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www.CampBethelVirginia.org



2026 Mountains-to-Beach-to-Bay Trip Confirmation Packet

Dear Camper and Parent,

Thank you for registering for the Mountains to Beach to Bay Trip! Your spot is confirmed, and we are excited to see you!

Arrive at Camp Bethel at or before 4:00pm, Sunday. Check-in begins promptly at 4:00pm inside the Deer Field Gym with important announcements you need to hear. Park in the Ark Parking Lot or in the Deer Field grass lot and carry your luggage into the Gym for placement into your group's assigned spot or wagon. Parents must accompany their camper through check-in and meeting their group's counselors. The Trading Post (camp store) will be set up inside the Gym from 3:45 through check-in. See detailed check-in instructions on page 5 of this packet. Dinner will be served to campers at 5:30pm on Sunday.

Pick up time and camper dismissal is 6:30pm Friday at the Ark Dining Hall. Watch for a Thursday email with any updates and announcements. Park in the paved Ark Parking Lot or the grass Deer Field beside the Gym. **Parents are encouraged to arrive at exactly 6:00pm for our Closing Singing and Celebration from 6:00-6:30.** This is an important and meaningful ceremony for your camper and their group, so we will not dismiss campers until after our final prayer at 6:30pm. Your camper will have eaten Friday dinner with their Unit prior to 6:00, and we encourage you to come witness the singing. After 6:30 dismissal, **please walk** with your camper to pick up their luggage. The Trading Post store by the Ark parking lot is open Friday 6:30-7:15pm. See page 6 for detailed check-out procedures.

This packet includes important "**Preparations for Your Trip**" with your *very specific* packing list, rules and information about our trip, behavioral expectations, health and safety preparations, forms, and detailed check-in procedures. Please consider donating to our Wish List (page 2) and our Summer Offering Project (page 5). Carefully read all the enclosed information. Remember that we will be traveling with minimal space, and moving a lot, so please pack lightly! Please note on page 2 that we are asking campers to bring \$50 cash for travel treats and souvenir shops.

Your CampWise registration includes all your forms needed for check-in. If any changes occur in your child's health or situation, please update forms accordingly. Please complete all forms on CampWise seven days before your camp begins. If your payment includes Good-as-Gold, scholarship request or any other payment differences, please reach out to us for information!

We have an exciting trip week planned for you! Monday morning we'll travel to hike a mountain peak for unique "mountain-top" group games and devotions and putting our toes into the mountain stream. Then we travel east to the Atlantic Ocean and a natural section of Sandbridge Beach (just south of Virginia Beach) for a fun-filled Tuesday of sand, swimming, exploring the unique beauty and wildlife of Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Weather permitting, on Tuesday night, we'll visit the family-friendly Virginia Beach Boardwalk for street shows, ice cream and souvenirs. Wednesday morning we'll watch the sun rise over the ocean, travel across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel to the Eastern Shore of Virginia and our partner site, Camp Occohannock on the Bay. We'll enjoy Camp OOTB's hospitality, facilities, and good food along with programming opportunities and watching the sun set into the Chesapeake Bay. Thursday we'll visit Assateague National Seashore for another fun beach day plus fun, food and ice cream on Chincoteague Island, dinner in a nice restaurant, and skits and worship back at OOTB. After an early Friday breakfast at OOTB, we'll return to Camp Bethel for dinner. In case of extreme emergency during the camp week, you will receive contact information for your trip leader.

Subscribe to our eNews at CampBethelVirginia.org/subscribe. Camp keeps getting better, and we have an active, on-the-go week planned. Please encourage your friends and classmates to register for summer camp at Camp Bethel in Fincastle, VA! If you have questions, contact us at 540-992-2940 or CampBethelOffice@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you at camp!

Together, in Christ our hope,

Kathleen, Elizabeth, Mickey, Ben, Hannah and the Summer Staff of Camp Bethel

PREPARATIONS FOR YOUR TRIP

1. What to pack: Gear list
2. Safety during transport for adventure
3. Hygiene rules to teach your camper
4. Camp rules and policies
5. Goals and Outcomes for your time at camp
6. Preventing homesickness
7. Trading Post
8. Summer Offering: Food Pantry
9. Summer Curriculum
10. Sunday check-in procedures.
11. Friday pick-up procedures.

