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www.CampBethelVirginia.org



## Dear Camper and Guardian,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thank you for signing up for Winter Camp Youth and Kids' Retreat! We have received your registration and are now confirming your spot in **Winter Camp Youth and Kids' Retreat, Saturday, January 4 at 10:00am through Sunday, January 5 at 2:00pm.**

Please plan to arrive at Camp Bethel by **10:00am Saturday, January 4.** Check-in begins at 10:00am in the Deer Field Gym. Please park in the Ark parking lot or in the Deer Field grass lot. Parents or guardians must accompany their camper through check-in and moving into the cabin and meeting their group's counselors, *so don't unload your gear until AFTER you find out your cabin assignment.* See the enclosed "Check-in Procedures" on page 4 for detailed check-in instructions.

Before check-in, the camp's **Trading Post "outlet" will be open from 9:30am-10:00am in the Gym** with a sale on selected items!

Pick up time is **2:00pm, Sunday, January 5. Meet your camper at their cabin at 2:00pm to gather their gear.** Campers will be dismissed from their cabins at 2:00pm to their parents' or guardian's care, and the Trading Post will be open from 2:00-2:30pm in the actual Trading Post.

Enclosed with this letter are "6 Preparations for Winter Camp" including check-in/move-in procedures and a list of items to bring with you including neon/fluorescent clothes for our Glow-in-the-Dark Gym Party! Many of our activities are outside - except in dangerously cold weather. Please write your name on every item you bring to camp. Carefully read all the enclosed information.

We have a fun time planned for you as we wrap up the holidays - *Camp Bethel style.* Our reunited 2024 summer staff will serve as our unit counselors and leaders. We invite you to bring a friend along! There are also campership funds available for Winter Camp, if needed.

**In the event of dangerous weather on January 4-5,** call our office number (540-992-2940) or check our web site ([www.CampBethelVirginia.org/winter-camp](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/winter-camp)) for cancellation information. We hope for snow, but we hope it's already on the ground BEFORE this camp begins for sledding and snow fun!

If you have questions about fees, forms or any aspect of your time at camp, call Kathleen Nettin at 540-992-2940 or e-mail at **CampBethelOffice@gmail.com.**

We look forward to seeing you at camp!

*Together, in Christ our hope,*

*Kathleen Nettin, Program Coordinator  
Hannah Jarrett, Camp Director*

*"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." - John 1:14*



# 6 PREPARATIONS FOR WINTER CAMP:

1. What to pack: Gear list.
2. Camp rules and policies.
3. Driving directions to camp.
4. Trading Post (camp store).
5. Check-in procedures.
6. Pick-up procedures.

## 1. What to pack: Winter Camp Gear List:

**Please put camper's name on ALL items!** Pack lightly enough so that the camper can easily carry all gear by herself/himself. If sharing a cabin with a friend, consider sharing toothpaste, shampoo, etc.

- Pack according to weather/temperature forecasts for the Buchanan/Fincastle/Roanoke area.**
- Warm sleeping bag **or** blankets/sheet and small pillow for cabin bunk, (our cabins are heated).
- Bath towel & washcloth if you want to shower.
- Hygiene items: toothbrush/paste; soap; etc.
- Glow-in-the-Dark and/or fluorescent/neon clothes, hats and other items for our Saturday night Glow Party in the Gym!
- Winter coat, hat/stocking cap, gloves, socks, etc. Most of our activities are outside except in dangerously cold weather.
- Clothing for 2 days. **Dress for the weather because we WILL be outside, especially if there is snow on the ground!**  
We will, however, avoid outdoors if there is dangerously cold weather.
- If there is snow, pack your snow clothes (boots, gloves, etc) AND bring a sled/toboggan to share and a bike/skate helmet to wear during sledding.
- Everyday dry shoes for running, hiking, games.
- Backpack/daypack/bookbag for hiking around camp.
- Rain jacket/poncho with hood. If it rains, we still have to walk outside from our cabin to the activity buildings.
- Small flashlight & extra batteries. It gets dark at 5:00pm, but we still have lots of activities to do!
- Water bottle: quart-sized, non-glass, screw-top.

