



**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, Mark and Wanda Cary, and the Virginia Youth and Discipleship Board.

2017 YOUTH CAMP DATES

SESSION	AGES	DATES
EXTREME CAMP	15-18	July 3 – July 7
VELOCITY CAMP	12-14	July 10 – July 14
ADVENTURE CAMP	9-11	July 17 – July 21
DISCOVERY CAMP	6-8	July 24 – July 27

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:

- An 8 year old is allowed to register for and attend Adventure (9-11) Camp
- A 9 year old is allowed to register for and attend Discovery (6-8) Camp
- An 11 year old is allowed to register for and attend Velocity (12-14) Camp
- A 12 year old is allowed to register for and attend Adventure (9-11) Camp
- A 14 year old is allowed to register for and attend Extreme (15-18) Camp
- A 15 year old is allowed to register for and attend Velocity (12-14) Camp

The Virginia Youth and Discipleship Board 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 Board 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*
REDUCED	Received by May 5 at 4:00PM EST	\$150.00 Extreme/Velocity/Adventure \$140.00 Discovery
REGULAR	Received after May 5 at 4:00PM EST but before June 9 at 4:00PM EST	\$175.00 Extreme/Velocity/Adventure \$165.00 Discovery
WALK-ON	Received after June 9 at 4:00PM EST	\$200.00 Extreme/Velocity/Adventure \$190.00 Discovery

*The camp registration fee includes one camp t shirt and one \$10 armband for use at the concession stand or camp store.

REGISTRATION OPTIONS

TO REGISTER ONLINE

Visit camp.vacog.org to complete an online application. Online applications require a credit or debit card for payment. We accept VISA, MASTERCARD, and AMERICAN EXPRESS. 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.

TO REGISTER BY PAPER

All paper applications must include a \$5.00 processing fee per application in addition to the camp fees.

- STEP 1:** Download a paper application by visiting camp.vacog.org.
- STEP 2:** Complete the application by legibly printing all requested information.
(Applications that cannot be read by office staff will be returned without being processed)
- STEP 3:** Compute camp fees using the guideline on the application.
- STEP 4:** Include a check or money order payable to "Virginia Church of God State Fund" to cover fees. This payment must be at least the camp deposit of \$50.00, the \$5.00 paper processing fee, and the cost of any extras that are ordered. The minimum amount due can be computed on the application.
(This is a non-refundable and non-transferrable deposit)
- STEP 5:** Mail the application and payment to Virginia Youth Camp, PO Box 7547, Roanoke, VA 24019.
(Emailed or faxed applications will not be accepted)

- Balances can be paid at any time after completing registration or on the opening day of your session.
- 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 4:00PM EST on June 9 is considered a "walk-on". This means that the application is held until the opening day of camp and processed when the camper arrives at the registration area. We are 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 August 4, 2017. No refunds will be processed before July 14, 2017.

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 can be purchased when submitting an application. 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. Campers are released after the closing assembly at approximately 10:30AM 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 and a \$10 armband that can be used at the concession stand or camp store. 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.

WHAT IS THE PROCESSING FEE FOR PAPER APPLICATIONS AND IS IT INCLUDED IN THE CAMP FEES?

The \$5.00 processing fee helps cover the extra time it takes for staff to evaluate the information provided and accurately process paper applications. The \$5.00 fee is in addition to camp fees and applicable to paper applications only.

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

Yes. If you submit a paper application you can pay any amount from \$50.00 to the full balance due. 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 calling the camp office at 540.362.1549 during regular business hours. 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.

HOW DO I REQUEST A REFUND?

Refund requests must be submitted by email to youth@vacog.org by August 4, 2017. You may receive a refund of camp fees that you have paid which exceed the \$50.00 deposit. Refunds are processed beginning July 14, 2017 and will be issued to the party that made the initial payment.

DO YOU OFFER FINANCIAL AID OR SCHOLARSHIPS?

We offer scholarships to local churches based on their participation in the annual YWEA project. A full tuition scholarship is provided to the church for every \$500.00 raised and submitted for YWEA. The best source for financial assistance is the local church. Contact your pastor to determine what types of assistance, if any, are offered by your church.

CAN I PREPURCHASE ITEMS?

Yes, you can pre-purchase several items when you submit your application.

- Armbands: for use in concession stand and camp store are available in \$10 increments
- Camp picture: \$5.00
- Camp DVD: \$15.00

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.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONTINUED

CAN THESE ITEMS BE PURCHASED ONSITE?

Yes, but the pre-purchase price is discounted for camp pictures and DVDs.

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.

HOW MUCH SPENDING MONEY DOES A CAMPER NEED?

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

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. Please allow 5 business days for processing.

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.

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.

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. We will distribute an additional phone number for afterhours emergencies during the camp season.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 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 bathhouse 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 has to supply their own food during camp. Please provide specific details about the dietary restrictions on the camper's application so that the cafeteria manager can be prepared.