



GOOD-AS-GOLD CERTIFICATES

2016 Instructions

for Camp Reps and Pastors

The **GOOD-AS-GOLD Certificate program** enables participating Virginia congregations to help their youth and children pay for a week of summer camp at Camp Bethel. In 2015, 222 campers received Good-As-Gold funding from Virginia congregations totaling \$49,127! As the Camp Representative/Supporter or Pastor, **you** will distribute these certificates. Use the enclosed "gold" copies or use the original (white copy) of the 2016 GOOD-AS-GOLD Certificate for use in making copies onto gold or yellow paper as needed.

Please note:

- 1.** Families receiving Good-As-Gold funding from congregations may now register either by paper form OR on-line at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/GAG.html. For on-line camp registration, the family will be "billed" directly for their summer camp balance due. Payment can include Good-As-Gold forms.
- 2.** Paper registration forms are included in each camp brochure (mailed to all previous campers), OR at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/camps.html, and a blank copy is included in this packet.
- 3.** If it's easier for your congregation, we gladly accept direct church payment (checks) for individual campers or groups of campers in lieu of Good-As-Gold forms and billing, but be sure to send us a detailed list of camper names and dollar amounts applied to each camper. **AND** we also accept direct church payment via credit card at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/payment.html, but be sure to include a note with ALL camper names and dollar amounts listed.

Instructions for using Good-As-Gold Certificates for the children and youth in your congregation:

Step 1:

Talk with your Church Board and/or Treasurer about how much your church will pay toward camper fees with the Good-As-Gold Certificates. It helps to speak individually with families about how much they can contribute towards the camp fee. Some churches pay the full fee; others pay a partial amount of the fee. The Subsidized Fee in 2016 for a basic resident camp week (6-days) is \$300.00, and for a basic 3-day camp or week-long day camp is \$180.00. Some programs are more expensive than others, so DO NOT give families a "blank check" G-A-G form. Your church board/treasurer must decide how much (or what percentage) is feasible. Children and youth ages 4-18 are age-eligible to attend camp.

Step 2:

Organize early; start NOW. **Set April 1 (or earlier) as a deadline for finalizing GAG certificates** with families. This helps guarantee their choice of camp program before it fills, AND it's well before May 1 when the "early bird" Subsidized Camper Fee (discount) is no longer available. We want our Virginia kids to get first choice of available camps, so please do not delay distributing your Good-As-Gold information and encourage families to mail their registrations to us as soon as possible. Use the camp brochure OR the schedule at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/camps.html for weekly availability AND to find the cost of each camper's chosen camp program.

Step 3:

Complete all the information on each form (including the DOLLAR AMOUNT) and sign individual GAG certificates (see SAMPLE on page 2) and distribute directly to camper families as requested. Camper families should mail or deliver these GAG certificates upon submitting their registration form to Camp Bethel. Families who register on-line at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/GAG.html will be billed directly for their summer camp balance due, which can include Good-As-Gold forms as payment.

Continued on next page →

Step 4:

To complete their registration, camper families submit their completed summer camp registration form with the GAG certificate you provided them. Camp Bethel then sends a confirmation letter to the camper family indicating their balance due, if any. The remaining balance for their camp fee (if any) is due from the camper family no later than 14 days before their camp date. The GAG certificate counts toward their total camp fee, including their deposit and/or their summer camp balance due. See detailed registration instructions on brochure page 10 or at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/reg.html.

Step 5:

Use the enclosed "Itemized Camper List" to keep a detailed record of how much money is to be paid by the church for each camper. Even better, keep this list AND copies of every completed GAG form you distribute to individual campers. After July 31, total all fees to know what your bill from the camp should be. Please send a copy of this "Itemized Camper List" to camp as well. Be sure to let us know how you wish to receive your church's invoice (e-mail or post mail, and to whom/what address).

Step 6:

After July 31, Camp Bethel will send you a bill listing the total money to be paid for each camper from your congregation. Compare this bill to your records. Pass this bill on to your treasurer to arrange for prompt payment to Camp Bethel, NOT the Virginia District Office. Send checks payable to Camp Bethel, 328 Bethel Road, Fincastle, VA 24090 with memo line of check, "Good-As-Gold."