#1: What to pack: Mountains-to-Beach-to-Bay Adventure Trip Gear List

Write your name on ALL items and bags! Pack lightly! Remember, you will be sleeping at different places each night, and you will have to help unload, carry and set up group gear. Try to pack all your gear, including sleeping gear, into ONE big duffel bag or backpack. If you are coming with a friend, plan to SHARE gear & products (especially sunscreen, insect repellent, toothpaste, shampoo, etc); anything to reduce your pack size and weight! When choosing gear, choose the least weight possible. Pack all clothing in Ziplock or plastic bags.

- Good hiking shoes for our day hike: comfy & broken-in with good toe & heel protection & thick-firm soles for stepping on rocks. Sandals, Chacos, Tevas & Keens are NOT permitted for hiking.
- Shoes to get wet for activities (canoeing, sailing, swimming) at beach & bay: We recommend strap-on sandals with back strap including Chacos, Tevas or Keens OR water shoes (no flip-flops allowed). We'll also take these along in our day packs during our Monday day hike for creek swims at each waterfall.
- One day-pack or school-style backpack to carry lunch, water bottles, water shoes and dry clothes on our day hike. This pack will also be our day-packs at the beach and during the days on the bay for lunches, water bottles, etc.
- Light-weight, small sleeping bag & pillow that stuffs down to small size or light-weight blanket; double bag into 2 trash bags.
- Wide-brimmed hat w/ tie strap to keep sun off face and neck.
- Waterproof/sweatproof sunscreen: SPF 30 or higher; unscented.
- Insect repellent. Please follow instructions for use.
- Extra Ziplock bags, plastic bags & trash bags.
- 1 large beach towel; 1 small bath towel & washcloth or bandana.
- If you have specific dietary allergies, contact Hannah at the camp office to discuss bringing extra food stuffs.
- Small toothbrush & small tube of toothpaste (to share).
- A light-weight poncho w/ hood or light-weight rain jacket.
- Small, lightweight flashlight (L.E.D. headlamp is best).
- 2 quart-sized, non-glass, screw-top water bottles (Nalgene bottles available in camp's Trading Post for \$25 each).
- 1 small bottle of hand-sanitizer for your backpack.
- 1 soft pack of disinfectant wipes for your backpack.
- \$50 cash spending money as described below.
- Summer offering to be turned in at check-in (checks to "Camp Bethel Summer Offering")

Recommended Clothing

- 1 pr. leggings or light-weight (cool) long pants. These are to wear in two conditions: (1) in case of cold weather, and (2) to cover legs at night keeping mosquitoes/midges off, even in hot weather.
- 1 long-sleeved warm shirt in case of cold weather.
- 1 lightweight long-sleeved tee shirt, hoodie or button-up to cover arms at night keeping mosquitoes off; to be worn in HOT weather.
- 3-4 tee shirts and 1-2 pr. shorts.
- 2 swim suits that are durable & quick-drying: To be worn almost non-stop (1) during day hiking for creek swims; and (2) at beach and bay for swimming, canoeing, etc.
- 1-2 pr. hiking socks: should be moisture wicking; NO cotton!
- 4-5 pr. every-day socks for running, games, etc.
- 4-5 pr. underwear.

Additionally to bring:

