

Going to summer camp can be exciting, maturing, and *fun*. This brochure is designed to help you—the parents—prepare your camper for a positive camp experience.

Parent(s) of first *time campers* pay special attention in preparing for camp. The first time away from the familiarity and comforts of home can be challenging for anyone.

- Consider a pre-camp visit to the site. Call the camp to arrange for a visit.
- Plan nights away from home before camp starts. Successful sleepovers at a friend or grandparents' house will be reassuring.
- Anticipate changes that will occur in a camper's routines while at camp. For example, if a younger camper normally takes baths, have him/her "practice" taking showers to prepare for camp. If the camper normally plans many of his/her own meals, talk about the need to cooperate and make healthy choices at camp meal times. Campers who do not sit at the table for some home meals need to cooperate with a structure of 6-8 campers at a table plus at least one counselor.
- Promise to write, and keep the promise. Everyone loves to get mail at camp. (*overdoing can be embarrassing.*) Some families mail a letter before camp so the camper will get mail on the 1st or 2nd day. Pack stamped, pre-addressed letters or post cards with the camping gear make it easier for them to write you. **Note:** letters from home should be upbeat and positive. Telling a camper how much he/she is missing, how much fun the family is

having at home, can start homesickness. On the other hand, don't worry if your camper sends an unhappy letter. Emotional ups and downs can occur while learning to live away from home.

- Encourage your camper to express feelings about going to camp: joys, fears, *any* concerns! Talk openly, helping your camper work through if difficulties are expressed. Don't over do!
- Please don't introduce the idea of **homesickness or any other troublesome possibilities**. Assure your camper that the camp staff will answer questions, help campers make new friends, and have fun. *Please remember that camp policy does not allow campers to make or receive phone calls except in case of an emergency and then with permission of the dean..*
- When packing for camp, use the camp check off list carefully. This list is on the darker green paper called "PLANNING PACKET." Include all the recommended items, and as many of the optional ones as you feel are important. **Do not send items the camp does not allow.** Go through packed items to be sure nothing is left out or added. Having possessions taken away and kept in the camp office until the end of camp is upsetting. Also, as you pack keep in mind, the camps can not be responsible for items *lost, stolen, or damaged*. Do not send valuables!
- Labeling everything will help prevent confusion and loss. In the cabin, your camper will have items that are like

others. *For your convenience, a laundry label order envelope is enclosed. For each order the company will provide the camps with a \$1.00 rebate. This goes into the campership fund to help future campers.*

- Please do not send any foods or snacks to the campers. Food in the cabins attracts mice!

Very important Times to Remember

Check-in: Between 3:30 and 5 PM.

Allow time to check-in and help **camper get situated in the cabin** before you leave. However, it does not help to come very early. You will just have a long wait before check-in starts. The person who brings the camper to camp will need to tell the dean who is picking up the camper at the end of camp.

Check out time: Between 10:00 & 11:00

Allow time for car packing and good-byes. Please do not be late--campers get very anxious when their rides are late.

Your Notes

Camper Name _____

Event Name _____

Event # _____

Start Date/Time _____

End Date/Time _____

Camp Site _____

Camp Phone _____

Directions to Camps

Camp Allegheny Phone: 888-251-0771
100 Camp Allegheny, Stoystown, PA 15563

The camp is on Rt. 30, 80 miles east of Pittsburgh, midway between Ligonier and Bedford. Registration is in the new Sports Center.

From the Johnstown area – Take US 219 South to Rt. 30 East, then about 10 miles to camp on the right.

From the PA Turnpike – Take the Somerset exit 10 and follow Rt. 281 North to US 30 East. The camp is five miles on your right.

From US 30 West – Go to Reels Corners, go 3 miles to camp on the left.

From 30 East go about five miles past Stoystown. The camp is on your right

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Jumonville Phone: 800-463-7688
887 Jumonville Rd., Hopwood, PA 15445

Jumonville is between Routes 119 & 40, on the mountain above Uniontown. Registration is usually in the Captain Webb Building.

Traveling on Rt. 119 South from Connellsville – Take the Connellsville Street exit about 3 miles north of Uniontown. Proceed 3 miles, turning left across from the Exxon Service Station by Gary's Used Auto Sales. Turn left at the "T" and continue up the mountain 4 miles to the camp.

From US 40 through Uniontown/Hopwood – Continue on Rt.40 to the mountaintop. Turn left at the crest, opposite the Mt. Summit Inn (or right if you are coming from the east). It's about 3 miles to camp.

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Wesley Woods Phone: 814-436-7669
RR 1, Box 155A, Grand Valley, PA 16420

The camp is on Rt. 27, 16 miles northeast of Titusville and 16 miles south of Youngsville. Report to the Main Camp dining hall for check-in or if your camp is in Green Hills, follow signs to check-in there.

From Titusville – Take Enterprise cut-off by turning left off Rt. 27 East at Wolfkiel Garage (1.8 miles from the Titusville Pizza Hut). At Enterprise, you will re-join Rt. 27. Go through Grand Valley, to the Village of Star, turning left at the Wesley Woods sign. Go up the hill, turn left at the Wesley Woods sign, following the road to camp.

From the Warren Area – Follow Rt. 27 West 16 miles beyond Youngsville. Enter the small village of Star. Turn right at the Wesley Woods sign, go up hill to the next sign, turn left and follow the road to camp.

Camping & Retreat Ministries

W. PA Conference,

United Methodist Church

Conference Camping Office

PO Box 5002 Cranberry Twp 16066

800-886-3382 724-776-2300

Fax: 724-776-1126

E-mail: umcamp@wpaumc.org

www.wpaumc.org/camping

Cancellation Policy

If a camper is unable to attend camp, notify the Camping Office immediately. Refunds are given up to 2 weeks before the start of a camp, subject to a \$50. processing fee. For cancellation during the last two weeks before the event, only the room and board portion of the fee can be refunded. In order to be considered for this refund, contact the Camping Office *immediately* with information about the accident or illness. Follow up with a written a doctor's note about a medical problem. This information must be sent to the camping office within one week after the end of the event. **Under no circumstances will the program portion of the fees be refunded after the two-week period before the event.**

ALL CANCELLATIONS MUST BE REPORTED TO THE CAMPING OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.

1.800.886.3382

NO REFUND WILL BE MADE FOR ANY REASON AFTER THE START OF CAMP

Recipe For a Happy Camper



...and other good stuff you need to know before coming to a United Methodist summer camp. Save this flyer for reference.