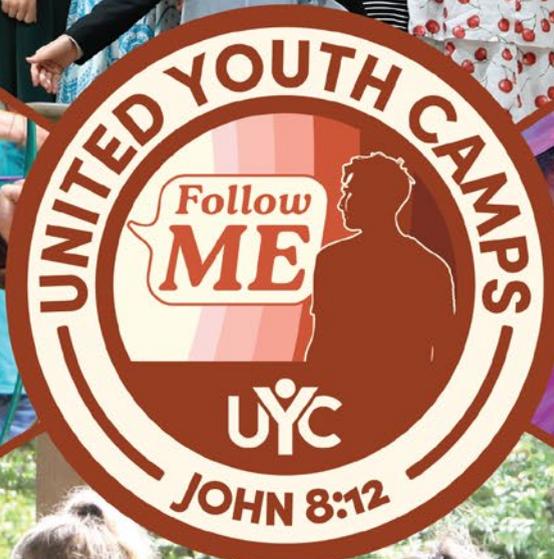




# UNITED YOUTH CAMPS

2026



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## Mission

The mission of the United Youth Camps program is to support parents and the Church in teaching youth to develop their full godly potential—which is their calling into the Body of Jesus Christ and the work of the Church—while learning that God’s spiritual laws are practical ways of living (Deuteronomy 6:6-9; 11:19-20; Psalm 34:11; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4). Within our mission are contained camper goals, staff objectives, biblical standards and a positive message to our teens that God’s ways work!

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear campers and staff,

Get ready for an unforgettable, life-changing week at United Youth Camps! UYC supports your parents and the Church in helping you develop your full godly potential. This isn't just about a fun week away—it's about discovering your calling into the Body of Jesus Christ and the work of the Church. We're here to show you that God's spiritual laws aren't just ancient rules, but practical ways of living that truly work in today's world.

## This Year's Theme: "Follow Me"

Jesus said "follow Me" over 20 times in the Gospels. This summer, we'll explore what it really means to follow Christ in your daily choices, relationships and challenges. You'll discover your personal importance to the Kingdom of God and experience the value and purpose that come from walking in God's ways.

You have great value! The family of God is inviting you to be in Their Kingdom, and camp is where you'll grow in understanding just how important you are in God's plan.

## Why Camp is Transformative

At camp, we work together to create "The Zone," a special environment where we put God's principles for living into action. It demonstrates what the Kingdom of God will be like. When everyone is committed to living by God's standards, life becomes more joyful, meaningful and harmonious. Our dedicated staff is committed to fostering an atmosphere of encouragement, ensuring that every camper feels valued and supported. It's a glimpse of the world to come—and proof that God's ways truly work.

## Activities That Build Character

Camp is filled with a variety of fun activities, but our primary focus is on God. Each day has a specific focus that aligns with the overall theme, allowing us to dive deeply into the details and apply biblical principles in practical ways. Whether competing in sports, creating art, solving team challenges, or studying God's Word together, you'll experience firsthand the blessings that flow from following Him, obeying His laws and developing His mindset of loving service to others.



The concentrated, supportive environment built on "the training and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4) is designed specifically for you. When you engage in activities with God at the center, everything becomes more meaningful, uplifting and motivating—and you'll return home with excitement, joy and zeal for following God!

## Relationships That Last

Building relationships is one of the most impactful aspects of camp. Dorm life creates a temporary family where we study, eat, sleep and play together. You'll be surrounded by friends who share your values. These relationships often become some of the most meaningful and long-lasting connections in your life, as you share a common commitment to living God's way.

## Our Commitment to You

We're not just teaching theory; we're creating experiences where you can live these principles and witness their power in your own life. In an atmosphere of genuine encouragement and support, surrounded by God's magnificent creation, you'll have the opportunity to grow spiritually, make lifelong friends and discover your potential in God's Kingdom.

Camp can change your life, but you have to embrace the opportunity! Financial assistance is available for those who need it—just let us know, and we'll work with you. Apply today and get ready for a blessed and wonderful summer at United Youth Camps 2026!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Elliott". The signature is stylized and cursive.

John Elliott

**NEW!**

# APPLYING FOR CAMP

We have an **entirely new application system for 2026**, so please take time to read this thoroughly before you go online to apply. With proper planning ahead of time and filling out your application completely and punctually, you can make the process easier and seamless for everyone. Here are a few things to think about as you plan.

**1. Plan early!** Decide which camp or camps you want to attend. Pay attention to the dates, and do not apply for two camps if they overlap, either as a camper or staff.

**2. Earn and save for camp.** Thanks to generous support from the United Church of God, tuition for UYC programs is subsidized to reduce your cost, but there is a tuition fee and often families find they need to save ahead of time in anticipation of camp. Many campers find that they appreciate the camp experience more if they work during the

year and save as much as they can for tuition. If you are planning to be a camper this year, talk to your parents about possible ways to earn some of the tuition. You might be surprised at the possibilities!

**3. Apply online.** The webpage for camp applications will be open by March 1. You will need the following information to progress through the new application system, so you should have it collected before you begin: your address, phone numbers, photo, medical insurance coverage, and medication or allergy needs. We are now able to process electronic payments, so please also have your credit card or banking (ACH) information ready when you apply.

**4. Read the acceptance email carefully!** If you are accepted to camp, you will receive an acceptance email, so please take time for you and your parents to review it. The acceptance email will include details for the specific camp

and a transportation form that needs to be filled out as soon as you know your travel plans.

**5. Get prepared physically.** The camp schedule is full of activities often from sunrise until after sunset and therefore may be more physically demanding than you may be used to. The activities are very enjoyable and rewarding when all campers fully participate in everything. Stay active in the weeks before camp, so you are physically fit for the camp activities.

**6. Get prepared mentally and spiritually.** During the weeks before camp, spend extra time praying about camp and what you will learn from being a part of it. Be sure you are ready to abide by the rules established. Now is a good time to review the "Code of Honor" and "Standards of Appearance and Conduct" posted at: [ucg.org/members/ucg/information](http://ucg.org/members/ucg/information).

Plan now to have your best, most rewarding camp ever!

**Apply online at: [ucg.org/members/ucg/apply](http://ucg.org/members/ucg/apply)**

## New Payment Process

Our new application system allows payment to be made online with a credit card, debit card or online bank transfer. Paying online is our preferred method of payment.