Suggestions for keeping the Good-As-Gold Certificate program easy and efficient:

- Inform families IN ADVANCE how much G-A-G assistance your congregation is providing. Some programs are more expensive than others, so DO NOT give families a "blank check" G-A-G form. Your church board/treasurer must decide how much (or what percentage) is feasible.
- Print clearly and be sure that all lines on the form are filled in with the appropriate information.
- Signature (of Camp Rep or Pastor) and phone number must be present to insure its authenticity.
- Final balance of the Camp Fee, (including G-A-G if used) is due by 14 days prior to the Camp.
- Use the "Itemized Camper List" to keep a record for your congregation of the names and values of certificates that you have distributed to your campers. Send a copy of this to camp, and use your own copy of this list to compare to the invoice we send you after July 31.
- **Questions?** See the next page, OR contact Jenna at 540-992-2940 or CampBethelOffice@gmail.com.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING CHILDREN AND YOUTH ATTEND CAMP!

Camp Bethel

2016 Good-As-Gold Certificate

updated 02.09.2016

Date: February 15, 2016

Pay to Camp Bethel in the name of this camper: Doe, Janie R.
Last, First M.I.

Amount: Three hundred and 00/100 dollars \$ 300.00

Submitted by (church name): Ninth Street Church of the Brethren (Roanoke)

Camp Rep or Pastor (Printed Name): Debbie Humphrey Phone: (540) 555-1234

Signature of Camp Rep or Pastor: Debbie Humphrey

This Good-As-Gold Certificate will be accepted as cash in the amount shown above when received by the Camp Bethel Office as payment or deposit for a summer camp program. This certificate is not transferable, nor is it redeemable after July 31. The submitting church will be billed for the above amount following the end of the last summer camp program, after July 31.

Office Use Only:

Program # _____ Church Code: _____ Notes: _____

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

from Camp Reps/Pastors/Treasurers concerning Summer Camp Registration

Q: *Could we simply pay with a check for our congregation's campers instead of using Good-As-Gold certificates?*

A: YES. If your congregation would simply like to partially or fully pay for a child/children to attend camp, you may do so by sending in a church check with the camper's registration OR at the time the balance of their camp fee is due. If one check pays for multiple campers, please include a note with each child's name and the amount per child. Send all payments/forms to Camp Bethel, NOT to the Virginia District Office. Make checks payable to Camp Bethel. We also accept direct church payment via credit card at www.CampBethelVirginia.org/payment.html, but be sure to include a note with ALL camper names and dollar amounts listed.

Q: *How can Good-As-Gold Certificates apply toward families using on-line registration for summer camp?*

A: Families receiving Good-As-Gold help from congregations may now register on-line at a special site, www.CampBethelVirginia.org/GAG.html. For on-line camp registration, the family will be "billed" directly for their summer camp balance due. Payment of balance due can include Good-As-Gold forms.

Q: *Will on-line registration cause camps to fill up faster than our church families can send in registrations?*

A: NO. We're being very careful to balance on-line registrations with families using paper (mailed or delivered) registrations. **However**, it is still VERY IMPORTANT for Virginia District families to **register as early as possible** (how about NOW!) in order to guarantee placement into the camp week of their choosing.

Q: *Why should families register as early as possible (NOW!) and before May 1?*

A: (1) Most importantly, families should register as early as possible in order to guarantee placement into the camp week and program of their choosing. Our camps fill up faster and faster each year, and we only have so many cabins and bunks, so once a camp week/program is full, we have no options.
(2) The Subsidized Camper Fee is a discounted camp fee made possible by mission funding dollars we receive from self-allocations, gifts and fund-raisers. This Subsidized discount is only available until May 1.

For these reasons, we urge you to organize G-A-G Certificates as early as possible (April 1) and long before May 1.

Q: *Our congregation doesn't have funds to participate in G-A-G. What options do we have?*

A: We have available funding! Dozens of donors give annually to our Scholarship Fund from which we can provide "camperships" to children who might otherwise not be able to attend camp. Have your pastor complete and sign the "Camper Financial Assistance Application" box on the Summer Camp Registration form. "Camperships" are valid only with mail/delivered paper registrations and are not valid for on-line registration.

Q: *Where can I learn more about summer camp (registration, available programs), and where can I get more forms (GAG forms, bulletin inserts, extra brochures, registration/health forms, etc)?*

A: For GAG forms and all Camp Rep/Pastor/church info, see www.CampBethelVirginia.org/rep.html. For summer camp info, forms, schedule, prices and more, see www.CampBethelVirginia.org/camps.html. We can also mail you a packet of whatever information, forms, brochures or paperwork you need. Or contact Jenna with questions at the Camp Bethel office; CampBethelOffice@gmail.com or 540-992-2940.

Camp Bethel**2016 Good-As-Gold Certificate**

updated 02.09.2016

Date: _____

Pay to Camp Bethel in the name of this camper: _____
Last, First M.I.

Amount: _____ dollars \$ _____

Submitted by (congregation name): _____

Camp Rep or Pastor (Printed Name): _____ Phone: _____

Signature of Camp Rep or Pastor: _____

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