



**WEST RIVER UM CENTER
RETREAT AND CAMPING MINISTRIES**

Baltimore Washington Conference United Methodist Church,
P.O. Box 429 Churchton, MD 20733
800-922-6795, 410-867-0991 (phone & fax)

Parents,

We are so glad that you chose West River as a destination for your child, this summer. We recognize there are innumerable choices for you and your family, and we're proud to be your choice, and to play a part in the growth of your camper(s)!

This letter contains information intended to help you and your child get ready for your week(s) at camp. If you have other questions, please look for more information on our website, or contact our registration office at (410)867-0991 or email admin@bwccampsandretreats.com.

PACKING FOR CAMP

Let's begin with what to bring! We suggest involving your camper in packing so they know what they will find in their bag. For younger campers, you may want to roll daily outfits together. Labelling as many things as possible also helps campers to keep track of their clothes.

PLEASE PACK:

- 1 pair of shorts/shirt for each day
- 1 extra outfit
- 2 pair long pants
- 1 sweatshirt
- Water bottle
- Underwear and socks for each day (+2 extra)
- Pajamas
- Rain gear
- 1 pair sneakers for daily use
- 1 pair sneakers or water shoes to get wet/dirty
- swimsuit and pool towel
- Sleeping bag or twin sheets and blanket
- Pillow
- Bath Towels/washcloth
- Toiletries and caddy/tote
- Bible
- Notebook, journal, envelopes, pens, stamps
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent

You MAY want to add:

- Disposable camera
- Shower shoes/flip flops
- Hat or visor
- Sunglasses
- Favorite stuffed animal/blanket
- Bag for wet/dirty clothes

Sailing/Discover the Water Campers

Be sure to pack:

- extra swimsuits
- towels
- sun protection (sunscreen, hats, sunglasses)
- old tennis shoes/closed toed shoes that can get wet



Please DO NOT PACK:

VALUABLE OR IRREPLACEABLE ITEMS: for example, jewelry, money, cameras, heirlooms, new luggage.

WEAPONS OF ANY KIND: for example, knives, pocket knives, hatchets, axes.

FLAMMABLES: for example, matches, lighters, fireworks.

FOOD: for example, candy, gum, soda, any snacks that are not provided for special dietary needs and given to the nurse.

UNHEALTHY/ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES: for example, drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, vaping products

ELECTRONICS: for example, **CELL PHONES**, video games, iPod, Gameboys/DS, or any device that can connect online while at camp.



Our goal is for each camper's week to include making new friendships, enjoying time in the outdoors, eating healthy meals (and a few campfire snacks), and making new connections to God. Adventure challenges and intentional community building provide opportunities for gaining skills in faith development, communication, problem-solving, decision-making, social interaction, and emerging independence in both small and large group settings.

Please note that having devices that connect campers to communities outside of camp detracts from their community building and the friendships and growth that can happen at camp. In worst case scenarios, cell phones have been used to involve bullying of campers and have been used to try to contact parents with medical needs rather than communicating their needs to the skilled health professional on staff who is present with them. These are obstacles that make the week harder for your camper, not easier.

Should there be a reason you need to reach your child, like family emergency or a change of camper pick up plans, please communicate through the camp directors and/or camp office: 410-867-0991.

CHECK IN - OVERNIGHT PROGRAMS

There will be staggered check in times by camper last name. Please do not arrive until your scheduled time:

A-K at 3:00, L-R at 3:45, and S-Z at 4:15

Grandparents Camp – Check in is Monday at 10am

Young Adult Deaf – Check in as above

Mini Campers, Grades 2-4 - Check in opening day at 3pm

-Check out is Friday after lunch

-Check out is Friday by 2pm

-Check out is closing day at 6pm

For GPS directions use:

5100 Chalk Point Road, West River, MD 20778

Please do not arrive until your scheduled time. We will be utilizing a drive through check in process and parents will not be able to enter camper's lodging areas.