If you need to mail a check, you must send it to the Home Office using the following address:

United Youth Camps  
c/o United Church of God  
PO Box 541027  
Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027

The memo line in the check needs to be completed as follows: Tuition- followed by the camper or campers' names of whom the check is for. For example (Tuition- John Smith)

**Apply for camp!**



# UYC 2026: "FOLLOW ME"

The phrase "follow Me" is recorded over 20 times in the Gospels. It was an invitation to be led by God by becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ. It was a personal, direct statement by Christ as He walked on the earth. This invitation looks a little different today, but it is the same offer God has given to us and to our children (Acts 2:39). We are excited to share that message with them at camp this summer.

During His time on earth, Christ offered His disciples the opportunity to hear His voice, come to Him, learn from Him, love Him and follow Him. These offers represented a personal and intimate relationship with God. Their lives were to become wholly dedicated to God, by becoming a follower, a disciple, of Christ. The responsibility was not just to learn from Him, but to fundamentally change who they were, their identity and purpose in life, to become like Him.

## The Greatest Offer

Nothing the world has compares to God's offer for us. Becoming a follower of Jesus Christ speaks to our whole purpose and existence. Jesus was sent to gather those God has called, transform them into His disciples and lead them into a relationship with the Father.

Both Matthew and John write about this relationship. "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" (Matthew 17:5). "He who does

not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me" (John 14:24).

As we follow Christ Jesus, we are following the Father, as Jesus came to reveal and lead us to Him (Matthew 11:25; John 17:3, 25-26). Jesus Christ taught the Father's words; they are the words of Life. Peter says in John 6:68-69, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also, we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

## The Rewards of Following

Regardless of what others say or do, Christ said, "You follow Me" (John 21:22). This invitation is challenging at times, but it also offers the best way to live. God doesn't just want to give us His Kingdom in the future, He wants us to have hope, purpose and an abundant life now. Those who follow Christ will no longer walk in darkness, hopeless and in despair but will have the light of life (John 8:12).

God offers to deliver us from the power of darkness and into the way of light (Colossians 1:12-13). As we come to a baptismal commitment, God commits to dwelling in us through His spirit. His offer is to lead, help, comfort and teach us in a direct and personal way.

This is the beautiful and great offer from God, to have a close and personal relationship with Him and with His Son. There is nothing greater, and we want to share that joy with the campers this year. We want to share the words of eternal life with Them.

## An Exciting Camp Update

I also wanted to share with you that we are rolling out a new application system this year. We have some more information about it in the magazine in the article "Applying for Camp" (page 4).

The new camp application system may require an adjustment period, but we expect it to benefit both the families and the camp team in the future. You will only have to make one family account for all the campers in your family (both teens and preteen). In that family account you will create individual camper profiles to apply for camp. The profiles will stay active year after year.

You will also be able to pay for all the camps together, directly in the application system using online payment options.

Please let us know if you have questions or if you need help as you navigate the new system.



Aaron Creech  
National Camp Coordinator

# NURTURING OUR PRETEENS IN A LOVING AND GODLY ENVIRONMENT

As the school year ends and summer approaches, many families start thinking about warmer days, vacations and, for some children, the adventure of preteen camp. If you're wondering whether to send your preteen, we invite you to consider what a blessing this experience can be for your child and family. This summer's theme, "Follow Me," reflects the heart of Jesus Christ's call to discipleship (Matthew 4:19): to know Him, trust Him and begin living like Him, even at a young age.

## **Ages 5–12 Are a Critical Window**

Research affirms what many parents and churches have long observed: the years before adolescence are often when foundational beliefs, values and moral frameworks are formed. According to a study from Barna Group, a majority of people's core spiritual convictions—beliefs about God, Scripture and even salvation—are typically shaped before age 13.

What children believe in their preteen years often becomes the foundation for their faith as adults. This time is a unique and precious one for spiritual formation—a time when children tend to absorb, internalize and carry forward the truths we as parents and grandparents teach them.

By offering a loving, nurturing and godly environment during these formative years, preteen camp allows our kids to experience living, playing and working together—God's way.

## **"Follow Me"—An Invitation**

This summer, our goal is to help campers deepen their relationship with God the Father and with Jesus Christ. We want them to understand that they are not just invited to listen to adults talk about Jesus—they are being called now to follow and to imitate Jesus Christ.

At camp we teach:

- Who Jesus is and what it means to follow Him.
- Following Him isn't reserved for "when I'm older," but begins now.
- Discipleship involves more than church attendance—it means knowing, trusting and becoming like Christ.

Counselors and activity staff strive to be positive role models creating a loving, caring and nurturing family environment. Preteen camps work to support the parents. Research on faith formation emphasizes that the most lasting growth happens in preteens when the home and the church work together.

## **Opportunities for Friendship and Growth**

Many campers say the number one reason they come is "to meet other kids who believe like me . . . and to learn about God." Meaningful friendships—formed over shared experiences, Bible lessons, campfires and team challenges—often become sources of encouragement and lasting friendships. Camps also provide numerous opportunities to experience new activities. Children can strengthen their faith, develop friendships and gain confidence at camp.

## **Giving Back**

Many former campers return as teens to serve on staff, eager to give younger children the same positive experiences they once enjoyed. We've also had many parents, former preteen campers themselves, bring their own children to enjoy the camp experience they remember so fondly. This is the blessing of every preteen camp—to see the return of the next generation.

## **A Smooth and Joyful Transition**

The preteen years are a wonderful bridge to adolescence. Camp helps build confidence, social skills and familiarity with the rhythms of camp life—preparing children for the exciting opportunities that await them in UYC teen camps.

## **Looking Ahead**

As we look forward to another wonderful summer, we encourage parents, grandparents and members to support and pray for our preteens. We are grateful for your partnership in guiding the next generation. Together let's help our children hear Christ's invitation, "Follow Me," and begin building a relationship with Him that will last a lifetime. We look forward to seeing you at one of United's preteen camps!

*David Schreiber*  
Camp Ironwood Director

# FRIENDSHIPS, FAITH AND FUN: WHY CAMP MATTERS

What is your favorite part of camp? Is it getting to know your dorm and making lifelong friends? The feeling of inclusion and connectedness that comes from being together with people of like mind, who are there for the same purposes? Is it the ultimate Frisbee?

Camp provides lifelong memories, and it is situated so beautifully in between the spring and fall Holy Days, that it provides an important spiritual touch point and recharge for us as we go through the calendar year. Camp for many is a highlight of their year!

One of my favorite components of camp as a camp director is seeing everything come together to produce The Zone—100+ campers, and 70+ staff from different parts of the country, different backgrounds and experiences, coming together to build something that becomes much larger than the sum of its parts. We have an opportunity to experience a type of the millennial period of God. It's not the Millennium, not even close. But it is an environment in which God's way is the standard. People treat one another with love and with respect, and we focus on learning more about our Creator, as we focus on serving others throughout the week. In that way, it is a type.

