



2610 Lynds Hill Road · Plymouth, VT 05056 · 802.672.5220 · camp@bethanybirches.org · www.bethanybirches.org

June 2020

Dear Campers and Parents:

We are glad you're joining us at Bethany Birches Camp this summer. Many exciting activities are planned that will surely create life-long memories! You'll experience the traditional BBC favorites including: the water trampoline, Wet n Wild Wednesday activities, the mud pit, camp crafts, cooking over the fire, group games, and much more...it might be hard to leave when your week is over! And of course, we'll have some of the coolest young adults around to be your counselors.

Whether it's your first time at BBC or you're returning from prior years, this summer will surely create memories that last a lifetime!

The email that accompanied this document shows the session(s) for which we have you registered. It also shows your status and arrival and departure dates. **You can drop your child off between 8:15 and 8:45 every day.** Please do not come early. We will not be ready for you. Pick up at the end of the day is 4pm. Please be here then to pick up your child.

It's not too late to bring friends. There are still a few openings in Day Camp. Have your friends call or email the office, or simply point them to the register now page on our website. It is our prayer that your child's time at camp is fun, educational, spiritually enriching and a time to make new friends and be with old friends!

We're looking forward to seeing you! Please read on for more details.

Brandon "Tuna" Bergey Anna "Meatball" Martin
Executive Director Program Director

PACKING LIST

Each camper should bring a backpack each day filled with the following items. Please read the dress guidelines and pack accordingly.

1. Water Bottle
2. Modest 1-piece Swimsuit and towel
3. Sneakers
4. Sweater/jacket
5. Extra pair of STURDY shoes/water shoes
6. Sunscreen (we have plenty of extra)
7. Bug spray (again, we have plenty of extra– see below about our chosen tick repellent)
8. Dish set – Plate, cup, spoon, fork, knife, and bowl. (these will stay at camp all week, and will be sent home on Friday) – this is part of our pandemic preparedness plan.

*We try very hard to make sure children go home with all of their stuff and only their stuff. Sometimes that doesn't happen! **Many have found it helpful to label clothing so it doesn't get lost or mixed in with someone else's***

There are a few things that we ask you NOT to bring:

1. Any electronic games, music players (iPods etc.) or cell phones
2. Junk food and candy
3. Weapon of any type (foldable pocket knife with a blade shorter than 3 inches is o.k.)
4. Flip flops or sandals without a heel strap

If you bring any of these things, we will keep them in the office until the end of the session.

General Parent Information

Dear Parents,

Thank you for entrusting your child to us this summer. It is our highest priority to provide a safe, nurturing place for your child to grow and experience the many joys of this God-given life. Fun, of course, is our next highest priority. Please find below information regarding your child's time at BBC.

FORMS

We don't like paperwork any more than you do! Though we try to keep it to a minimum, some information is necessary. Here are some instructions for each form:

- ✓ ***Health Form***: Fill it out fully using the online registration platform (if you have done this you do not need to do it again). If you need to use paper, make sure your child brings it with them when they come to camp. **Please notify us by email or phone if your child has special dietary needs.** If your child has medication to bring to camp please fill out that information prior to coming to camp and **observe the instructions for how to package medication. Medication MUST be in its original container.** We can't accept it otherwise. Bring the meds with you to check-in.
- ✓ ***Permission to Participate***: Same thing... fill it out online **at least 1 week** before your child comes to camp.
- ✓ ***Dress Guidelines***: Please observe them and dress accordingly.
- ✓ ***Summer Food Service Program***: Fill out the form and help us keep our food costs down.
- ✓ ***Map***: Please call if you need better directions.
- ✓ ***Someone Else Taking Your Child Home?*** Please contact us about a form you must sign if the person picking up your child is different than the person dropping them off or download "Release of Camper" here: bethanybirches.org/forms/. This can be handed in at registration also.

FINANCIAL

Review your financial status. A \$50 deposit is required to hold a spot in a session. That \$50 is applied toward the session total. Full payment is required 3 weeks prior to the session. If a cancellation is made 3 weeks in advance, in writing or in the online account, the entire payment can be kept on account and applied to another program(s) within 1 year from the date of cancellation. If a cancellation is made less than 3 weeks in advance or the camper simply does not show up at check-in, no balance can be forwarded and no refund given. If you aren't clear about our tiered pricing, the take home lesson is simple. The highest price is closer to what camp costs us to provide. The other rates are subsidized by supporters of Bethany Birches who want every child in the area to be able to come to camp. Please choose the highest rate you can afford.

CAMP STORE – we are considering how we could do this with an in car drop off and pickup. Stay tuned.

COMMUNICATION

We use a one-way email program you can use to deliver messages to your camper and we will send you instructions at the start of your child's session. If you are concerned about your child, we'll be more than happy to give you a full report if you give us a call. You can also visit our BBC Social Media Sites (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) for updates and sign up for text updates. We will include an email about with text sign up information closer to your session start. If there is any issue with your child, you will be the first one to know. Emergency contacts will typically only be contacted if there is an emergency and you cannot be reached.

HOMESICKNESS

In the event your child gets homesick, this is what you can expect: we will encourage them to get involved in camp and enjoy the experience. If that encouragement doesn't help, we will call you and let you know the scenario. At that point, you can talk to them or instruct us on how to handle the situation.

LICE & TICKS

While lice don't transmit disease like some ticks and they are not very problematic for day campers, they are still no fun. Your child will be given a handful of tips on what not to do to avoid transferring lice during their days here.

Ticks appear to be more problematic in our location than they once were. We are taking more significant precautions this summer. For day camp these precautions include daily application of tick repellent and for you to do a tick check at the end of each day. Our preferred repellent will have a concentration of up to 30% deet. You may request your children not be allowed any product with deet. We have selected deet due to its effectiveness at repelling ticks specifically. Deet is the CDC recommended product for ticks (<https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/deet#benefit>). We will follow the CDC safety recommendations and manufacturer instructions when applying the repellent. <https://www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/deet#safety>. If you wish to not have repellent with deet offered to your child you may check that option on the health form. Please pack an alternative for your child to use. Regarding the tick checks, we are happy to provide information on how to do them thoroughly if that is helpful for you. You may be aware that while Lyme disease takes 24 hours or more to transmit there is a lesser known (and much less common) disease that ticks transmit called Powassan and that can be transmitted much faster. Please do tick checks each day!

If you have any other questions regarding your session, don't hesitate to contact us. Thanks again for giving us the opportunity to share in community and God's love with your child.

Sincerely,

Brandon "Tuna" Bergey **Anna "Meatball" Martin**
Executive Director Program Director