

WEST RIVER CENTER

Baltimore Washington Conference United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 429, Churchton, MD 20733
Phone 410 867 0991 or Toll Free 800 922 6795
Fax 410 867 3741 Email camp.registrar@verizon.net
Est. 1951 www.bwccampsandretreats.org



Dear Camper and Parents,

We are glad that you will be joining us for a week of summer camp this year. The information provided below will help you prepare to come to camp. If you have questions, please call us.

HINTS FOR PACKING

1. If campers help with packing, they are more likely to find their items once at camp.
2. For younger campers, it is helpful to roll each change of clothing up together.
3. Please label or initial **ALL** items for easy identification.
4. **Please DO NOT bring:** personal electronic devices (**cell phones, iPods, etc**), radios, TVs, handheld electronic games, jewelry, expensive cameras, weapons, hatchets, pocket knives, new or nearly new luggage, fireworks, or any other item that would detract from the camp experience.

WHAT TO BRING

Sleeping bag or sheets/blanket for twin size bed
Pillow
Lots of shorts, t-shirts, etc. for outside activity
2 pairs shoes (tennis shoes, one old pair)
Several pairs of socks
Rain gear
Soap and shampoo, bath towels
Toothpaste, toothbrush
Modest swimming suit and towel(s)
Insect Repellant
Laundry bag/Plastic bag for wet clothes
Sunscreen
A Bible

YOU MAY WANT TO BRING

Camera
Hat or visor
Sunglasses
Favorite stuffed animal
Window or box fan
Water bottle with your name
Rain gear
Sweat shirts if cooler temps are forecast
Writing paper, envelopes (pre-addressed for home), pens, stamps
Flashlight and extra batteries
Flip flops for going to and from pool

SAILING CAMPERS MAY ALSO BRING:

Extra pair of non-marking rubber soled shoes
1 or 2 pair of long pants
Sunscreen
Sunglasses with strap
Extra swimsuit
Long sleeve shirt
Hat
Waterproof bag (Advanced and Trip)

FAITH IN ACTION CAMP

Sturdy Shoes
Work Gloves
*more supplies/details to come later

ELECTRONIC GADGETS

We ask campers to leave cell phones, Blackberries, Ipods, DS games, and similar items at home so that we can better focus on the process of building relationships with each other. Campers have a far better experience when they aren't responding to text messages, IM-ing their friends, or returning phone calls. To address parents' concerns regarding not being able to contact your child or vice versa, please be assured that our # 1 priority is the creation of a safe environment that eliminates the need for a phone in the first place. We encourage campers to solve issues that may arise by talking with their counselor, each other, and if necessary, the camp director. Furthermore, all camp staff are trained to deal with issues of homesickness, conflict, and discipline, and Camp Directors are committed to communicating with parents as necessary whenever issues arise.

SWIM TEST

In order to swim in the deep end of the pool, campers must pass a swim test. The test consists of swimming 60 feet on top of the water. (Sailors must also tread water for 2 minutes, and put on a life vest while in the water). Those who pass are given a hospital-type bracelet that enables the lifeguards to quickly identify campers who can safely enter the deep end of the pool.

REGISTRATION – Sundays from 3:00 PM until 4:30 PM (**see exceptions below**)

BRING COMPLETED HEALTH FORM (if on paper), CAMPER PICK-UP FORM

Please be aware – this process can take time.

*Grandparents Camp – check in will be Monday at 10am.

CHECK-OUT (**see exceptions below**)

Slideshow of the week's activities will begin at 6:00pm with check-out immediately following the last day of camp.

Full week sessions: Friday, 6:00 p.m.

Mini-weeks: Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

*Grandparents Camps – Friday at 1pm.

Signature and photo I.D. are required at the time of pick up.

CAMP STORE

The camp store is open each afternoon and offers a variety of items for sale including candy, ice cream, sodas, water, snacks, postcards, t-shirts, stuffed animals, and other items. T-Shirts are also offered for sale during registration and check-out time. To prevent loss, campers are not allowed to carry money during the week. Money is collected at registration and purchases are made on a credit basis throughout the week. Unused money will be returned at checkout. The recommended amount for a Camp Store account is \$20-30.

NETWORKING SITES

We understand that email, IM and social networking sites like Facebook and MySpace can be positive avenues to express yourself and keep in touch with friends. As a camper you have the right to exchange emails, IM, or befriend other campers in any way that you AND your parents see fit. When communicating with other campers please follow these guidelines:

- Be respectful in all communications.
- Do not use obscenities, profanity or vulgar language.
- Do not disparage the camp, its employees, volunteers or other campers.
- Do not harass, bully, or intimidate campers, volunteers or other campers.
- Do not post pictures of other campers unless you have their permission.

When communicating with adult volunteers or staff from camp you must do so in **a public manner only**; use only group emails, post on public walls/blogs.

MEDICATIONS AND HEALTH FORM

In order to provide the best possible care for our campers, the information on the **online health form** must be filled out completely and accurately. If you do not have online access please complete a paper form and bring on the first day of camp. Do not mail it ahead of time.

Medications must be current and designated for the camper. Severe asthmatics and those who need an epipen may wish to bring a second implement, which may be kept by the camper's immediate counselor. A nurse/health aide is on-site through the entire week your child is at camp

State law requires:

- that all prescription and over-the-counter medications be in original containers.
- that all medications be handed over at registration and kept secure in the infirmary.
- that all medications be accompanied with the prescribing physician's signature.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT CAMPERS ARE EXPECTED TO:

1. Be respectful of the PROGRAM - i.e. all campers are expected to fully participate in all activities.
2. Be respectful of the PEOPLE - i.e. all others in camp at all times.
3. Be respectful of the PLACE at all times (camp property, equipment, facilities, and surrounding environment).

CORRESPONDING WITH YOUR CHILD:

Please do not phone the site except in the event of an emergency. Campers are not allowed to use the phone.

For correspondence and packages by US Mail

Camper's Name
Program Name* (Discovery, Sailing, etc)
PO Box 429
Churchton, MD 20733

For Packages by courier (FedEx or UPS)

Camper's Name
Program Name* (Discovery, Sailing, etc)
5100 Chalk Point Road
West River, MD 20778

Email: camper@westrivercenter.org

- In the subject line, put the camp name (i.e.: Discovery 5-6, Sailing) first and the camper's name second.
- Please limit messages to one page – text only – no attachments, forwards or graphics.
- At this time we do not have the capability for campers to reply to E-mail.

MAP AND DIRECTIONS: Physical address is: 5100 Chalk Point Rd, West River, MD 20778

From Baltimore and Annapolis:

Take I-97 South to Rt. 50 East. Go approx. ¼ mile to Rt. 665 (Aris T. Allen Blvd). Follow Rt. 665 to Rt. 2 South (Solomons Island Rd.). Cross the South River Bridge, proceed to Rt. 214 (Central Ave.) and turn left at light. Go approx. 1 mile and turn right onto Rt. 468 (Muddy Creek Rd.). Follow Rt. 468 for 8 miles. Turn left onto Chalk Point Road (look for a convenience store on left). Follow Chalk Point Rd. for 1 mile; turn left into West River Center.

From Washington, DC:

Take Rt. 4 to Rt. 258. Follow signs toward Deale. Stay on Rt. 258, crossing Rt. 2. Rt. 258 ends at Rt. 256, where you turn left. Stay on Rt. 256 until it ends at Rt. 468 (Muddy Creek Rd). Turn left. Proceed 100 yards and turn right onto Chalk Point Rd. (at gas station). West River Center is 1 mile down on the left.