The difference between what is built together at camp, and the world that we left at the gates of camp is palpable.

One of the goals of our United Youth Camps program is to illustrate that God's way works. It's the BEST way! It isn't just something that will work then, when the Kingdom of God is here on this Earth, but it works now, even in an imperfect world. God's way of life is a life of joy, love, hope and FUN!

The world outside those gates has its definitions of fun, which frequently come with pain, challenges and regrets. God's great love for His children offers us the opportunity to experience something completely different and to learn how to live His way now.

Come to camp this summer and experience the way of God in action! Make friends that will last a lifetime and bond with people of like mind. Come, build those connections as you work to grow closer to God and to one another. And, yes, come for the ultimate Frisbee (and the other activities that camp has to offer).

All of the camp directors are busy making preparations and plans, preparing for this year's camp season.

Come join us—the only thing missing is you!

*Ben Light*

*Northwest Camp Director*



# THE SEVEN ELEMENTS OF THE ZONE



"The Zone" is the environment we create together at camp. In simplest terms, it is God's principles for living put into action. It demonstrates what the Kingdom of God will be like and lets campers and staff know we are building an environment different from the world around us. It is a reminder that camp is governed by God's laws and how He instructs us to live. "The Zone" provides a week of truly living God's way of life, putting it into practice and seeing that God's way works. Camp is a real-life example of just how amazing and perfect God's ways are, and this is such a powerful and valuable lesson for all to experience.

## FUN

- God's way is fun and joyful
- God wants us to rejoice
- Fun is a key to building positive relationships
- God's way is fun without regrets

"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

**John 10:10**

## SUCCESS

- It builds positive self-esteem
- Success leads to more success
- It gives the desire to try more things
- It tears down fears and creates more fun
- God's way leads to success and victory

"Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

**Philippians 1:6**

## SUPPORT

- Teaches us how to respond to another's needs
- Creates a safe environment to grow, learn and even fail
- It teaches us to be good listeners, have empathy and compassion
- It focuses on encouragement and opposes put-downs
- It avoids gossip and negativity

"...comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all."

**1 Thessalonians 5:14**

## CHALLENGE

- It helps us discover our abilities and potential
- God calls us to do hard things
- It allows us to learn and grow
- It helps us learn how to handle failure and keep going
- Challenge makes us stronger
- It makes us reach out for help from God and others

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

**Joshua 1:9**

## POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

- It's the foundation of a healthy and balanced life
- It is the culmination of God's way
- Focused on loving God and one another
- It bridges the gaps between generations
- Helps create an inclusive family
- Builds trust, love and compassion

"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

**Ephesians 4:32**

## STRUCTURE

- It protects us and keeps us safe
- It allows for the best use of our time and resources
- It creates an environment that allows for positive outcomes
- Instills a sense of security and order

"For God is not the author of confusion but of peace..."

**1 Corinthians 14:33**

## INCLUSIVENESS

- Reinforces the idea that we are a family
- No partiality; everyone is included and supported
- It makes everyone feel valued, important and included
- It shows love and concern for all

"Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

**Philippians 2:4**

# STANDARDS OF APPEARANCE AND CONDUCT

All United Youth Camps maintain a high standard of conduct and attire, based on God's laws, which is further stated in the Code of Honor. These standards and rules include, but are not limited to:

- Your clothing and appearance must be modest and in good taste.
- Wearing revealing or other inappropriate apparel will not be allowed.
- Clothing or camp gear displaying inappropriate, offensive, or political wording, messages, or images will not be allowed.
- Dresses and skirts should be approximately knee length or longer.
- All shorts must have at least a 3-inch inseam.
- Swimwear must be modest one-piece or tankini for ladies; standard trunk or board short for guys. Tankinis are permitted for ladies provided they meet the following guidelines: reasonable boy cut shorts or standard bottoms, no French-cut or bikini bottoms; full coverage tops and no exposed waist area or cleavage.
- Hair should be a natural color and hair length should be appropriate (short for boys, longer for girls).
- Jewelry for body piercings (other than earrings for girls) will not be allowed. All jewelry must be removed during daily activities. Details will be in your camp acceptance letter.
- Tattoos (permanent or temporary) must be covered at all times.
- The use or possession of alcohol, tobacco products, vaping products, marijuana (including any of its products, CBDs) even for a claimed medical treatment or illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia, may result in immediate dismissal from camp.
- Sexual misconduct, theft, disorderly conduct, profanity, destruction of property or refusal to cooperate fully with the camp staff may result in immediate dismissal from camp.

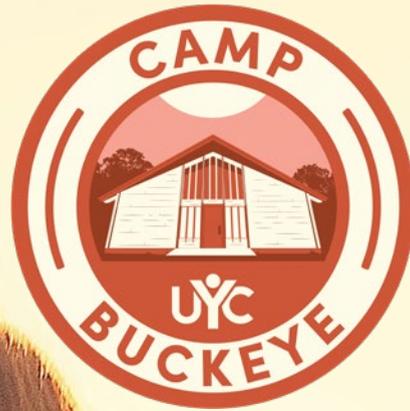
## Do Not Bring

- Tight, revealing or inappropriate clothing, short shorts, clothing that shows underwear, leggings/tights/yoga pants (unless worn under appropriate clothing), crop-tops, halter-tops, backless tops, strapless tops or plunging necklines. There should be no bare midriffs.
- Expensive jewelry, including valuable watches, or large amounts of cash.
- Rollerblades, skateboards or scooters.
- Alcohol, tobacco products, vaping products, marijuana (including any of its products, CBDs) even for a claimed medical treatment, or illegal drugs. All prescription drugs, medications and supplements must be turned in at registration to the camp medical team.
- Electronics. Cell phones, smartwatches and electronics must be turned in at registration and will be returned at check-out. Cell phones may be used to call home during camp, but only with the camp director's approval.
- Cards or games
- Snacks. No "care packages" of snacks or sweets mailed to campers or staff.
- Matches, lighters, fireworks, firearms, knives, pocketknives, multitools or similar items unless written permission is given by the camp director.



**Location:**  
Camp Lazarus  
4422 Columbus Pike  
Delaware, OH 43015

**Contact:**  
aaron\_creech@ucg.org  
(513) 374-9392



**Deadline:**  
June 1, 2026

**Cost:**  
Campers: ages 5-12 (\$160,  
each additional camper \$125)  
Staff: no fee (age 13 minimum)  
See page 4 for payment details.

