sunscreen and bug repellent
- 6-8 pair socks and undergarments

### OPTIONAL:

- Fishing gear
- Hat
- Camera
- Tie-dye apparel for "TIE-DYE TUESDAYS"
- Envelopes, paper, postcards, stamps
- Backpack (*Adventure Site Campers*)

## WHAT NOT TO BRING

- Please **NO cell phones**, electronics, iPods, etc. These detract from the camp experience and should stay at home.
- No need to bring any food, we'll supply all the meals and snacks.
- No cash, campers will not use cash in the camp store. Instead, money will be put on their card.
- Because we believe that camp should be a safe place to play and grow, the Plateau does not allow weapons of any kind, use of controlled substances, or clothing with inappropriate language or pictures.
- Vaping among teenagers has become a growing issue in our society. Please note vaping and smoking are not tolerated at the Plateau. If a camper is seen using these, parents will be contacted, and we will discuss further action. **We suggest parents check bags and back packs prior to dropping off their youth.**



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## ARRIVAL/CHECK IN PROCEDURES

### 3pm SUNDAY AFTERNOON

1. Upon arrival, you will be directed where to park/register. Main Site Check In is on the porch of Springer Dining Hall and the Adventure Site Check In is at the pavilion by the ball field.
2. At Check In, be sure to have Parent/Camper Covenant and Authorized Medication Release form (if needed), any medications for the nurse, and store money if not already paid. Leave your luggage in your car. Campers and parents/guardians should be in the check-in line together.
3. You will meet the Camp Nurse who will check your forms, check in your meds, and ask some health-related questions.
4. You can add money to your Store Account and may purchase a camp group photo.
5. Your Program Director will greet you and provide lodging, group, and counselor information.
6. Now get your luggage. Main Site campers settle into your rooms. Adventure Site campers bring luggage to the Pavilion and wait until all campers go to the Adventure Site together.

## DEPARTURE/CHECK OUT PROCEDURES

### 5pm – 6pm FRIDAY EVENING

Youth Music & Arts: Check Out 5:45 and Variety Show 6:30pm on FRIDAY EVENING



1. Parents -- upon arrival, you will go to parking in either at the Main Site lot or the Pavilion (for Adventure Site campers).
2. **For Main Site parents/guardians**
  - a. Go to the lodge where you dropped off your camper (Carlson, Moore, or Cedar). Camp counselors will be in the lodge lobby assisting with Check Out. **BRING YOUR PHOTO ID WITH YOU.**
  - b. Collect your camper and their belongings and load up in your car.
  - c. After this, we welcome parents/guardians and campers to have dinner in Springer Dining Hall together before heading out. We will serve hamburgers/hotdogs, chips, applesauce, and brownies. **Note exception for Youth Music & Arts on the next page.**
3. **For Adventure Site parents/guardians**
  - a. After parking at the pavilion, find your camper and check out with their counselor. **BRING YOUR PHOTO ID WITH YOU.**
  - b. Once you pack up your car, we welcome parents/guardians and campers to WALK OVER to Springer Dining Hall for dinner before heading out. We will serve hamburgers/hotdogs, chips, applesauce, and brownies. Note, please do not drive to Springer Dining Hall because the Main Site parking lot will be full.



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## NOTES FOR SPECIFIC CAMPS

### **Camp #612 – Youth Camp**

Bring dark clothing and flashlight for a night game. Bring instruments, music, props, etc. for the talent show.

### **Camp # 642 – Sr. High Adventure**

Bring some spending money for a day trip to Knoebels during the camp.

### **Camp # 603 – Young Children’s Splash Zone**

Bring some extra socks and extra clothes they don’t mind getting wet and messy!

### **Camp #682 Youth Music & Arts**

Your camper will be working hard throughout the week preparing a **camper produced and performed variety show!** Please plan to attend this program at **6:30pm on Friday June 28th in Fellowship Hall**. The show is open to the public, so all friends and family who wish to attend are welcome!

Your camper’s luggage will be in their assigned lodge on their bunk bed. You will be instructed where to pick-up your child’s luggage when you arrive on Friday Evening. Once you have collected their belongings, you will be instructed to head to Springer Center to check out your camper with one of our counselors, and then enjoy the variety show program in Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:30pm. Fellowship Hall is walkable from Springer Dining Hall.

NOTE: Your campers will be provided dinner prior to your arrival for check out. Please plan for your meal accordingly.