



2024 VIRGINIA YOUTH CAMP
CAMPER INFORMATION PACKET

WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in Virginia Church of God Youth Camp! Virginia Church of God Youth Camp seeks to provide an environment where campers build healthy relationships with God and each other through Pentecostal worship, engaging activities and plenty of fun. This packet will be helpful as you make plans for summer camp. It is important that parents and campers read this document in its entirety. Almost any question that you may have about our summer programs will be answered herein.

The Virginia Youth Camp program is operated by the Virginia Church of God State Executive Offices located at 8018 Angel Lane Roanoke, Virginia under the leadership of Virginia Youth and Discipleship Directors, Chad and Jennifer Fickett, and the Virginia Youth and Discipleship Board.

2024 YOUTH CAMP DATES

SESSION	AGES	DATES
High School	14-18	June 17-21
Middle School	11-13	June 24-28
Elementary	6-10	July 1-5

CAN A CAMPER ATTEND A CAMP FOR A DIFFERENT AGE GROUP?

For a better experience, campers should attend the session for their age group. A one-year variance is allowed, but no individual younger than 6 or older than 18 can attend camp. The one-year variance accommodates the following:

- A 10-year-old is allowed to register for and attend Middle (11-13) Camp
- An 11-year-old is allowed to register for and attend Elementary (6-10) Camp
- A 13-year-old is allowed to register for and attend High (14-18) Camp
- Student must currently be in high school, and if 18 years old, they must be enrolled in high school.
- A 14-year-old is allowed to register for and attend Middle (11-13) Camp

The Virginia Youth and Discipleship Director reserves the privilege of allowing a camper to attend a camp that does not match their age criteria. To be permitted to attend a camp that is outside the age and variance criteria, a request must be filed by the parent. These requests must be made by email to youth@vacog.org. Requests should include details about why a camper should be permitted to attend a camp that is outside of their age bracket. The decision of the Youth and Discipleship Director will be returned via email and will be considered final.

CAMP COSTS & REGISTRATION DATES

All rates include a deposit of \$50.00, which is non-refundable and non-transferable.

REGISTRATION	DATE (No Exceptions)	REGISTRATION FEE*
EARLY BIRD*	Received by May 1 at midnight	\$165.00
REGULAR*	Received after midnight May 1 but before midnight May 27	\$190.00
WALK-ON#	Received after midnight May 27	\$215.00

*The **Early & Regular Registration** fee includes one camp t-shirt and one \$10 armband for use at the canteen or camp store, free online links to CTV.

The **Walk-On Registration** fee includes one \$10 armband for use at the canteen or camp store, free online links to CTV. It DOES NOT include a t-shirt.

REGISTRATION

TO REGISTER ONLINE

Visit www.vacog.org/youth-camp to complete an online application. Online applications require a credit or debit card for payment. We accept VISA, MASTERCARD, and AMERICAN EXPRESS. WE DO NOT accept DISCOVER. There are two available payment options for online applications. 1.) Pay only the \$50.00 deposit plus any extra items. OR 2.) Pay all fees in full. **Online registration will close approximately ten days before the date each camp starts.**

- Paper applications are no longer available. All campers must register online at www.vacog.org/youth-camp.
- Balances can be paid at any time after completing registration, on the opening day of your session, or by utilizing our online payment form on our website.
- It is vital that medical terms and medication names are spelled correctly.
- All applications must list an emergency contact. This must be someone other than the parent/guardian just in case we cannot connect with the parent/guardian immediately.

WALK-ON REGISTRATION

Walk-on registration is permitted but is the most expensive option and offers the least flexibility for the camper. Any application received after midnight on May 26 is considered a “walk-on”. **We may be unable to accommodate cabinmate requests from walk-ons. We strongly recommend registering before the walk-on date.**

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

If, after registering for a camp session, a camper is unable to attend their session, you may request a refund of any registration fee that you have paid in excess of the \$50.00 deposit. **The deposit is non-refundable and non-transferrable.** Refund requests must be submitted by email to youth@vacog.org and must be received no later than July 5, 2024.