**July 26-29, 2026**



Nestled in the heart of Ohio—just 20 minutes north of Columbus—Camp Buckeye offers a beautiful, welcoming setting at a local Boy Scout camp designed for fun, growth and adventure.

Camp Buckeye will once again begin on the last Sunday in July, continuing our mission to provide children ages 5-12 with an uplifting environment centered on living God's way. We're dedicated to making a positive impact in each camper's life by encouraging meaningful friendships with peers who share the same desire to follow God's way of life. Dorms will be organized by age to help campers feel comfortable and connected.



This year's activity lineup includes archery, BB guns, the Amazing Race, arts and crafts, fishing, field games, and swimming—with a few exciting new options in the works! Our camp theme, shared with the teen camps, is "Follow Me." Throughout the week, we'll explore what it means to let God lead and guide our lives, starting from a young age.



Preteen camp plays a vital role in supporting parents as they build a solid spiritual foundation for their children. Here, campers experience God's way in action—forming friendships, building character, and having fun while learning to live God's way of life.



**Location:**

Highlands Presbyterian Camp  
1306 Business Hwy 7  
Allenspark, CO 80510

**Contact:**

david\_jones@ucg.org  
(605) 592-6165



**Deadline:**

May 1, 2026

**Cost:**

Campers: ages 6-12 (\$150, each additional \$100), ages 2-5 (\$75)  
Teen staff: ages 13-19 (\$75)  
Adult staff: ages 20+ (\$50)  
See page 4 for payment details.

**June 21-24, 2026**

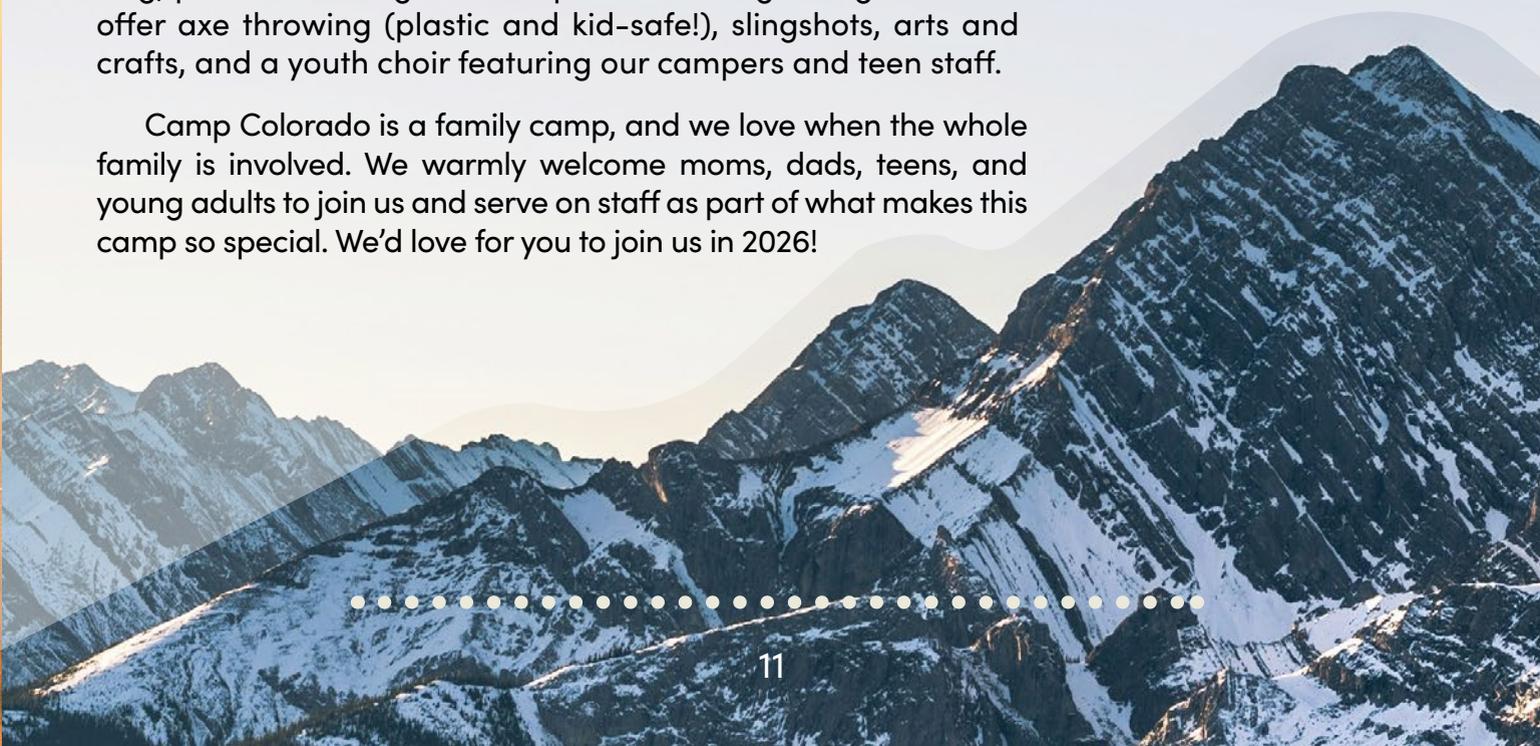
Join us at Camp Colorado in 2026 for an unforgettable week of growth, fun and faith! We invite campers ages 5-13 to experience friendship and hands-on learning in the beautiful Rocky Mountains in Allenspark, Colorado, just 16 miles south of Estes Park. This year's theme teaches campers how to follow God and become whom He is calling them to be.

Camp Colorado is intentionally designed to build and strengthen lasting relationships, while always pointing campers toward a growing relationship with God. We strive to show campers daily that God's way works—and that it is truly a blessing.

Each day begins with a Christian living class, setting the foundation for everything that follows. Our camp theme is woven throughout all activities, and campers see God's way lived out as our staff supports, encourages and walks alongside them.

Outdoor activities include nature hikes, mountain exploration, shimmying through rock crevices, archery, canoeing, kayaking, paddleboarding and campfires with sing-alongs. We also offer axe throwing (plastic and kid-safe!), slingshots, arts and crafts, and a youth choir featuring our campers and teen staff.

Camp Colorado is a family camp, and we love when the whole family is involved. We warmly welcome moms, dads, teens, and young adults to join us and serve on staff as part of what makes this camp so special. We'd love for you to join us in 2026!



**Location:**

Florida Elks Youth Camp  
24175 SE Hwy 450  
Umatilla, FL 32784



**Deadline:**

May 1, 2026

**Cost:**

Campers: ages 5-12 (\$195),  
mini camper and parent: \$150  
Staff: ages 13-18 (\$50), 19+ (no fee)  
Family cabin (\$100)  
Hotel (\$125 per night)  
Staff tie dye shirt (\$10)  
See page 4 for payment details.

