



Dear Families,

It is a great honor and privilege to journey into our 68th year of excellence and service to the 1000s of families and campers who have come to know Waycross as their summer camp home since 1956. Your child’s physical, spiritual, and emotional safety and well-being is our greatest priority. We are proud to provide one of the best summer camp programs available: one that encourages positive character and social development, and personal growth and that helps children become secure, independent, well-adjusted young people.

This guidebook will help you get ready for camp. While the information contained here applies to campers as well as parents, we have addressed it to parents because your leadership in camp preparation is vital to giving your child a successful experience. Please take time to read and study this information with your child and review it several times before arrival to make sure you and your camper understand and will be able to follow these guidelines.

Among the topics covered in this guide are camp policies and procedures, required medical forms, financial policies, deadlines, what to bring to camp, covid policies, homesickness, and much more. Please call to speak with us personally if you have any questions about any topics covered.

Thank you again for entrusting your most precious earthly gifts, your children, to us for a short time during summer camp. We are excitedly anticipating the upcoming season, and we look forward to meeting each of you in person this summer!

Faithfully,
The Waycross Camp Staff



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Waycross Camp Mission & Goals

The mission of Waycross is to serve all who seek fellowship, respite, reflection, and growth by providing Christian hospitality and enriching programs.

Waycross Camp is part of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis and welcomes children from within the diocese and beyond. Waycross does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, or disability. However, Waycross is not staffed as a medical treatment center. Our staff is not trained to work with campers who have severe mental, physical, or emotional difficulties. We do reserve the right to refuse admission to our program in appropriate cases.

The goals for all participants of Waycross Camp are:

- To live and be a part of a faith-based community as modeled by the Baptismal Covenant and Christ's life and teachings.
- To foster the development of camper's life skills.
- To be responsible members of God's creation.
- To have fun and be creative.



Registration & Forms

Register for summer camp at www.waycrossccc.org. You can create an account or use an existing account to log into the registration portal.

The following forms are required to be up-to-date and on file for each camper:

- Health History form
- Physical Examination Form Signed by a Licensed Medical Professional (must be signed within the last 12 months of the start of camp.)
- Adventure Participation Agreement

All camper forms are available by logging into your account at waycrossccc.org. All forms should be submitted online.

In order to receive the early bird discount, the Health History Form and Adventure Participation Agreement must be submitted by April 15th. All camper paperwork (including the Physical Examination Form) must be completed and submitted AT LEAST TWO WEEKS PRIOR to the camper's arrival.

Questions?

If you have trouble creating an account, submitting your online forms, or have questions regarding any of the required forms, please email waycrosssummercamp@gmail.com or call 812-597-4241.





Payment & Scholarship Information

An \$80, per camper, per session non-refundable deposit is due at the time of registration. All camp fees must be paid in full two weeks prior to a camper's session. A complete list fees is available on our website at waycrossccc.org. Monthly payment plans are available for all summer camp and Waycross events.

Scholarships:

Waycross' policy is that no child or family will be denied a camping experience due to financial circumstances. Families are encouraged to request support from their local parish as well as contacting Waycross for scholarship assistance.

Cancellation Policy:

Enrollment is for the entire period specified for each session and there will be no refunds, credits, or remissions of fees except for family or medical emergencies verified in writing. In such cases, the fee will be refunded less the \$80 per camper non-refundable deposit.

Questions?

If you have questions about fees, payment plans, or would like to request a scholarship application, please email waycrosssummercamp@gmail.com or call 812-597-4241.



Cabin Assignments & Buddy Requests



Cabin assignments are made by age and gender assigned at birth. However, Waycross is dedicated to providing safe and comfortable housing for campers of all gender expressions and identities. We will work with you and your camper to determine the best cabin assignment prior to the start of camp and make necessary accommodations for all campers.

If you have any questions or concerns about the cabin assignment process, please contact the Camp Director at waycross.camp@gmail.com.

Buddy requests may be made during registration. Although we try to honor buddy requests, we cannot guarantee that all requests will be honored.

Guidelines for buddy requests are as follows:

- Each camper may request ONE buddy. The request must appear on both campers' registration forms. The campers' ages and grades must be the same or within one year of each other.
- Special circumstances must be approved in advance by the Camp Director.
- Once cabin assignments are finalized by camp staff, they cannot be changed.

Packing Lists



Campers are encouraged to bring an appropriate amount of clothing for their session, along with toiletries and other personal items. Suggested packing lists for camp are found below.

Please be sure to mark everything with your camper's name!

Dress Code: Waycross Camp requires that all clothing be appropriate for our goal to create a positive and respectful Christian community. Clothing should not display images or messages that are derogatory, violent in nature, or disrespectful to others; it should also fit properly and be appropriate for active movement.

Closed toe shoes are required for many activities including the ropes course and hiking.