**Optional to bring:**  watch  Bible, notepad  extra glow sticks & glow items to share and add to our "glow party"

*Camp Bethel provides all activity, first aid & safety gear. All cabins have heat.*

### Things **NOT** to bring:

- money, jewelry, valuables of any kind
- food, drinks, candy, snacks, gum
- clothing that has inappropriate language/images or is too revealing including girls' bikinis or boys' speedos.
- cell phone/smart phone (see info below), I-pod/I-pad, electronics, CDs/DVDs, video games, pets, toys
- alcohol, tobacco or nicotine products, drugs, smoking/vaping paraphernalia
- weapons, knife, fireworks, matches, lighter
- cologne, perfume, scented products, hairspray, because these attract biting insects AND many persons have allergies to scented products
- flip-flops, Crocs, skateboard, hair dryer, curling iron

### CAMP BETHEL WISH LIST

Amazon wish-list (with lots of new updates!) at: <https://a.co/5qG5JYq>

Sam's gift cards to help offset food cost for upcoming events, Skid Steer, tracked or wheeled; Road-worthy pickup truck (2010 or newer); 15-passenger van (2015 or newer); Outdoor Storage Shed (used or new); Gator; Double food warmer for our kitchen; Refrigerator (full size); LED light bulbs; new first-aid supplies; Gifts are tax-deductible!

## 2. Camp rules, policies and expectations:

**Camp Bethel programs are open to everyone regardless of race, color, national origin, sex or disability.**

### Camp Rules for everyone, young and old:

1. Wear shoes always (except bed, shower).
2. Do not throw or kick anything.
3. Walk on paths, pavement or gravel.
4. No rough play.
5. Stay with your family unit.
6. Listen to your counselors.

### Healthy Behavior Requirement:

Is a Camp Bethel program a good fit for your camper? They will be with other children/youth and their counselors all day each day. We stay together with our group during our entire time at Camp Bethel. Unsafe behavior does not fit and cannot be tolerated. By requesting enrollment into Camp Bethel programs, you and your camper agree to our Behavior Policy and understand that safe/healthy behavior is required. Behavior deemed dangerous, inappropriate, intolerable, detrimental to the group, or unmanageable by the counselors or directors is grounds for dismissal from camp. Examples include: not following the camp rules; hurting others (verbally, physically, or emotionally); possession of prohibited or harmful item; constant misbehavior; unsafe behavior; straying from your group; etc. The Director will call parents/guardians as needed. Should it become necessary for your child to return home because of unmanageable behavior, homesickness or other reason, you have agreed to accept the Director's decision and arrange for transportation.

### Camper Medications:

All camper medications must be checked in to our Health Coordinator upon your arrival at check-in. Contents and dosage must be properly labeled, and you should include written directions. Medications should be in their original containers. Approved staff will administer all medications.

## **Camp rules, policies and expectations, continued:**

### **Cancellations, Late Arrivals, Early Departure:**

Please notify the camp office 540-992-2940 or **CampBethelOffice@gmail.com** in advance if your camper will not attend this session. **Your \$85 fee is non-refundable after December 31.** Late arrival and early departure is discouraged, but allowed in case of illness, family emergency or conditions beyond control. No refunds for no-shows, early departure or cancellation on the first day of camp, because staff, food and supplies have already been purchased. *If inclement weather on January 4-5 forces us to cancel, your \$85.00 will be refunded.*

### **Physical expectations of living at Camp:**

1. No bathtubs here, only individual showers. For some younger campers, this might be their first experience taking a shower. Prepare your camper for showering on their own.
2. We have several bathrooms around main camp. Younger campers should come to camp able to use the bathroom and clean-up on their own. Let your camper know that she/he can ask her/his counselor to use the bathroom ANY TIME. Hikes on camp property often venture away from bathrooms, so encourage your camper to "go" before they go; counselors will also remind campers.
3. Living in a cabin with 10 other persons might challenge our need for individual privacy. Knowing what your camper is used to, discuss how she/he might adapt rooming with others.
4. We walk everywhere, and we're on-the-go most of both days. Comfortable (warm & dry) shoes & socks are very important.