SPENDING MONEY AND ARMBANDS

Campers are encouraged to bring spending money for their stay at camp. Each day the camp store and the concession stand will be open with a variety of merchandise for sale. The camp store and the concession stand will take cash, credit cards and the camp armband. The camp registration fee includes one \$10.00 armband. Additional armbands, up to 2, can be purchased when submitting an application. Cash may be used at the canteen and camp store if armbands are used. Armbands are marked with various monetary denominations that allow the camper to make purchases at the concession stand and camp store. The armband snaps into place on the camper’s wrist so that campers do not have to worry about keeping up with cash. Unused armbands can be cashed out on the closing day of each camp session. Refunds will be issued to the lowest whole dollar amount.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Campers should plan to arrive at 1:00PM on the start date of their session. **LUNCH IS NOT PROVIDED FOR CAMPERS ON MONDAY.** Campers are released after the closing session at approximately 11:00AM on the last day of each session.

The physical address of the camp is 8018 Angel Lane, Roanoke, VA 24019.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

There will be a registered nurse on the camp staff during each camp session. The nurse will be responsible for the administration of medication and for providing basic medical attention as needed. The camp nurse can also dispense various over-the-counter medications as needed if the parent gives appropriate permission by indicating their preferences on the application.

MEDICATION

Any medication that a camper brings with them must be given to the nurse during the registration process. This applies to prescription and over-the-counter medications. In order for the nurse to dispense this medication please complete the medication dispensing instructions on the camp application.

INSURANCE

Your camper's medical insurance policy is the primary carrier for all medical occurrences that happen during camp. The camp does provide coverage, but it is secondary to the camper's personal insurance.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT DO REGISTRATION FEES COVER?

Lodging, meals, camp t-shirt (Early & Regular Registrations Only), \$10 armband that can be used at the concession stand or camp store, and FREE online access to CTV. Fees also include guest speakers, activities, and professional staff.

IS THE DEPOSIT INCLUDED IN CAMP FEES?

Yes, the camp fee includes the \$50.00 deposit. **This deposit is non-transferrable and non-refundable.**

CAN I PAY MORE THAN THE REQUIRED DEPOSIT OF \$50.00?

If you submit an online application, you can select either a minimum payment amount (\$50.00 deposit plus selected extras) or payment in full.

WHEN MUST I PAY MY BALANCE DUE?

The full balance must be paid before campers are admitted to camp. Balances can be paid via check or money order payable to **Virginia Church of God State Fund** (Mail to: Virginia Youth Camp, PO Box 7547, Roanoke, VA 24019). Please include the registration confirmation number. Credit card payments can be made by utilizing our online payment form on our website. Balances can also be paid at the registration area on the opening day of camp.

IS THE \$50 DEPOSIT REFUNDABLE OR TRANSFERRABLE?

No – the \$50 deposit is non-refundable and non-transferable.

CAN FUNDS BE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER CAMPER?

No. We do not transfer funds from one camper to another. You must request a refund to recoup your expenses.

WHAT IF MY CHILD LEAVES EARLY OR ARRIVES LATE?

We are unable to issue refunds or pro-rate camp fees for campers who must leave early or arrive late.

DO YOU PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION?

No, we do not provide transportation for campers. If you are having difficulty making travel arrangements, we recommend contacting a local Church of God to see if they can help.

ARE CAMPERS ALWAYS SUPERVISED?

Yes, campers are always under the supervision of their cabin leader or a qualified staff member.

HOW DO I REQUEST A REFUND?

Refund requests must be submitted by email to youth@vacog.org by July 5, 2024. You may receive a refund of camp fees that you have paid which exceed the \$50.00 deposit.

WILL THE STUDENTS BE LEAVING THE ROANOKE MINISTRY CENTER?

This year, our campers will be staying onsite the entire week. We will have fun activities each night for the campers to enjoy.

CAN I PREPURCHASE ITEMS?

Yes, you can pre-purchase additional armbands when you submit your application.

- Armbands: for use in concession stand and camp store are available in \$10 increments

Pre-purchased items must be paid for in full when the application is submitted. No items will be reserved unless payment is sent with the application.

CAN I PURCHASE AN ADDITIONAL T SHIRT?

Yes, additional t shirts will be available for purchase from the camp store at a cost of \$15.00 each. There will be a limited number of shirts available. To guarantee a camp shirt, register by May 26.

HOW MUCH SPENDING MONEY DOES A CAMPER NEED?

\$5 to \$10 a day for souvenirs and snacks should be sufficient.

WHAT ABOUT LICE AND BEDBUGS?

