

Summer Camp 2017



Camper Handbook

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Dear Friends,

We are so excited to welcome you into the Camp Pee Dee Retreat Center's camp family! We are looking forward to spending time with your child this summer as we create memories and experiences that will last a lifetime.

We have a great summer staff on board, and an exciting program has been planned. Our theme this year: Branching Out: Connecting with Christ/

Our goal for the summer is to help each camper explore ways to connect with Jesus Christ every day.

We are grateful to you for making Camp Pee Dee Retreat Center your camp of choice!

We hope this Camper Handbook is helpful. It holds a lot of pertinent information regarding camp.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We are looking forward to a fantastic summer!

Grace and peace,

Kelly Boone Sloan

Program Director

Camp Pee Dee Retreat Center



Our Summer Camp Way of Life

We believe that camp should be a safe place where campers can discover and grow in their faith through worship, Bible Study, fellowship and fun with the guidance and support of a loving, nurturing and caring summer staff. Our camp staff strives each day to create a safe place by building a healthy community through caring relationships. Each camper becomes a part of a family unit – one female and one male cabin with their cabin counselors. In these family groups, campers grow together as they learn new skills while working, playing, worshiping, praying and living together in a Christian community.

In addition, each camp family participates in worship, service, learning, playing, sharing and growing through Christian fellowship and cooperation. Campers become a part of the larger camp community by eating meals together in the dining hall and participating in "all-camp" programs, activities, Bible studies and worship.

A Day at Camp

A typical day at camp always begins with a delicious breakfast. During the day in between meals campers will be swimming, hiking, participating in Bible study, worshiping, canoeing, creating arts and crafts and much much more. After dinner, the staff and campers gather together for "all-camp" activities such as field games, water games, traveling worship, story-telling, a mission project, a talent show and other wonderful activities.

Day Campers

Day campers should report to camp on Monday morning at 8:00 am. Upon arrival each morning they should report to the Dining Hall to join fellow campers for breakfast. Day Campers should depart from camp at 6:45 pm each evening after supper. We also encourage Day Campers to pack everything on the suggested packing list. Items such as a bathing suit, towel, and pillow/blanket/sleeping bag (for FOB each day) should be brought on Monday and left at camp for the week.

Daily Schedule

Typical Daily Schedule:

8:00 am	Energizers Breakfast
8:45 am	Breakfast/Morning Prayers
9:00 am-12:00 pm	Group Program and Activities
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	FOB (Rest and Relaxion time)
2:30 pm-6:00 pm	Group Programs and Activities
6:00 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm-9:30 pm	"All-Camp" Activites and snacks
10:00 pm	In cabins
10:30 pm	Lights Out!

Arrival/Departure Procedures and Schedule

Opening Day (Sunday): On Sunday, opening day, campers are to arrive between **3:30 pm and 4:30 pm**. As you enter camp, please go to the **Retreat Center** for registration. (The Retreat Center is straight up the hill. The last building on the left.) **Be sure to bring camper's immunization records, if we do not have a copy on file, a copy of the front and back of your insurance card, the balance due and all medications to registration.** All camper medications MUST be logged in with the Health Care Manager in order for us to administer medications during the week. In addition, a brief health screening will be done at this time.

During registration, you will also be required to sign in your camper. Because your child's safety is of utmost importance to us, you will be issued two security cards that MUST be presented to your child's counselor upon departure on closing day. In addition, you will have the opportunity to discuss any special needs for your camper or additional information with our staff. You may also leave camper mail for the week.

If you need help, our staff will be available to help you move luggage to your camper's cabin. We strongly encourage families to help their camper "settle in," but also ask that you use discretion in this process if an extended "good-bye" might trigger early on-set of homesickness.

Opening Day Schedule:

3:30 pm-4:30 pm	Arrival/Check-In/Settle-In
5:00 pm	Camp Kickoff – Festivities begin
6:00 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm	Recreation Events
9:30 pm	Snack and Evening Prayers
10:00 pm	In cabins
10:30 pm	Lights Out!

Closing Day (Friday): On Friday, closing day, campers will begin with breakfast, energizers, morning prayers and a time for program activities. Lunch will be served at 1:00 pm and families are invited to join their campers for the lunch. The cost for this meal is **\$10.00 per person**. (Be sure to sign up for the meal during registration). Following lunch, families and campers will get ready for the closing program which begins at 2:00 pm in the Retreat Center.

We strongly encourage all families to participate in the closing program as your camper begins to transition home. After the conclusion of the closing program, all campers will return to their cabins. Parents will then meet their campers at their cabins and present their counselor with their child's security card.