### **Social/Behavioral/Spiritual expectations of living at Camp:**

1. Group living: We'll experience all our daily activities **together** as a Unit, including completion of our daily group duty and eating meals together.
2. Make new friends: Even if coming with a cabin-mate, you are expected to be friendly, courteous and helpful to others in the group. Units are co-ed, unless we need to create an all-male OR an all-female group because one sex of campers registers more than the other. You should expect to share your group with youth of different backgrounds, gifts and abilities. We believe Jesus' message of life, hope, love and unconditional acceptance, and at camp, "Love your neighbor" is part of daily living.
3. Learning and following the Camp Rules (on page 2) is essential to a safe and fun week. Most of each day is active and boisterous. Also there are times and events during the day when we're expected to listen and participate calmly & quietly, (Bible study/worship, meals/announcements, bed/quiet hours).
4. Try new things: Camp is a great place to taste different foods, sing different songs, try and practice new skills, play new games, and grow in our relationships with God, with each other, and with Creation.

### **Our basic Winter Camp Schedule:**

#### **Saturday, January 4:**

9:30-10:00 Trading Post open *in the Gym*.  
10:00 Check-In in Gym.  
11:15-12:15 Initiatives & Group Games.  
12:30 Lunch & Singing.  
1:30-5:30 Group Activity Rotations: crafts, Bible study, group games, nature, etc.  
5:30 Dinner & Singing.  
6:30 Elementary Gym Black Light Games.  
Middle/High S'mores at Hexagon.  
7:30 Middle/High Gym Black Light Games.  
Elementary S'mores at Hexagon.  
8:30 Bon Fire Program  
9:00 Worship for Elementary - Ark Conf Room.  
Big Game & Snack in Gym for Middle/High School.  
9:30 Worship for Middle/High School - Ark Conf Room.  
Big Game & Snack in Gym for grades 3-5.

#### **Sunday, January 5:**

8:30am BREAKFAST & singing in the Ark.  
9:00 Celebration & Morning Worship.  
10:00 Pack-up & clean-up.  
11:00 Unit choice activities or complete rotations.  
12:00 Game show & skits/talent show.  
1:00 LUNCH & singing in the Ark.  
1:40 Closing Circle.  
2:00 Parent pick-up at cabins/depart.  
2:00-2:30 Trading Post open *in the actual Trading Post*.

### **Questions?**

If you have questions about fees, camperships, your registration or ANY aspect of Winter Camp, contact Kathleen Nettin at 540-992-2940 or **CampBethelOffice@gmail.com**.

## **#3: Driving directions to Camp Bethel:**

1. **I-81** to Exit 156: At end of exit ramp turn towards Brughs Mill Store onto Route 640, Brughs Mill Road, and go 0.2 mile to stop sign at Route 11. Green "Camp Bethel" signs point you in from here.
2. Turn left (North) onto Route 11; go approximately 2 miles.
3. Mill Creek Church on left; just across from the church turn right onto Route 606, Blue Ridge Turnpike.
4. Go 1.6 miles on Blue Ridge Turnpike to stop sign at T-intersection.
5. Turn right onto Nace Road (640) and go less than 1/10<sup>th</sup> mile to left onto bridge at Bethel Road (606).
6. Drive under rail-road trestle. Entrance to Camp Bethel is 0.3 mile straight ahead along Bethel Road on the right. Follow signs and park in Ark lot or Deer Field lot.