**Contact:**

Bertricia@gmail.com  
(321) 297-7872

**May 25-29, 2026**

Camp Florida is located in Central Florida at the breathtaking Florida Elks Youth Camp in Umatilla—just a short drive from Orlando and all its attractions. We’re excited to offer campers 5 days and 4 nights packed with adventure, friendship and spiritual growth. Our goal is to create an environment where each child can strengthen their relationship with God and with one another. This year’s theme, “Follow Me,” will guide campers as they learn what it means to follow God’s way of life.



Camp Florida features a wide variety of activities, including daily Christian living classes, archery, arts and crafts, campus improvement projects, evening campfires, canoeing, field games, swimming, and—for campers 9 and older—an exhilarating high ropes course.

Dorms are organized by age, and campers must be between 5 and 12 years old by Aug. 1, 2026. To attend, children should be able to stay overnight away from parents/guardians for the full duration of camp and shower independently. We will also offer a mini-camper program for younger children (under 5) so the whole family can enjoy the camp experience together.



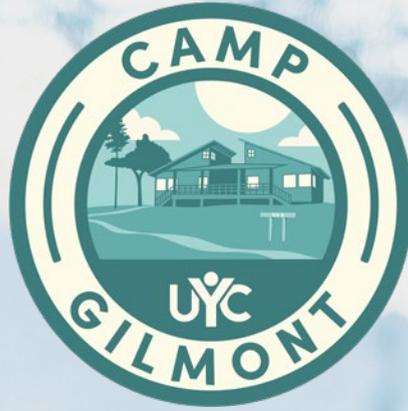
We are always looking for enthusiastic and patient teens and adults to join our staff as counselors, activity coordinators, lifeguards, nurses, and more. Volunteers should share a strong commitment to creating the safe, uplifting atmosphere we call “The Zone,” which is essential to every camper’s experience. Teen staff are welcome as space allows, and we recommend that those ages 13-15 have a parent or guardian on staff.

Come be part of Camp Florida—and help create memories that will last a lifetime!



**Location:**

Camp Gilmont  
6075 State Hwy 155 N  
Gilmer, TX 75644



**Deadline:**

April 15, 2026

**Contact:**

jim\_moody@ucg.org  
(903) 681-1437

**Cost:**

Campers: ages 5-12 (\$210, \$185 each for families with three+ kids)  
Staff: ages 13-18 (\$60), ages 19+ (no fee)  
See page 4 for payment details.

**May 31-June 3, 2026**

Welcome, preteen campers! All campers ages 5-12 are invited to the beautiful East Texas Piney Woods as Camp Gilmont once again hosts the South Central Region UCG preteen camp. Prepare to experience a tremendous four-day camp experience where you will learn about our awesome God, make new friends and have fun in a caring and positive environment. Camp Gilmont's 400+ acres of lush forest, hills and lakes are located several miles northeast of Gilmer, Texas.

Each day at Camp Gilmont will include a variety of outdoor and indoor activities beginning with Christian living classes to reinforce the fact that God's way of life works. Other activities include swimming in the pool, archery, and various sports including basketball, gaga ball and more. Camp will also include crafts, team building, and open play time under the Pavilion with a variety of game options!

We're also seeking dedicated and patient teens and adults to help make camp amazing! Counselors, nurses, activity coordinators, and support staff are all needed.

Because we're an early-season camp, your timely application helps us plan well and make needed purchases. Campers must have completed Kindergarten and be between 5 and 12 years old by Aug. 1, 2026. Teen staff are welcome as space allows.

Camp Gilmont offers an exciting camp experience with warm Texas hospitality. We hope you'll join us!



**Location:**

Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch  
7291 County Road 6 SW  
Stewartville, MN 55976

**Contact:**

david\_schreiber@ucg.org  
(507) 377-8151



**Deadline:**

May 5, 2026

**Cost:**

Campers: ages 6-12 (\$200),  
ages 2-5 (\$100), Staff: ages 14-  
19 (\$200), ages 20+ (\$50), moms  
with child under 2 (\$200)  
See page 4 for payment details.

**July 12-15, 2026**

Camp Ironwood in Southeast Minnesota warmly welcomes campers to experience four unforgettable days and three fun-packed nights in a positive, loving and God-centered environment. The outdoor setting is the perfect place for adventure, growth and new friendships.

Each day is designed to nurture children spiritually and physically. Campers enjoy Christian living and music classes, plus outdoor adventures like zip-lining, swimming, horseback riding, team challenges, creek walks, field games, slingshots, and slip-and-slide fun. Indoor activities include arts and crafts, broom ball, and a climbing wall. Evenings bring extra excitement with a carnival, Novelty Olympics, a treasure hunt, and Dancing with Jelly—creating lasting memories.

Camp Ironwood is also a “family camp,” inviting dads, moms and teens to partner with staff in serving God’s children. Parents serving on staff may bring their little ones (ages 2–5), who stay overnight in the Lodge with them and participate in daytime mini-dorm activities. Moms attending with infants or children under two years of age may still participate; however, they will be assigned lighter staff responsibilities and must pay the full camper fee, as their primary responsibility will be their child.

Teens ages 14–19 are essential as assistant counselors or to support activity teams while acting as big brothers and big sisters to campers. All teens enjoy special evening activities and fellowship, once campers are back in their dorms.

If you’re looking for an exciting summer experience filled with adventure, friendship and a shared desire to live God’s way—Camp Ironwood is the place for you!



**Location:**

Ochoco Christian  
Conference Center  
33051 NE Ochoco Hwy  
Prineville, OR 97754

**Contact:**

jeff\_richards@ucg.org  
(541) 322-0263



**Deadline:**

May 1, 2026

**Cost:**

Campers: ages 6-12 (\$235)  
Staff: no fee  
See page 4 for payment details.

**July 12-15, 2026**



Get ready for an unforgettable summer at Camp Ochoco! Campers and staff will gather in the beautiful Ochoco National Forest for three days and nights of adventure, friendship and living God’s way. Our theme for 2025 is “Follow Me,” focusing on the rich, fulfilling life that comes from putting God first in a self-centered world. Every activity and lesson is designed to help campers learn what it truly means to follow Jesus Christ.

Camp Ochoco is held at the Ochoco Christian Conference Center, just 25 miles east of Prineville along Oregon Highway 26. Surrounded by towering pines and peaceful scenery, it’s the perfect place to explore God’s creation while enjoying a full lineup of exciting activities.