We encourage swim wear for both boys and girls that provides adequate sun protection, fits properly and is appropriate for active movement in the pool and lake.



. Packing suggestions for ALL SESSIONS:

- Shirts and shorts
- Clothing that can get messy or dirty
- Loose, long pants (for hiking)
- Jacket and/or sweatshirt
- Socks
- Underwear
- Pajamas
- Swimsuit
- Lightweight rain coat or poncho
- Hat and/or bandanna
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Water bottle
- Prescription medications in their original containers
- Stationary and pen
- Self-addressed, stamped envelopes for sending letters home
- Flashlight (with batteries)
- Laundry bag
- Backpack or day pack
- Tennis shoes
- Hiking boots or shoes
- Sandals or flip flops
- Bedding for a bunk (sleeping bag or twin XL sheets)
- Pillow and pillowcase
- Sleeping bag for overnight camp outs
- Bath & pool towels
- Washcloth
- Soap & shampoo
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Other toiletries
- Camera (optional)
- Personal hand sanitizer

PLEASE DO NOT BRING



- Cell phones & other electronics - *in order to promote community building and being present, Waycross discourages use of cell phones and other electronics during camp.*
- Food and gum
- Pets
- Weapons
- Alcohol or illegal drugs
- Valuables of any kind - *Waycross is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.*



Directions to Camp

Waycross Camp is located at 4879 Richards Rd, Morgantown IN 46160.

Please note that we have limited cell phone and GPS reception in the area immediately around Waycross. We suggest that you look up directions to camp prior to travel.

Updated directions to camp are available on our website at <https://waycrossccc.org/directions-and-road-closures/>. We recommend that you check our website before coming to camp, as there are occasionally unexpected road and bridge closures.

Camper Check-In

Your camper may check in between 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM on the first day of the session. The check-in process begins at Dixon Hall. Due to other commitments, our staff are unable to accommodate early check-in. If you know that you will arrive after 5:00 PM, please notify us by calling the office at (812) 597-4241. Please note that Canoe Camp will check in at the Youth Lodge

During check-in, your camper will:

- Receive their cabin assignment and verify completed paperwork
- Complete a Health Check and Health History Form review
- Check-in medications with the Camp Healthcare Professional
- Move into their cabin

Camp Staff, including the Camp Directors and kitchen staff, will be available during check-in to answer questions.



Camper Check-Out

The Closing Ceremony is in Dixon Hall at 9:00 AM on the final day of your camper's session. Camper check-out begins in Dixon Hall immediately following the Closing Ceremony.

Please plan to check-out your camper by 10:00 AM. In case of delay, please notify our office by calling (812) 597-4241.

If, for some reason, your camper must be checked out early, arrangements must be made at least two weeks in advance (in writing) with the Camp Director by contacting waycross.camp@gmail.com

If your camper is attending multiple sessions, please note that there are no provisions for staying at camp between sessions.

Camper Communication



Contacting Home

Campers are not accessible by phone except in case of emergency. Your camper may wish to write and mail letters home. Please send stationary and self-addressed, stamped envelopes for campers to use in mailing letters home.

Sending Mail

Receiving mail is a highlight of the day for campers! If you will be mailing letters or packages, please send them well in advance of the camp session. You may send to: (Camper Name and cabin number-if known), Waycross Camp, 4879 Richards Road, Morgantown IN 46160.

Letters may also be dropped off at check-in for distribution during the camp week. Please write your camper's name, cabin number (if known), and the day of the week you wish to have the mail handed out on the mail.

Sending Email

Campers may also receive email during their camp session! Camper email may be sent to **camper@waycrossccc.org**. Please write your camper's name (and cabin number, if known) in the subject line. Camper emails will be printed daily. If you would like an email to be delivered on a certain day, please make sure that emails are **sent no later than 7:00 AM** on that day. Please note that campers are unable to reply to email messages and cannot receive email attachments and photos.



. Camper Photos and Updates



We will make every effort to provide families with photos during the camp week. However, the first priority of our staff is to ensure a safe and fun session for your camper! To this end, we may not be able to post photos or take a photo of every camper every day.

Photos from our summer camp sessions can be found:

- On our Shutterfly site at <https://waycrosscamp.shutterfly.com>
- On our Waycross Camp and Conference Center Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/wxcampandconference>)
- On our Instagram account (@waycrossccc)

Daily Schedule



Below you will find a standard daily schedule for camp. Please note that schedules will vary on opening and closing days and may change based on weather and other factors beyond our control. Please also note that program schedules and activity options for Specialty Camps (Wilderness, Canoe Camp, and Leaders-in-Training) may differ. Specific details about these programs will be sent in pre-camp communications.

At Waycross, we seek to involve campers in the program planning process. To this end, campers will work with their Adventure Groups to make their schedule, based on available program activities. Activity options include: swimming, canoeing, hiking, creek hikes, archery, biking, games, arts and crafts, team building and low ropes, climbing tower and zip line, and other options. Program activities may vary based on age restrictions, weather conditions, and other factors.