#### #4: Trading Post open Saturday 9:30am-10:00am & Sunday 2:00-2:30pm:

Parents can shop with campers from 9:30-10:00am (in the Gym) prior to check-in and 2:00-2:30pm (in the actual Trading Post) after dismissal. Make checks payable to CAMP BETHEL and we also accept credit cards. Trading Post earnings directly support the programs and ministries of Camp Bethel, and these funds are especially helpful as we work to strengthen our 2025 Summer Camps.

#### #5: Saturday Check-In Procedures:

1. Check-in begins promptly at **10:00am Saturday, January 4** in the Deer Field Gym. Registration does not begin until 10:00, and cabin entry is not allowed without your counselors. The Camp Trading Post "outlet" will be open from 9:30-10:00am IN THE GYM. Families should park in the paved Ark parking lot or in the grass Deer Field lot beside the Deer Field Gym. Follow directional signs; 5mph; drive cautiously and watch for pedestrians.
2. **Don't unload your luggage until AFTER you check in!** We'll give you your cabin assignment during check-in in the Gym. **After you check-in, parents will help campers move luggage into their cabin.** PLEASE pack lightly enough so that the camper can easily carry all gear by herself/himself.
3. Proceed to the check-in tables in the Gym (there may be a line) Our staff will guide you through the check in-process.
4. Give any medication to our Health Coordinator and provide any updates to your Registration/Health History Form.
5. We request that families WALK to move their camper into the cabin. This is to avoid mixing pedestrians with vehicles on our walkways. Please do not drive to the cabin unless it's pouring rain OR you are physically unable to carry the luggage. PLEASE pack lightly enough so that the camper can carry everything alone.
6. Parents and Campers will then move campers into your cabin and meet your counselors. Parents: Take time to make up your younger camper's bunk, meet the counselors and cabin-mates. After you are comfortable, say your good-byes so your camper's group can begin their Winter Camp.
7. Parents: Drive slowly as you leave, watch for pedestrians, and follow One-Way Loop signs to the exit road.
8. These procedures were established to ensure camper safety and supervision, to reduce vehicle traffic through camp, and to ensure the security of staff and campers' belongings. Thanks for understanding!

#### #6: Sunday Camper Pick-Up Procedures:

1. Pick-up is Sunday, January 5 at 2:00pm. Meet campers and staff at their cabin. If families need a restroom, the Gym Bathhouse beside Deer Field is our "visitor" restroom. Parking is available in Deer Field.
2. Campers are dismissed at 2:00pm to their parents' care. Arrive no earlier than 1:50pm and no later than 2:00pm.
3. To "claim" your child, present your PHOTO ID or DRIVER'S LICENSE to your child's counselor. Only adults listed as "authorized" may pick-up the camper AND only with a valid photo ID or driver's license.
4. Campers whose parents are not present after 2:00 will be with their counselors in the cabin until parents arrive.
5. We request that families WALK to move their camper out of their cabin to avoid mixing pedestrians with vehicles on our walkways. Please do not drive to the cabin unless it's pouring rain OR you are physically unable to carry the luggage.
6. If you brought medication, your camper's medication containers will be stored in your camper's luggage along with a copy of their completed/initialed dosage form. Please ensure that your camper's medication and dosage form is in their luggage.
7. Your counselors will double check to ensure all your camper's belongings are out of the cabin and in your possession before you leave.
8. The Trading Post will be open from 2:00-2:30pm (inside the actual Trading Post). Families are welcome to stay (Hike! Play! Bike! Sled!) and enjoy Camp Bethel until sundown.
9. Parents: Drive slowly as you leave, 5 mph; watch for pedestrians; follow One-Way Loop signs to exit.
10. These procedures were established to ensure camper safety and supervision, to reduce vehicle traffic through camp, and to ensure the security of staff and campers' belongings. Thanks for understanding!

*See you here at 10:00am on January 4!*