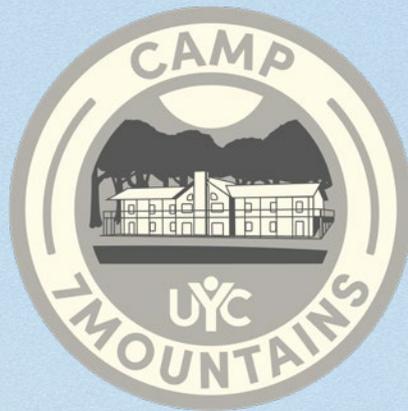
Campers can look forward to favorites like archery, swimming, and the gaga zone, plus plenty of high-energy sports. In arts and crafts, campers will create something handmade to take home, and everyone will participate in a special service project to support those unable to attend the Feast of Tabernacles. In Bible Explorers, you’ll dive into the lives of biblical heroes, while Wilderness Explorers will help you appreciate all that God has made. And of course—don’t miss dance class!

Come join the fun, grow spiritually and experience the joy of following God at Camp Ochoco!



**Location:**

Seven Mountains Scout Camp  
227 Sand Mountain Rd  
Spring Mills, PA 16875



**Deadline:**

May 3, 2026

**Contact:**

andy\_duran@ucg.org  
(701) 202-8549

**Cost:**

Campers: ages 4-12 (\$70),  
ages 0-3 (\$0), staff: (\$0),  
non-staff family: (\$70)  
See page 4 for payment details.

**July 26-29, 2026**

Join us for a family adventure at Camp Seven Mountains and discover the joy of forming like-minded friendships! Preteen campers of all ages can participate in exciting activities, including human foosball, capture the flag, swimming, gaga ball, arts and crafts and more.

Our campers range from ages 6 to 12 years old and will sleep in dormitories equipped with showers and bathrooms. Older campers will have the opportunity to enjoy outdoor platform tent camping. For larger families who have preteens and younger kids, ages 4-5 years old, a younger dorm may be made available but cannot be guaranteed. For families with children aged 0-3, we are planning our traditional "Grandma Rosie" camp.

Parents have the option to bring their own tents for on-site stay, or they may choose alternative accommodation. However, please note that children must be aged 6 or older to be left at camp without a guardian on site.

The cost to attend camp is \$70 per camper or non-staff guardian (ages 4 and up). Everyone, ages 4 and up, attending camp must apply. For adults not volunteering as staff, please indicate on both the camper application and the staff application that you are desiring to attend as a non-staff observer.



Early registration is strongly recommended to ensure we can accommodate as many campers and staff as possible. Our camp tends to fill up quickly, and late applications may not be accepted, so please plan accordingly.

We look forward to seeing you at Camp Seven Mountains!



**Location:**

Camp Cotubic  
2158 County Road 25 N  
Bellefontaine, OH 43311

**Deadline:**

May 1, 2026



**Contact:**

joshua\_creech@ucg.org  
(513) 720-1381

**Cost:**

Campers: ages 13-18 (\$330)  
Staff: no fee  
See page 4 for payment details.

**June 21-28, 2026**

Spread across 150 acres of rolling fields, wooded trails, and a sparkling 14-acre lake, Camp Cotubic provides the perfect backdrop for building meaningful connections. Located just outside Bellefontaine, Ohio—about an hour from Columbus or Dayton—this peaceful setting allows campers a quiet place to grow, learn and have fun.



Campers are grouped into dorms by age, encouraging natural friendship-building with peers who share similar goals and values. Each dorm is guided by caring counselors dedicated to creating a positive environment, fostering teamwork, and helping each camper strengthen their relationship with God. Sleeping arrangements include bunk beds with mattresses. Campers should bring their own bedding (sheets and blankets or a sleeping bag), pillows, and towels.

Throughout the week, campers will take part in a full schedule that includes sports, Christian living classes, team-building challenges, lake activities, campfires, daily dorm interactions, dances and other special events designed to reinforce unity and spiritual growth. The week culminates in a memorable Sabbath rest, followed by a semi-formal banquet and final dance—a highlight that brings the entire camp family together in celebration.

Staff, please arrive at Camp Cotubic on Saturday June 20 at 6:45 p.m. Campers, please arrive between 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, June 21, and depart no later than 11 a.m. on Sunday, June 28. Those flying into John Glenn Columbus International Airport (CMH) may request transportation to and from Camp Cotubic for a fee of \$25. Flight arrivals must be between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., and departures scheduled between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Staff members are responsible for arranging their own travel.



**Location:**

Camp Magruder  
17450 Old Pacific Hwy  
Rockaway Beach, OR 97136

**Contact:**

ben\_light@ucg.org  
(503) 949-2504



**Deadline:**

May 1, 2026

**Cost:**

Campers: ages 13-18 (\$450)  
Staff: no fee (high school graduates, ages 18+)  
See page 4 for payment details.

**July 19-26, 2026**

Northwest Camp has moved around Oregon over the years, but it has spent the last 16 years at Camp Magruder on the stunning Oregon Coast. It's difficult to picture a more picturesque location for a summer camp than the stretch of Pacific Coast encompassed by Magruder. Campers will enjoy a spectacular, private, mile-long lake along the eastern border of the facility, and over a half-mile of pristine Pacific Ocean beach to the west. The dorms and facilities are among the best in the region, and the memories that you will make with your dorm mates will be ones you cherish forever.

Our location shapes many of the activities offered, with plenty centered on water. Campers can enjoy beach volleyball, speedway, skimboarding, and boogie-boarding, as well as kayaking on Smith Lake and water-skiing on Lake Lytle. Not all our activities are in the water; we also have archery classes, softball, dance classes, arts and crafts and much, much more. The two camp-wide dances during the week are always a highlight of the camp experience.

Christian living classes make up the core of each day's spiritual instruction. Activities, lessons and evening campfire stories all support each day's theme, helping campers understand the spiritual principles they have learned and how to apply them when they return home. This year's focus explores what it means to follow God and become true disciples of Jesus Christ, building the strength of faith needed to face life's challenges.

Each summer, campers forge friendships that last for years to come—connections that grow even more valuable as the world becomes increasingly challenging. Our goal is to establish and maintain a godly atmosphere which will benefit campers for a lifetime.