	7:00 AM	Wake Up
	8:00 AM	Breakfast
	8:45 AM	Morning Gathering The day begins with worship, prayer, and an introduction to our daily theme.
	9:30 AM	Adventure Group Time Adventure groups participate in a variety of program activities.
	12:00 PM	Lunch
	12:45 PM	Lunch Program Mid-day songs and skits!
	1:15 PM	Camper's Choice Campers choose an activity outside of their adventure group. Options vary from day to day and include both new and traditional camp activities
	2:30 PM	Rest Period A mid-afternoon to rest in the cabins.
	3:15 PM	Snack
	3:30 PM	Adventure Group Time Adventure groups participate in a variety of program activities.
	5:30 PM	Dinner
	6:15 PM	Cabin Time Cabins participate in a variety of activities to get to know each other.
	7:00 PM	All Camp Activities
	8:30 PM	Snack
	8:45 PM	Compline End of the day worship, prayer, and reflection on our daily theme.
	9:30 PM	Cabin Reflections and Devotions Cabin groups prepare for bed and reflect on the day.
	10:00 PM	Lights Out

Adventure Camp Overnights

Adventure groups begin overnight camp outs on Tuesday afternoons. Groups hike to a campsite on Waycross' property to cook dinner over a fire, learn wilderness skills, and stargaze. Groups return to camp after breakfast on Wednesday morning.

. Camp Traditions

The Waycross program includes a mix of new, innovative activities and long-standing camp traditions. Some of these traditions include: overnight camp outs, Friday Celebration, Eucharist services, and Candlelight Ceremony, among others.



Medications

Prescription medications will not be given without the explicit direction of a physician. **All prescription medication must be in original containers with dosage and frequency clearly defined, and checked in at the Health Center on the first day of the session.**

Over-the-counter medications brought to camp must also be checked in at the Health Center. We keep a variety of OTC medications (Aspirin, Benadryl, Ibuprofen, Claritin, Pepto Bismol, etc.) in our center for camper and staff use. All OTC medications will be dispensed under the supervision of our on-site Healthcare Professional.

Parent/Guardian Notification

Parents or Guardians will be notified if a child spends more than 8 hours in the Health Center or in the event of a change in medical status (e.g. vomiting, temperature over 100 F, head injury, breathing difficulties, loss of consciousness, and change in ability to fully participate).

Medical Treatment

In the event that a camper needs medical attention beyond the scope of the Camp Healthcare Professional and our Health Center, campers may be transported by two staff members to one of the following: IU Health Urgent Care (Bloomington, IN) or IU Health Bloomington Hospital Emergency Room. Other facilities may be utilized if necessary. If a camper is transported for medical treatment, emergency contacts will be notified.

Preventing Homesickness

Many campers, both first-time and returning, will experience some form of homesickness. These feelings are normal for campers of all ages. Homesickness can be shown through physical symptoms, strong emotions, or both. These feelings are often strongest at the beginning of the week, at mealtimes, and at rest times.

Our goal is to help your camper enjoy their time away from home. Our staff are trained to encourage camper participation in activities and are also equipped with ways to provide love, comfort, and care to campers who miss home. Campers are also encouraged to write and talk about their feelings, but not focus on them.

By staying at camp and participating, even when they are homesick, campers grow in confidence and independence. We make every effort to keep your camper at camp. If your camper's homesickness is severe or disruptive to the camp environment, parents and guardians will be contacted.

Continue reading on the next page for some tips on preventing homesickness.



The “Do’s” and “Don’t s” of Preventing Homesickness



DO'S

- Do make sure campers know they will have a wonderful time!
- Do talk openly about homesickness. Explain that it is normal to miss home, but you know they can handle it.
- Do encourage your camper to bring a non-valuable security item (stuffed animal, blanket, photo, etc.)
- Do write encouraging and enthusiastic letters to be delivered during camp. Tell your camper that you want them to have a good time and can't wait to hear about their new experiences.
- For younger children, do make sure they know how to take care of their own basic needs and personal hygiene.
- Do make sure your camper knows where all of their items are packed



DON'T S

- Don't worry too much. Even if they are homesick, campers are having a positive experience.
- Don't tell your camper that you will call or visit during the camp week. If you are worried, you can call and talk to the Camp Director.
- Don't emphasize how much you will, or do, miss your camper, either when saying goodbye or writing letters.
- Don't promise to pick up your camper immediately if they do feel homesick.
- Don't emphasize homesickness so much that your camper expects it.
- Don't let your camper have a cell phone at camp.
- Don't encourage your camper to call home if they aren't having a good time. This just teaches them that it's okay to break the rules, and they will be less likely to give camp a chance.



We'll See You at Camp!