If any camper or staff member is found to have lice or bed bugs, they will not be permitted to stay at camp. ***It will be the parent or church's responsibility to come and pick the camper(s) up.*** Please take a few moments before leaving for camp and ensure that your child/children have not been infected with lice or bed bugs.

WHEN WILL CAMPERS RECEIVE CONFIRMATIONS?

Confirmations are sent via email once the application is processed by the camp staff. No confirmation will be issued to applications that do not include a valid email address. Camp confirmations will be sent in late May.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONTINUED

WHO IS ON STAFF DURING CAMP?

Most camp staff members are volunteers from Church of God congregations. Staff members must complete an application and obtain a pastoral reference. Teen staff members are required to submit a second reference from a teacher or employer. Each applicant is carefully screened and subject to a thorough background check. Once accepted, staff members undergo training to prepare them for their role at camp. The cafeteria is managed by food service professionals. A registered nurse serves the campus each week, and all water activities are supervised by certified lifeguards. Security is provided by former law enforcement officers.

WHAT WILL THE CAMPERS DO EACH DAY?

We make every effort to plan a program that will have something for everyone. The schedule includes time for swimming, sports, games, obstacle courses, downtime at the concession stand and more. Campers attend a worship service each day, have daily Bible Study and devotions led by their cabin leader each night.

CAN I REACH SOMEONE AT CAMP ANY TIME IN CASE OF EMERGENCY?

You may contact our office during business hours (8:30AM – 4:30PM) at 540-362-1549 x3. If you call after business hours, please leave a message and we will return your call.

CAN CAMPERS RECEIVE MAIL DURING THEIR STAY?

Yes, but we recommend sending any correspondence well before your camper's session begins to ensure that it arrives in time. Mail can be sent to Youth Camp, PO Box 7547, Roanoke, VA 24019. Please indicate your camper's first and last name on the envelope.

WHAT CLOTHES SHOULD MY CAMPER BRING?

Camp activities are best performed in play clothes that can handle wear and tear. Shorts, tees, and sneakers are suitable for day activities. Some campers like to "dress up" for services but this is not a requirement. Comfort is important so please remember that July is typically hot and humid. You can download a suggested packing list from visiting.camp.vacog.org.

ARE CAMPERS PERMITTED TO HAVE CELL PHONES?

Campers can bring their cell phone to camp with them. There will be times during camp that access to phones is limited.

ARE VISITORS ALLOWED?

Visitors are permitted during the worship time each day. Each visitor will need to check in with the camp director upon arrival and leave at the conclusion of the worship service.

DOES THE CAMP HAVE A BAG/LUGGAGE CHECK POLICY?

In the event that camp leadership feels necessary, bags/luggage may be checked. If a weapon or any form of contraband is found during the screening, the item will be confiscated, and the Camp Administrator will decide what action should be taken.

WHAT ARTICLES OF CLOTHING ARE NOT APPROPRIATE FOR CAMP?

We ask parents to help us adhere to a Christian standard of modesty by not allowing campers to pack the following: No clothing with profane, obscene, or offensive messages or pictures. No clothing that promotes political, gangs, violence, weapons, drugs or alcohol. Shorts/skirt length should be fingertip length. Sleeveless shirts must have shoulder straps of at least one inch in width. Clothing should not reveal undergarments, cleavage, or the midriff. The following items are not allowed: oversized armhole sleeves; see-through garments; form-fitting shorts; cut-offs, torn or ripped clothing; extremely oversized clothing; spaghetti strap shirts, camis (without appropriate clothing articles overtop) or tube tops.

WHAT IS YOUR LOST AND FOUND POLICY?

We are not responsible for lost or damaged property. Items will be made available on the closing day of each session. After that day, unclaimed items will be donated to a charity or disposed of. Make sure your camper knows to carefully check their bunk area and the bathroom before departing to avoid leaving items behind.

DOES THE CAMP PROVIDE THERAPEUTIC SERVICES?

We strive to offer a positive camp experience, but our camp does not provide programs that are therapeutic in nature and does not specialize in physical, emotional, social, or behavioral challenges. Families will be best equipped to decide whether this camp experience is a good match for their child.

ARE YOU ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS?