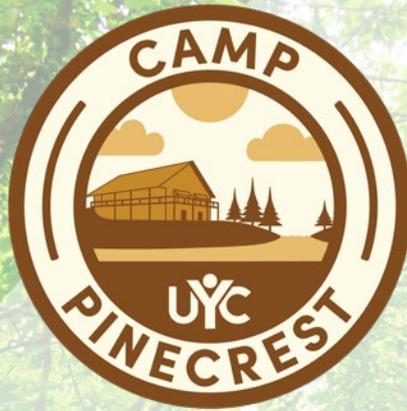


**Location:**

Pinecrest Camp & Conference Center  
1252 State Hwy C  
Fredericktown, MO 63645

**Contact:**

mike\_phelps@ucg.org  
(513) 256-7628



**Deadline:**

May 1, 2026

**Cost:**

Campers: ages 13-18 (\$375)  
Staff: no fee (high school graduates, ages 18+)  
See page 4 for payment details.

**June 28-July 5, 2026**

In 2026, we're excited to return to Camp Pinecrest in southeast Missouri for another unforgettable week. Surrounded by the beauty of Pinecrest, our camp family leans into the joy, connection, and Christ-centered community God designed for us. Each morning begins with a Christian Living talk before campers branch out into activities across camp. Interactive Bible Classes and Q&A sessions offer meaningful chances to dig into God's Word and ask real questions.

Dorms are arranged "family style," mixing ages to encourage leadership, support, and genuine connection so every camper feels included and valued.

Activities are designed to stretch campers physically and mentally. Whether it's outdoor challenges that build teamwork and confidence or indoor options that spark creativity, there's truly something for everyone. Activities include archery, arts and crafts, Bible class, dance, field sports, paddleboarding, riflery, the all-day river float trip, teambuilding challenges, and volleyball.

Because relationships are central to the UYC experience, we also make time for campers to relax and connect. Open-gym time is perfect for pickup games, gaga ball, volleyball, basketball, or simply hanging out with friends.

Camp Pinecrest is located about 100 miles south of St. Louis, just outside Fredericktown, Missouri. The St. Louis airport is roughly a two-hour drive from camp, and we provide free transportation for campers flying in.

We hope you'll come join us at Camp Pinecrest and build lasting friendships with other teens living God's way!



**Location:**

Camp Wamatochick  
5101 South Senator Hwy  
Prescott, AZ 86303

**Contact:**

brent\_fogelson@ucg.org  
(602) 513-0394



**Deadline:**

May 1, 2026

**Cost:**

Campers: ages 13-18 (\$375)  
Staff: no fee  
See page 4 for payment details.

**July 5-12, 2026**

Get ready for the adventure of a lifetime at Southwest Camp, in the beautiful Prescott National Forest of Arizona! At 6,500 feet, you'll be surrounded by towering pines, sun-drenched days, and refreshingly cool nights—the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable week.

At United Youth Camps, our mission is to guide young hearts toward their Creator through every moment of camp. Each morning begins with Christian living, setting the tone for everything that follows. As we dive into activities, we focus on living out God's principles, helping campers grow in their faith while having fun and building lifelong memories.

Southwest Camp is all about deepening connections with God and with each other. Every activity is designed to highlight the importance of these relationships in our lives. Evenings bring everyone together for pickup games of volleyball, speedaway, gaga ball, lawn games, and dancing. We come together as a camp family around the campfire each evening, continuing to grow in relationships, share biblical teachings, and enjoy plenty of laughs. To close out the camp experience, we celebrate with a formal banquet and dance, a special evening where campers and staff unite for one last night of conversation, joy, and unforgettable memories.



Visit [ucg.org](http://ucg.org) for travel information and additional details.

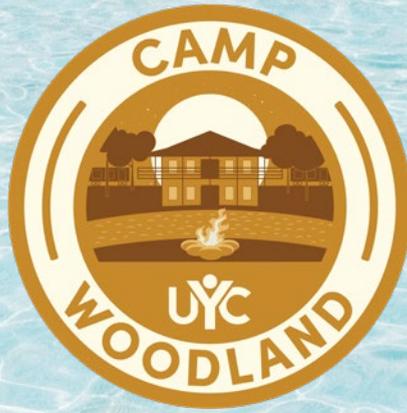


**Location:**

Woodland Christian Camp & Retreat Center  
90 Woodland Camp Road  
Temple, GA 30179

**Contact:**

marcus\_lucas@ucg.org  
(904) 654-2851



**Deadline:**

June 1, 2026

**Cost:**

Campers: ages 13-18 (\$370)  
Staff: no fee (high school graduates, ages 18+)  
See page 4 for payment details.

**July 19-26, 2026**

Imagine waking up surrounded by 120 acres of Georgia woodland, with a peaceful lake as the heart of it all—that’s life at Camp Woodland. This year, we’re thrilled to welcome you back for the third time to the west (Heritage) side of the grounds for an unforgettable summer.

Camp Woodland will focus on helping campers build a closer relationship with God, Jesus Christ and other teens. Drawing from God’s word, campers will develop new life and leadership skills through the camp experience. This year’s theme, “Follow Me,” will explore what it really means to walk with Jesus in everyday life—helping campers discover what it means to be a disciple.

Dorms are grouped by age and will have multiple counselors to oversee, guide, direct and mentor the campers. This dorm structure provides campers with the opportunity to create lifelong friendships and allows for a more tailored learning experience based on maturity level. All campers will sleep in bunk beds—just remember to pack your own sheets, blanket, pillow, and towel!

Adventure awaits at every turn: we plan to again offer archery, basketball, canoeing, dance class, high and low ropes courses with a zip line over the lake, kayaking, paddle boats, speed-away, softball, swimming, adventure course, ultimate frisbee and volleyball.

For travel details and other information, visit [uyc.ucg.org](http://uyc.ucg.org). We look forward to seeing you at Camp Woodland!



**Location:**

Lake Geneva Youth Camp  
W2655 W South Street  
Lake Geneva, WI 53147



**Deadline:**

Nov. 15, 2026

**Contact:**

aaron\_creech@ucg.org  
(513) 374-9392

**Cost:**

Campers: ages 12-18 (\$375,  
Staff: no fee (age 18 minimum)  
See page 4 for payment details.

**Dec. 28, 2026 to Jan. 3, 2027**

Winter Camp is returning to the beautiful Lake Geneva area, offering a perfect winter setting packed with fun and adventure. The facility features two indoor climbing walls and a full-size gym for volleyball and basketball. If snow conditions allow, campers can also enjoy snowboarding, skiing, and tubing. Additional activities include broomball, field sports, dance class, Bible class, two dances, an escape room, an Amazing Race, arts and crafts, and team-building challenges. There’s also plenty of free time for socializing and connecting with friends.