Station 1 – Check-in

- All camp forms and payments will be checked for completion.
- Any remaining camp fees will be collected.
- Add funds to your camper's store account. ****PLEASE READ BELOW FOR NEW PROCEDURES****
- Lodging assignments will be given.

- All medications, both prescription and over the counter, will be turned in to the nurse. Please make sure all medication forms are completed and signed by the prescribing doctor.
- Please bring all medications in original packaging. If all medications can fit in a gallon ziplock bag labeled with camper's first and last name that will be very helpful.
- Share with the nurse about any changes to the health form or any health questions or concerns.

- Drop off your camper and their belongings where they will be staying for camp.
- Staff and volunteers will help move luggage and get your camper settled.



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. A doctor **MUST sign a medical confirmation form** in order to give any prescribed or over the counter medication. If you do not have access to the internet, please complete a paper health form and bring it on the first day of camp. Campers with asthma, diabetes, or life-threatening allergies will be asked to share additional information in the form of an emergency plan similar to those at your child's school.

(Please note that summer camp is not a good time for your camper to ‘take a break’ from their medications. The days are long, and activities often require focus and attention throughout. A sudden change to a camper’s medication can impede their enjoyment of camp and make it harder for them to get through the week successfully.)



Campers needing an inhaler, epi-pen or other emergency medicine should bring a second one to keep in the health center. **If your camper's health form indicates possible anaphylaxis they must bring an epi-pen with them.** The primary emergency medicines will stay with an adult who is with your child so that it is within reach at all times. A skilled health professional is on-site the entire week that your child is at camp.

LETTERS AND EMAILS

LETTERS TO CAMPERS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AS SHOWN BELOW:

Camper's Name

Camp (i.e. Discovery 5/6, Sailing Camp, Music Camp, etc.)

West River Center

P.O. Box 429

Churchton, MD 20733



YOU MAY ALSO SEND YOUR CAMPER EMAILS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK!

EMAILS SHOULD BE SENT TO: westrivercamper@gmail.com

EMAIL SUBJECT LINE: Camp name (Discovery 7/8, Sailing, etc.), Camper's Name

EXAMPLE: Discovery 7/8, John Smith

EMAIL IS ONE WAY – CAMPERS DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO COMPUTERS TO RESPOND

Please limit emails to one page with no graphics, pictures, or attachments. TEXT ONLY PLEASE

\$\$\$ - CAMP STORE

You can now add your store funds directly into Campwise! Items at the store include food like soda, Gatorade, ice cream, candy and chips as well as gifts like T-shirts, water bottles, hats, sunglasses, and stuffed animals. Campers may choose 1 snack and 1 drink per day and the gift area is open to them a couple times during the week. Food generally costs \$1-\$3 and gifts range from \$3-\$30.

THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT ALLOWED WILL BE \$50. This will allow for 1 drink and 1 snack per day with enough left for a t-shirt or a few smaller gifts like jewelry or stuffed animal.

The CampStore will be open for parents to shop at during closing each week.

ANY UNSPENT MONEY \$10 OR LESS WILL BE DONATED TO OUR SUMMER MISSION PROJECT. MORE DETAILS ABOUT THAT PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO CAMPERS AND FAMILIES ON SITE THIS SUMMER.

CHECK OUT

This year there is no closing program. Check out will take place at your campers lodging accommodations. Again, parents will not be allowed into the building and staff will help bring out campers' belongings.

FULL WEEK: Friday – 6:00pm

GRANDPARENTS' CAMP: Friday – 1:00pm

MINI WEEK: Last day of event - 6:00pm

ALL Campers must be signed out with a physical signature from a designated adult after showing the camp staff member a photo ID.

SOCIAL MEDIA - Stay up to date with the latest information about camp and how the week is going through Facebook and Instagram!



FACEBOOK

West River Center

www.facebook.com/WestRiverUMCenter/



INSTAGRAM

@WestRiverCenter

www.instagram.com/westrivercenter/