- Spending money:** Weather permitting, we will visit the Virginia Beach Boardwalk area on Tuesday evening for ice cream, souvenir shops, etc. Our Thursday visit of Assateague/Chincoteague will include visits to souvenir shops AND dinner at a local restaurant (paid for by camp) and dessert at the famous Island Creamery prior to exploring the trails (and ponies!) of the Assateague Island National Seashore and Wildlife Refuge. We also have frequent opportunities to purchase extra snacks or drinks at road stops along the way. Please send a minimum of \$50 of spending cash. Contact Hannah at CampBethelOffice@gmail.com if you are unable to send spending cash.
- If your family has a functional beach umbrella or shade canopy you can loan our group for the week, this is a nice (shady) addition to our beach gear. Since we have two full beach days during this trip, protection from the sun will be a big focus.
- Any other beach gear (boogie boards? balls & games? beach blankets? small beach chairs?) is OK to bring *and share*.
- Remember our policy of no electronics (except your digital camera), so bring a good book or two for the long daily van/bus rides and for relaxing time on the beaches. And PLEASE share your digital photos with our Media Coordinator when we return to camp on Friday.
- It is OK to bring healthy "travel snacks" to share with others for the trip. Camp is providing enough travel food and snacks, but we want each camper to be comfortable and well-fed, including snacks. We welcome family donations toward our snack-supply. Please, no sodas or canned drinks. We are traveling in a group of about 12 persons.
- If coming with a friend, plan to SHARE supplies (sunscreen, insect repellent, shampoo, etc.) to reduce your pack size.

Optional to bring:

- Watch.
- Camera/GoPro.
- Cloth/disposable face mask.
- Bible, notepad & pen/pencil.
- Beach gear to share (boogie boards, umbrella, etc)

Camp Bethel provides all necessary program, camping, first aid & safety gear.

Please consider donating new and gently used supplies. We ALWAYS need items listed in the Gear List above and items on our Wish List: 15-passenger van (2015 or newer); Outdoor Storage Shed (used or new); window air conditioning units, cleaning supplies, first aid supplies
Amazon wish-list at <https://a.co/5qG5JYq> or CampBethelVirginia.org/donate. *Tax-deductible!*

Things NOT to bring:

- electronics, video games, toys, pets, skateboard
- vapes, tobacco/nicotine products, alcohol, drugs, cannabis, CBD products, smoking/vaping/drug paraphernalia
- weapons, knife, fireworks, matches, lighter
- clothing with inappropriate language/images or that is too revealing including short-shorts, string bikinis, or speedos
- food, drinks, candy, snacks, gum
- cologne, perfume, scented products, hairspray, because these attract biting insects AND many persons have allergies to scented products
- flip-flops

#2: Safety During Transport for Trips

Campers receive a safety orientation in preparation for travel. Please remind your camper to have safe behaviors while in the camp vehicles and offsite for the adventure. Vehicles used for transporting campers are equipped with a first aid kit and emergency accessories, seatbelts for each passenger, and we check vehicle safety conditions prior to transport. Counselors will carry health forms for all passengers and a cell phone for emergency communication. The staff of Camp Bethel have selected our Adventure outfitters (those providing equipment, leadership and expertise) and off-site projects based upon their qualifications and their adherence to safety standards as outlined by the American Camp Association.

#3: Hygiene Rules to Teach Your Camper

1. Tell your counselor if you feel sick.
2. Cough and sneeze into your elbow or a tissue and then throw the tissue away and wash your hands.
3. Wash your hands with soap and water after bathrooms, coughing and sneezing, or touching your face. Use hand sanitizer if you cannot wash your hands.

Health protocols remain as common-sense practices: stay home if you're ill or recently exposed; hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette; majority-outdoor activities; sanitizing high-touch surfaces; and symptom screening and testing at check-in, if needed. In the weeks before camp, monitor your child for any onset of symptoms and avoid people who are sick.

Parents should keep campers who are sick or symptomatic at home. Camper refunds (minus your deposit) are available in case of illness. You should NOT send an injured or sick camper to camp. Also ensure that your camper is free of headache.

#4: Camp Rules and Policies

The 7 Camp Rules to teach your camper

1. Be kind and be helpful.
2. Stay with your Unit.
3. Follow your Counselor's lead.
4. No rough play.
5. Wear shoes always (except bed, shower, pool).
6. Do not throw or kick anything.
7. Walk on paths, pavement, or gravel.

Safe Behavior Requirement

By requesting enrollment into Camp Bethel programs, you and your camper agree to our Behavior Policy and understand that safe behavior is required. Your camper 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.

Unsafe behavior does not fit and cannot be tolerated. 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 items; constant misbehavior; unsafe behavior; straying from your group; etc. The Program Coordinator 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 agree to accept the Program Coordinator's decision and arrange for transportation.