The heart of Winter Camp is fellowship, fun, and friendship—strengthened by Bible classes and Christian-living instruction designed for teens. Campers build strong bonds throughout the week, especially during our evening indoor “campfire” sessions, where the whole group gathers to grow, reflect, and have fun together. Winter Camp offers a unique opportunity to create lasting memories with both campers and staff.



Our lodging is comfortable, and the food is excellent, complete with a fresh salad bar at lunch and dinner. Campers can look forward to a s’mores night, hot chocolate throughout the week, and nightly snacks to keep spirits high.

Campers, please arrive on Dec. 28, between 1:30–3:30 p.m. Staff should arrive the previous day (Dec. 27). Transportation will be provided from the Milwaukee and Chicago O’Hare airports (details provided upon acceptance). We look forward to seeing you at Winter Camp!



# ACCIDENTS HAPPEN

Even when you think you've done all you can to avoid them, accidents can still happen. The question is, when they do, are you prepared? The Church provides an accident-medical policy to help cover some of the cost for injuries that can occur at camp. The Church desires to provide this coverage each camp year, but that is subject to change based on availability and affordability.

As camp approaches, a copy of the policy will be provided so parents and volunteer staff can see what is and isn't covered. Please check it out online in early June for the policy and claim form. In the event of an accident, the camp director will send a partially completed insurance claim form home from camp with an injured camper. However, timely notification to the insurance carrier and filing of the claim is the responsibility of the camper's family and not United Youth Camps or the medical facility where they may be treated. This information can also be found at [ucg.org/members/uyc/information/camp-insurance-information](http://ucg.org/members/uyc/information/camp-insurance-information).

## Here is a brief description of what is typically included:

- The policy will pay primary (first) before other personal or group insurance. There is no deductible.
- Must file notice of the incident within 30 days and initial medical expenses must be incurred within 90 days.
- Benefits paid for expenses incurred for up to three years after the incident.
- Includes a \$10,000 accidental death benefit (subject to a policy aggregate maximum).
- The accident expense limit is \$25,000.

## DONATIONS

If you'd like to make a donation to help support UYC, you can use the form below or donate online at: [ucg.org/give/10](http://ucg.org/give/10)

### UYC Fund (GENERAL)

- Please indicate the amount you are sending in the spaces below.
- Include your personal identification number (PIN) from your latest *United News* or *Beyond Today* label.
- Make your check payable to United Youth Camps Fund.
- Clip out and enclose the completed form, along with your check, and mail to the address below.
- Attach postage to enclosed envelope and mail to: United Youth Camps Fund, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027

Your PIN: U \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Compass Check magazine is mailed each quarter to all teens who live in the U.S., ages 12-18. If you live in the U.S. and are not receiving *Compass Check*, please request your free subscription by emailing [compasscheck@ucg.org](mailto:compasscheck@ucg.org) and include your name, address, birthdate and the name of the UCG congregation you attend. If you do not live in the U.S. you can read all *Compass Check* issues online at [ucg.org/members/compass-check](http://ucg.org/members/compass-check). This magazine is written specifically for you as a teen, and it is our hope that *Compass Check* will be encouraging and instructive for you!

## Preteen Camp Program Dates

Florida	May 25-29
Gilmont (TX)	May 31-Jun 3
Colorado	June 21-24
Ironwood (MN)	July 12-15
Ochoco (OR)	July 12-15
Buckeye (OH)	July 26-29
Seven Mountains (PA)	July 26-29

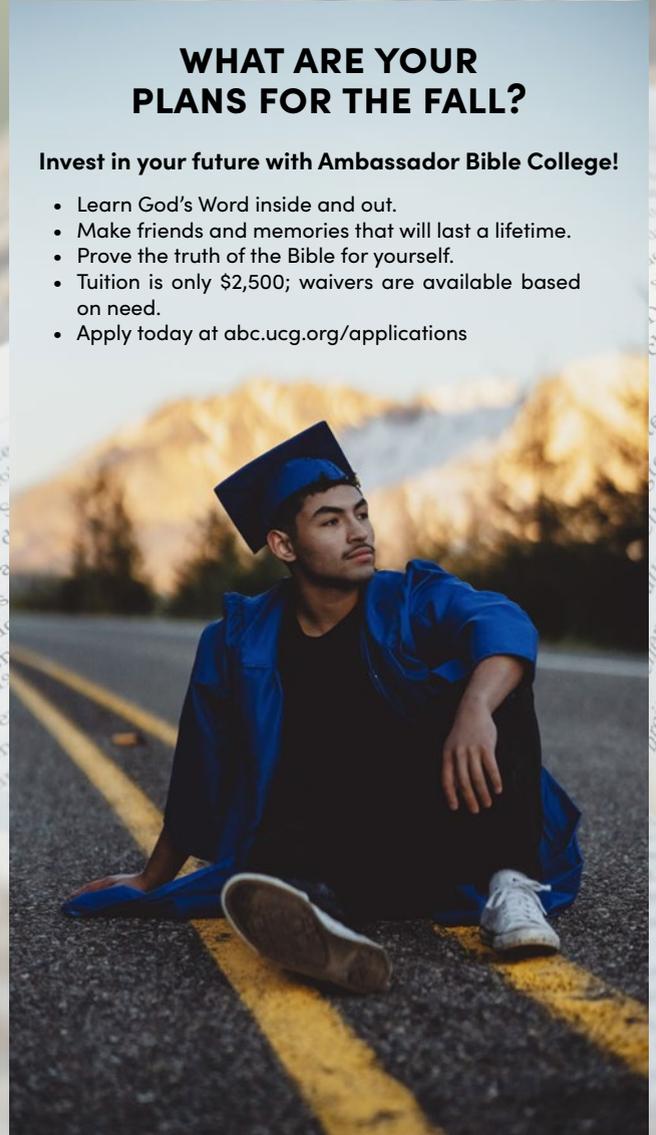
## Teen Camp Program Dates

Cotubic (OH)	Jun 21-28
Pinecrest (MO)	Jun 28 - July 5
Southwest (AZ)	July 5-12
Northwest (OR)	July 19-26
Woodland (GA)	July 19-26
Winter Camp (WI)	Dec. 28, 2026-Jan. 3, 2027

## WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FALL?

Invest in your future with Ambassador Bible College!

- Learn God's Word inside and out.
- Make friends and memories that will last a lifetime.
- Prove the truth of the Bible for yourself.
- Tuition is only \$2,500; waivers are available based on need.
- Apply today at [abc.ucg.org/applications](http://abc.ucg.org/applications)



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Scriptural references are from the New King James Version (©1988 Thomas Nelson, Inc., Publishers) unless otherwise noted.