



POCONO PLATEAU

CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS

SUMMER 2026

WELCOME TO SUMMER 2026!

We are excited for camp this summer in our 80th Summer of ministry! 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.

Our summer theme for overnight camp is “THREE SIMPLE RULES: DO GOOD, DO NO HARM, LOVE GOD”. The theme verse is from Micah 6:8, “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” If you would like more information about our camp’s biblical curriculum, feel free to email me at 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

GENERAL DETAILS

PARENT COMMUNICATIONS –

You will receive a text the week prior to your child’s camp session. This will go to the cell phones listed for camper registration. We will use Constant Contact to send texts on logistical information about drop-off and pick up, and any reminders or details that need to be sent out during the week. If you do not want to be included in the text distribution list, please email 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 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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CAMPER WELLNESS

At Pocono Plateau, your child's well-being is our top priority. We will contact you if your camper isn't feeling well for an extended period, develops a fever above 100.3°F, or experiences any injury that may require additional care. We will also reach out if your child is struggling—whether with homesickness, emotional or mental health needs, behavior concerns, or difficulty fully engaging in our camp community.

Prior to camp, you will complete a health form and camper profile that highlights any concerns for your child. Our staff review these forms prior to camp so we are aware of concerns and struggles that may arise as well as strategies that have been helpful in your home. Examples include bed wetting, home sickness, anxiety, mental health, or neurodiversity. If you would like to speak with camp leadership about concerns prior to your child's camp experience, please email director@poconoplateau.org.

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 \$1.25, candy \$2.00, ice cream novelties \$2.00-\$2.50, T-shirts \$18.00, sweatshirts \$30-\$45.

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.

CAMP CLOTHING & COMFORT GUIDELINES

All people participating in summer camp at Pocono Plateau are expected to dress in a manner consistent with our natural setting and community well-being. Pocono Plateau supports campers feeling comfortable and confident. We encourage everyone to pack clothing that is functional for the camp setting. For example, choose swimwear that is comfortable but also functional- keep in mind that campers will be participating in water activities such as swimming, boating, slip n' slide, water games, and creek walking. Another example, bring closed-toed/closed-heeled footwear designed for outdoor terrain. For the care of the whole community, campers, staff, and volunteers are not permitted to wear overly revealing clothing or clothing with offensive language or artwork.



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CAMPER COMMUNICATION

- **Phones:** We do not permit campers to bring cell phones to camp for several reasons. Cell phones can distract the intentional community-building that is central to the summer camp experience. They can also interfere with campers getting the rest they need at night to support their active engagement in camp life the following day. In addition, we recognize that families have different preferences regarding photo and video sharing on social media, which can be challenging to manage in a communal setting.

For these reasons, we maintain a clear no-cell phone policy to ensure a safe, consistent, and fully immersive experience for all campers. We ask both parents and campers to sign a covenant stating they left their cell phones at home.

While campers are not permitted to bring cell phones to camp, they may ask their counselor to speak with camp leadership or the healthcare team about calling home. If this occurs, a designated camp leader will assess the situation and may contact the parent/guardian first to discuss the situation before the camper speaks with you.

If you believe it is essential for your child to have access to a phone during their camp session, please contact us before your camper's week begins to make arrangements. Campers may not keep a phone on their person during the week, but we can discuss arrangements to provide access to our camp phone to call home when necessary.

Our goal is to partner with you so your child can enjoy a safe, healthy, and joy-filled experience at camp.

- **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.
- **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 and Instagram pages. At the end of the Summer we will share a password protected page on our website to view all summer photos.



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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

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.
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.