Yes, but only if the camper is under medical supervision or has a known allergic reaction. Certain restrictions may mean that a camper must supply their own food during camp. Please provide specific details about the dietary restrictions on the camper's application

Covid-19 Policy

By entering onto any property of Virginia Church of God or participating in any Virginia Church of God programs or events, I, (on behalf of myself and my family members) acknowledge and agree with the following:

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, continues to be an ongoing issue. The state of medical knowledge is of course, ever-evolving, but the virus is believed to spread from person-to-person contact and/or by contact with contaminated surfaces and objects, and even in the air. People reportedly can be infected and show no symptoms and therefore spread the disease. The exact methods of spread and contraction are unknown, and there is no known cure for COVID-19. Evidence has shown that COVID-19 can cause serious and potentially life-threatening illness and even death.

While we have made the decision to move forward with this summer's camping program, Virginia Church of God cannot prevent me or my family members from becoming exposed to, contracting, or spreading COVID-19 while on any property of Virginia Church of God or when participating in Virginia Church of God programs or events. Therefore, by entering a Virginia Church of God facility or participating in one of its programs, I acknowledge that I may be exposing myself and my family members to and/or increasing my/our risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19. I expressly assume that risk, on behalf of myself and my family. ***I (on behalf of myself and my family members), hereby forever release and waive my right to bring suit against Virginia Church of God or any of its affiliates, officers, directors, employees, or other representatives related to any of the foregoing.***

COVID Protocols:

In our effort to be as cautious as possible and to offer the safest environment we can for campers and staff the following protocols will be in place for this year's camping season:

- If student, immediate family member or volunteer staff has tested positive or been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 10 days leading up to the start of their camp, they will not be allowed to attend.
- Prior to registration, all staff and campers will go through a health screening questionnaire.
 1. **Fever (temperature 100.4 or higher)**
 2. **Sore throat**
 3. **New cough**
 4. **Diarrhea, vomiting, or stomachache**
 5. **New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever**
 6. **Other symptoms that may be included are chills, nasal congestion or runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, tiredness, muscle or body aches, or poor appetite.**
- In the case a camper or staff member is found to have a temperature above 100.4 F or any of the above symptoms, they will be instructed to get a COVID-19 test. Re-entry to camp will require a negative test result. If the test is positive, the attendee and the group they are part of will not be able to re-enter camp.

*****We ask that the local church and parents assist us in our efforts to create an environment that is safe and healthy by following the above health screening prior to students loading vehicles and heading to camp. *****

STATEMENT AND POLICY REGARDING TRANSGENDER STUDENTS/CAMPERS

1. Each Church of God Youth Camp will promote Church of God doctrine, theology, and religious beliefs. However, control, supervision, and direction of each state/regional/territorial youth camp shall be under the auspices of that state/region/territory and its director. All Church of God state/regional/territorial youth camps are private, church-run camps, and are not open to the public.
2. State/regional/territorial youth camps are not “places of public accommodation” but are instead ministries of that state/region/territory, conducted for the purpose of the growth and development of the Kingdom of God and the Church of God in each state/region/territory.
3. Each state/regional/territorial youth camp director, with his leadership, hereby reserves the authority, discretion, and right to remove any camper from the camp, at the camper’s expense, for any reason, all within the discretion of the camp director and leadership.
4. Regarding campers who present themselves as transgender students at youth camp:
 1. Church of God already has an established policy regarding transgender restrooms, passed at the 2016 International General Assembly. A copy of the “Resolution on Transgender Restrooms” is attached hereto. This policy is applicable to all facilities at youth camps.
 2. Church of God’s position on transgender restrooms and LGBTQ+ rights is based on our sincerely held biblical/religious beliefs, which have been long held and promulgated in Church of God. Our position on this matter is based on our interpretation of Holy Scripture. This position also relates to our biblical beliefs regarding same sex attraction and relationships.
 3. While we hold these strongly held religious beliefs, Church of God also promotes a policy and spirit of love and encouragement for all campers/students, and young persons who are participating in our ministry. We do not wish to espouse a position of hatred toward any person or persons.
5. Any camper/student who participates in a state/regional/territorial youth camp in Church of God must be housed in the facilities reserved for that person’s sex, as set out on his/her birth certificate. In addition, campers must be dressed in conformance with one’s biological sex. Any camper/student who will not comply with this policy may be dismissed from that camp, under the discretion of the youth director and camp leadership.

approved by the Church of God International Executive Offices; Cleveland, Tennessee for State/ Regional Youth Camps