Social/Behavioral/Spiritual expectations

1. You will be with other campers and your counselors all day each day. We stay together with our group during our entire time at camp, so we have little to no "alone time." Unsafe behavior does not fit and cannot be tolerated.
2. Group living: We'll experience all our daily activities **together** as a Unit, including our daily group duty and eating meals together.
3. Make new friends: Even if you come with a cabin-mate, you are expected to be friendly, courteous and helpful to others in the group. Cabins are single gender, but Units are co-ed unless we need to create an all-male OR an all-female group because one gender of campers registers more than the other. You will share your group with youth of different backgrounds and abilities. We believe Jesus' message of love and unconditional acceptance, and at camp, "Love your neighbor" is part of daily living.
4. You **MUST** learn and follow the Camp Rules and Hygiene Rules (page 2) to ensure 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 and quietly, (Bible study/worship, meals/announcements, counselor explaining an activity, bed/quiet hours).
5. 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.

Camper Medications

If you send medication for your camper to take during the camp week, you must have correct information in your CampWise account. All medications must be given to our Medical Staff at Check-In on the first day of camp. All medications are stored and dispensed by the Health Coordinator unless special arrangements are made through the Health Coordinator and Camp Director. Send exactly enough medication for the camper's time at camp.

Medication MUST be in the original, labeled packaging and container naming prescribing physician, camper name, medication name, dosage, and frequency. Place all this into a gallon zip-lock bag (or a box if more space is needed) with camper's name on it to speed the check-in process.

Policy for Cancellations, Late Arrivals, Early Departure:

Should you pay for camp, and later decide to keep your child home, YOU HAVE OPTIONS:

1. Credit your payments toward another available, current-summer program, or
2. Credit all but \$50 of your payments to next summer's pre-registration, or
3. Donate part or all to help Camp Bethel enhance how we operate, or
4. Refund all your payments minus your \$50 deposit. We just need to hear from you at least 24 hours prior to the start of your camp, and sooner if possible. Please notify the camp office 540-992-2940 or CampBethelOffice@gmail.com ASAP if your camper will not attend this session.

Late arrival and early departure are discouraged but allowed if needed. However, because staff, food, and supplies are already secured, we cannot provide pro-rated refunds for partial camp attendance once your camper has arrived unless Camp Bethel cancels your child's program. If programs are cancelled, you will be notified ASAP of your options, including full refunds.

Caring for Campers

We take the safety and care of your children (our campers) very seriously. Allowing us to care for your child is perhaps the greatest act of trust a parent can engage in. That makes Camp Bethel not just a fun place, but also a *sacred one*. We do everything we can to honor your trust, including our voluntary adherence to over 300 standards of health, safety, staffing, and programming. We know we cannot do this without our excellent counselors who, by joining our summer staff community, are trained and committed to providing a safe and fun week of learning and growth. If a camper is sad or if there is an issue, illness, injury, or emergency the Program Coordinator WILL contact parents.

No Camper Cell Phones or Gadgets: A matter of TRUST

Aside from the fact that phones and gadgets are expensive, can get lost, and the physical camp environment is rough for such items, the main reason we don't allow campers to have phones/gadgets is TRUST. We TRUST that campers who come to camp WANT to be here and choose to temporarily disconnect from their constant phone/internet communications in order to be FULLY present with us at camp. When children/youth come to camp they (and you) are making a leap of faith, temporarily transferring their primary TRUST from their parents to their counselors. This is a growth-producing, yet challenging aspect of camp. As children/youth learn to TRUST other caring adults, they grow and learn, little by little, to solve some of their own challenges. *This emerging independence is one of the greatest benefits of camp!* (AND, there's ample research proving that youth greatly improve their social and emotional growth while phone-free!) Let your child/youth know that they can always reach out to their counselor and camp leaders. The Program Coordinator WILL contact you if your child/youth is experiencing a challenge while at camp, and the Camp Director WILL contact families in case of any emergency. Counselors do carry charged phones in their backpacks as tools for emergency use if needed. We encourage bringing an inexpensive digital camera to camp, but you may NOT bring a "connected/serviced" phone to use as your camera. Thanks, and also read #13 "Communicating With Your Camper."