Closing Day Schedule:

8:00 am	Breakfast
8:45 am	Energizers and Morning Prayers
9:00 to 10:30 am	Group Programs and Activities
11:00 am	Whole Group Rehearsal for closing program
1:00 pm	Lunch (optional for families)
2:00 pm	Closing Program



Packing for Camp

Packing for camp can be challenging! Therefore, we have put together the following suggestions and checklist to help make sure campers have the proper clothing items and necessities needed when at camp.

- Campers should be able to carry their own bags and gear. We are here to help but do want to encourage everyone to pack resourcefully as possible – limiting size and weight of bags, trunks, etc.
- Pack **with** you camper. This will ensure they know what to pack for them!
- We suggest sending older clothing that can get dirty. Save the new school clothes for school!
- Laundry facilities are not available to campers, so please plan sets of interchangeable clothing based on length of stay and include extra socks, underwear and shoes.
- Please label ALL camper's clothing, sleeping bags and other personal items. This helps in identifying lost clothing and other items. We cannot be responsible for lost clothing and other items, but we do like to return them! Lost and Found items are kept for about three months before being donated.
- **Clothing:** All camp participants must wear appropriate clothing that reflects the core values of a Christ-centered community. Please take time to reflect with your camper on modest dress and involve them in selecting clothes to be packed. Participants wearing inappropriate clothing will be asked to change into appropriate clothing.
- **Shoes:** It is camp policy that all participants and staff wear appropriate shoes for the activities and terrain at camp. Appropriate shoes for most camp activities are shoes that offer good support and straps around the heel/ankle. Campers are encouraged to bring at least one pair of closed-toed shoes (tennis shoes are recommended). When swimming in the pool, we encourage campers, especially those with tender feet, to wear "**water shoes**".
- **Swimwear:** Please remember the rule of modesty when packing swimwear. We encourage males to wear loose fitting/baggie shorts and females to wear one-piece suits. Campers and parents are reminded that swimwear will be worn by campers at all times during pool and lake activities.
- **Bedding:** Campers will be staying in air-conditioned cabins containing bunk beds with a singles mattress. Please pack a pillow, a sleeping bag or sheets and blanket.
- **Toiletries and Towels:** Please pack all necessary toiletries (deodorant, soap, toothbrush, etc.) wash clothes, towels and a towel for the pool and lake.
- **Medications:** Please pack all medications, prescriptions and over-the-counter, in a zip-loc bag. These will need to be "checked-in" during registration. All medications should be labeled with your child's name and in their original packaging.

Please do not pack the following items: Food, electronics (including iPads, computers, electronic games, etc.) knives, family pet, tobacco, illegal drugs, fireworks, firearms, lighters, matches, family heirlooms, valuables, or large amounts of money. If you have questions about the suitability of items for camp, please call. "When it doubt, leave it out."

Suggested Packing Checklist

General Items

- Paper
- Stationery
- Stamps (for camper to send mail)
- Pen or pencil
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Non-aerosol bug spray
- Sunscreen
- Toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)
- Bible (Please write camper's name in it)
- Towels/ Washcloths (one to be used at pool/lake)
- Laundry Bag (old pillow case or clear can liner)
- Camera
- Medications (Bring to registration in original containers and in zip-loc bag)
- Water bottle (Mandatory)**
- Instrument: guitar, drum, flute, etc.



Clothing

- Shorts
- Shirts
- Pajamas
- Long Pants/Jeans (Required for Horse Campers)
- Jacket or Sweatshirt
- Rain Coat/ Poncho
- Socks and Undergarments
- Two Pairs of Comfortable Shoes - One to get wet in shower/ at pool & lake
- One Piece Bathing Suit
- Water Shoes
- Tennis shoes (Or leather boots – Required for Horse campers)
- Hat

Bedding

- Single Bed Sheets or Sleeping Bag
- Blanket
- Pillow

Camp Pee Dee Retreat Center is not responsible
for lost items brought to camp.
Please label all items.



General Information

Birthdays

Birthdays are special occasions at camp! Please alert the Program Director and Staff if your camper will celebrate their birthday during their camp session. Typically our Food Service will provide a sheet cake or other appropriate dessert at dinner on the night of your camper's birthday to be shared with the entire camp. If you would like to provide a special cake or other items, please contact the Program Director to make arrangements.

Camp Behavior

Campers are expected to behave in a socially acceptable, Christian manner while at camp. Disruptive or dangerous behavior that continues to occur after appropriate disciplinary intervention will not be tolerated. The Program Director in consultation with the Facilities Director may send disruptive campers home. Please review this information with your camper so camp is an enjoyable experience for everyone present.