Emergency Preparedness and Parent Notification During the Camp Week

Using smart phones, our director and staff receive and communicate instant updates on summer storms or emergencies, and your counselors are trained for camper safety during storms and emergencies. In case of any emergency in which we request parental action, our office will contact you via e-mail and phone. Add CampBethelOffice@gmail.com to your contacts so our emails come to your inbox. Otherwise, **NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS**, and everyone is safe. In case of a family emergency that must be communicated to your camper, contact 540-992-2940 or e-mail CampBethelOffice@gmail.com. For after-hours emergency call 540-992-2940 and our answering machine will prompt you to our on-call staff number.

Visitation is NOT allowed during camp week

DO NOT arrive at camp unexpectedly! Our site is closed to visitors/guests during camper weeks. While supervising campers, all staff are trained to stop and question anyone they don't recognize on site. If you need to visit camp prior to the official pick-up time (see "Pick-Up Procedures"), you must call ahead AND check in and wait at the camp office when you arrive.

#5: Goals and Outcomes for your time at camp

Camp Bethel's WHY is RELATIONSHIPS. Our mission is "to foster and build RELATIONSHIPS with God, each other, and Creation.

Camp Bethel's HOW is TOGETHER in the ministry of relationship. A culmination of 98 years of ministry at Camp Bethel and over 65 years of small group camping philosophy, centered on what it means to be a part of the Body of Christ as described in 1 Corinthians 12.

1. Small Group Emphasis: 10-12 campers + 2-4 counselors combine to make a Unit, or group. Even while individually caring for each camper, the main focus of all activities and camp structure is the group we call a "Unit." The Unit does "everything" together all week, and there is no unsupervised free time. This high supervision guarantees camper safety with a very low rate of accidents. Counselors lead cooperative team-building games rather than competitive games, and counselors use language and plan activities that intentionally facilitate group building. Campers develop significant relationships with mature Christian counselors and with one another.
2. Sanctity of the Small Group: Each unit (group) plans their week together on the Program Board, and units are not disturbed in their "body-building" process. Units only interact with other units at appropriate times and places such as meals, worship, pool, and all-camp events.
3. Experiential Christian Education: More time is spent living and doing things together as Christians than is spent listening to lecture. Christian truths are learned through the relationships that form during a week of activities together, supported by Bible study and worship. Christian camping's role in the total life of each camper is INTRODUCTION to Christian living, not indoctrination or conversion. "Show them a light so lovely that they wish to know the source."
4. Emphasis on stewardship of God's creative Earth: We hold camp in "a place apart" (instead of a city street) because immersion into a "wilderness" setting invites openness to risk and self-examination. This, in turn, creates a rich atmosphere for new relationships (with God, with others, with creation). Both nature study and Bible study are forms of God's revelation of love. We do things at camp you CAN'T do in other settings. We have 470 acres of forests, fields, ponds, creeks, trails, and hills... and we use them! Counselors facilitate unstructured play time interacting with God's creative Earth, and as often as possible, activities are held out-of-doors and immersed in nature.
5. The Small Group's Dynamics and Make-up: The process of Relationship: The foundation of the summer camp is the group. Throughout the summer, in addition to the attention we give to the individual camper, our focus is continually on the "family unit" living as the Body of Christ. Behavioral Psychologist Dr. Bruce Tuckman, describes five stages in the progression of small group development:
 - a. Forming: individuals become a group (1st night and 1st few days).
 - b. Norming: group interactions take on patterns, styles, codes and "norms."
 - c. Storming: Not necessarily conflict so much as exposure and openness. Any group difficulties eventually come out into the open; needed for true relationship.
 - d. Performing: problems are confronted; group realizes their potential; functions as the Body of Christ.
 - e. Reforming/Adjourning: preparations/discussions before returning to the "real" world.
6. Progression of Programs: Each age level offers a new activities and more exciting programs; age-group efficacy and target marketing. Adventure camps, skills camps, and trip camps encourage future participation in the Camp Bethel community. (No trust = no beginning. No fun = no return. No challenge = no continuation.)
7. Family-Style Meals and Cook-Out Program: Meals aren't just a "get-'em-in, feed 'em, get-'em-out" time; meals are a major part of the Experiential Christian Education for each camper. Christ is the head of each round table in the Dining Hall. Counselors teach family style meal manners, values, and expectations, plus how to set tables and host meals.
8. Camping (to camp) implies action: We believe there should be EFFORT required at camp to provide for one's daily needs (food, shelter, clean bathrooms, set tables, etc.). When we work together providing for others, a deeper sense of our own creativity emerges. We experience the closeness of living with and caring for ourselves and others, analogous to the community of early Christians described in Acts 2 and 1st Corinthians 12.

Camp Bethel's WHAT is everything else. Bible curriculum and Bible studies, worship and music, activities, meals, experiences, adventures, crafts, etc.

#6: Preventing homesickness

Good parent preparation is essential to give campers the confidence needed to fully enjoy a camp experience:

1. Set realistic expectations for the camp experience based on our information and the activities listed in the program descriptions online. Reinforce positive camp aspects; encourage new learning.
2. In the weeks before camp, hold one or more "practice" overnight sleepovers in another room of your home with your child.
3. With your child, come and visit Camp Bethel. Call us to arrange a self-guided pre-tour.
4. Don't force a child to camp if they have no desire to go. Only send a willing & ready child to back-to-back camps.
5. Don't tell campers how much you will miss them. Instead encourage new friends and new experiences.
6. Don't tell campers they can call home. Instead, encourage your camper to talk to their counselor if they are sad. If a camper is sad or if there is an issue, injury, illness or emergency the Program Coordinator WILL contact parents.

Camp Bethel will never force a camper to stay at camp who does not want to stay.

Our counselors are thoroughly trained in methods to prevent homesickness, and our program style keeps campers active and engaged in camp activities and interpersonal relationships. If, however, your child becomes homesick:

1. All staff will do everything possible to address the cause and to encourage the camper.
2. If symptoms persist, the Program Coordinator will call home to discuss options before you speak with your child.
3. If all determine the best option is to pick up your child, we will have the camper ready. There are no refunds for campers who leave early, because staff, food and gear are already secured.

#7: Trading Post camp store open Sunday 3:45-4:30pm (in Gym) & Friday 6:30-7:15pm (in Store)

Parents can shop with campers from 3:45-4:30pm on Sunday in the Gym prior to check-in and 6:30-7:15pm in the actual Trading Post store on Friday after dismissal. T-shirts, water bottles, Camp Bethel-made apple butter, blankets, croc charms and more can be found in the store. Earnings directly support the programs of Camp Bethel. At the Trading Post (Sunday 3:45-4:30 in Gym & Friday 6:30-7:15 in store) lock in this year's rate for next year's camp and get 1 FREE short sleeve tee-shirt by using our "Early Summer 2026 Pre-Registration Form."

#8: Summer Offering 2026: Botetourt Food Pantry

St. Mark's Episcopal church houses and staffs the major outreach ministry, the Botetourt Food Pantry with the help of other area churches, organizations and schools who assist with the distribution. The pantry was created over 40 years ago and now serves over 500 people per month. The pantry relies heavily on community support and donation to address food insecurity in Botetourt County. Learn more at <https://www.stmarksfinncastle.org/info/botetourt-food-pantry.cfm>.

We will be collecting financial AND non-perishable food donations. Please donate only in-date, non-perishable foods that can be used by the shelter. Donations will be collected at check-in and check-out.

#9: Summer Curriculum: In the Wilderness

Wilderness is a time or place where we encounter what is new, strange, scary, lonely, unknown or mysterious. The wilderness is a wild and beautiful time and place where we can discover the sacred within each person and all creation. The wilderness can inspire us and guide us, assuring us of God's constant presence. As the Spirit guides us through the wilderness, we find what we need to face our fears and the very real challenges that impact our world. The wilderness teaches us the importance of community and the ways we navigate challenges together. The wilderness reveals our strengths, growing edges, and potential as God equips us for the unknown still to come. The wilderness awaits us all, and God meets us there.

#10: Sunday Check-In Procedures

1. Check-in begins promptly for everyone at 4:00pm Sunday inside the Deer Field Gym with important announcements and introductions for all families. Arrive at or before 4:00! Registration does not begin until 4:00; cabin entry is not allowed without your counselors. The Trading Post Outlet (camp store) will be set up inside the Gym from 3:45 through check-in. Park in the paved Ark parking lot or in the grass Deer Field lot beside the Gym. Follow directional signs.
2. LUGGAGE: Carry gear inside the Gym and find your camp listed on the luggage signs around the gym. Your child's luggage will go either on a wagon to be delivered or against the wall to be carried to the cabin your child will be staying in.
3. Please tag or label all luggage/gear with your name. We will have markers & tape available in the Gym. Please pack lightly enough so that the camper can easily carry all gear by herself/himself.
4. Proceed to the check-in tables in the Deer Field Gym (there may be a line). Check in with the registrar and turn in offering donations to the offering box near the registration table.
5. At the first check-in table you will find your Parent Info Card, organized alphabetically by camper last name. This page has (1) your Camper's Unit number, (2) your counselors' names, (3) your cabin/lodge, (4) Bunk Notes instructions, and (5) Friday pick-up procedures. You will use your Unit number to eventually find and meet your counselors and your group.
6. At the second check-in table, you will (1) turn in any adventure waivers or forms due (extra blank waivers and forms will be available), (2) update or add any names of adults who are authorized to drive the camper home from camp, and (3) answer a few quick Health Screening questions (fever? achy? sore throat? cold/flu symptoms?).
7. If you bring medications, you will then give any medication and any Health Form updates to our Health Coordinator. Place all medication in a gallon zip-lock bag with camper's name on it to speed along the registration process.
8. Parents and Campers will then walk to meet your Unit in the Deer Field. Parents: Take time to meet the counselors and other campers in the Unit. Tell the counselor any information they should know (in addition to the information you included on your Camper Information and Health Form). *Don't linger too long!* Say "Goodbye" as your campers begin a great week at camp with their counselors and new friends.
9. Parents: Drive slowly as you leave, watch for pedestrians, and follow exit signs out of camp.
10. Once the entire Unit has arrived and after a few "get-to-know-you" games, the campers and counselors will carry their gear to their cabins: boys to the boys' cabin and girls to the girls' cabin. Counselors and Support Staff will help campers with their luggage.
11. These procedures were established (and revised) to ensure camper safety and supervision, to reduce vehicle traffic through camp, to ensure the security of staff and campers' belongings, and to begin group unity and cooperation as soon as possible after arrival. Thanks for understanding!

#11: Friday Camper Pick-Up Procedures: *(Watch for an end-of-week email with any updates and announcements.)*

1. Dismissal/Pick-up is Friday at 6:30pm at the Ark Dining Hall. Your camper will have eaten Friday dinner with their group prior to 6:00pm.
2. You are encouraged to arrive at 6:00pm at the Ark to witness our Closing Singing and Celebration from 6-6:30pm. This is an important and meaningful ceremony for your camper and their group, so we will not dismiss campers to your care until after our final prayer at 6:30pm.
3. Park in one of these areas: the paved Ark Parking Lot or the grass Deer Field beside the Gym. Bring your Photo ID. Meet campers and counselors at the pond side of the Ark Dining Hall.
4. To "claim" your child at 6:30pm, 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.
5. 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.
6. After 6:30 dismissal, please walk with your camper and their counselor to pick up 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. If you arrive after 6:30pm dismissal, park, go to the Ark Dining Hall, and ask a staff member for instructions where to pick up your child.
9. After 6:30pm dismissal, the Trading Post (in the actual camp store) will be open from 6:30-7:15pm. At the Trading Post from 6:30-7:15, lock in this year's rate for next year's camp (and immediately get a **free tee shirt!**) by taking advantage of our "Closing Day Pre-Registration Form." It's a great way to reserve your spot for next year and save \$10.
10. Parents: Drive slowly as you leave, 5 mph; watch for pedestrians; follow exit signs out of camp.