Camp Phone Calls

Campers will **NOT** be able to make or receive phone calls. If there is a problem, the Program Director will contact you. In the event of an emergency please call the camp office (843) 479-3051. Be prepared to leave a message for the staff and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Camper Address/Mail

Mail is the highlight of every camper's day. Please make sure your letters are cheerful, expressing your interest in what is happening at camp. Hopefully, "mail" doesn't say things like "your goldfish died & we are leaving for Brazil." To ensure that mail is received on time, please send mail one week prior to camp. Or – Save a stamp! Write letters before camp and leave them at the registration table to be delivered daily. Be sure the camper's name and session are noted! Please note if mail is received after a camper has left, we will attempt to forward it to them. Please address mail as follows:

Camper Name & Session
c/o Camp Pee Dee Retreat Center
1201 Camp Pee Dee Road
Bennettsville, SC 29512

Camper Email Address/Mail

Another option for contacting your camper is to send an email. We have an email address for campers' parents to send a note. The email address is campers@newharmonypres.org.

Email will be checked **Monday – Thursday** at 9:00 am each day and delivered to campers during lunch. Please be sure to include the camper's name and session on the email.



Things to Know: Policies, Procedures and Generally Accepted Camp Practices!



Food – Please do not send food, candy or gum to camp:

Due to food allergies and other dietary restrictions, we prefer that all food be provided by our dining serves. Meals at camp are nutritionally balanced and prepared by qualified, experienced staff. Dessert is served daily, and snacks are provided to each camper. Food in cabins attracts mice and other (larger) wildlife.

Health and Safety: The health, safety and well being of our campers are the highest priorities of Camp Pee Dee Retreat Center. CPR and First Aid trained staff members supervise all activities. At least two certified lifeguards supervise all swimming and boating activities. Campers are **required** to wear life jackets while participating in lake activities. At the beginning of each session, campers will undergo a health screening and be encouraged to complete a swim test in order to assess swimming ability. Any camper not completing the swim test will be required to stay in the shallow-end of the swimming area and/or wear a life jacket while participating in other water-based activities.

Special Medical Considerations and Allergies: Please communicate with the Program Director **and** Counselors about any special medical considerations, including allergies. These special medical considerations must also be noted on the Health Form and communicated during the health screening at registration in order for us to provide the best care for your camper.

Dietary restrictions (allergies, etc.) should be noted on the Health Form and discussed with the Program Director at least one week prior to opening day to allow for any special ordering or preparations.

Insurance: Please provide a copy of **both sides** of your insurance card on or before opening day registration. In case of an accident or illness, it is essential that we provide the hospital or treatment facility with a copy of BOTH SIDES of your insurance card.

The Presbytery of New Harmony only provides secondary accident/illness insurance for all campers while they are at camp. This secondary insurance is intended to cover deductible amounts or other charges when used with primary insurance provided by family, church or other sources. For questions or more information, please contact the Program Director.

Immunization Records: As we stated above, nothing is more important to Camp Pee Dee Retreat Center than the health, well being and safety of our campers. Therefore, in order to be prepared for any type of emergency, our policy requires that we have a copy of camper's immunization records on file.

Lost & Found: Please label your camper's medicines, clothing and other personal belongings. If something is lost during the camp week, please notify us immediately! We will attempt to locate items left behind but cannot guarantee retrieval or replacement of lost personal belongings. Lost items found at camp will be kept at camp for about three months. If it is necessary to return lost items by mail, we will ask to be reimbursed for postage.

Homesickness: Homesickness is a natural feeling that many campers experience. Usually the feeling passes in a couple of days and the camper enjoys the rest of the session. If a camper becomes homesick, the staff and other campers are supportive and helpful in overcoming these feelings. Parents and friends can write cheerful letters of support and encouragement to help them enjoy their stay at camp. Avoid writing about stressful events at home; instead concentrate on questions about camp activities, buddies, food and weather. We encourage you to send mail before the camper arrives (or bring to registration) so they will get the letter at the beginning of the session.

Since talking with parents directly on the phone may increase a campers' homesickness, the camp procedure for handling homesickness does not ordinarily include a phone call between parent and camper. If you receive homesick letters, please realize the feelings your camper had when the letter was written have probably passed by the time you receive the letter. If homesickness continues for an extended period, the Program Director will notify you by phone. If you are concerned about communication you receive from your camper, please contact the Program Director.

Our Staff: Summer camp staff is comprised of young adults generally from 18-25 years of age. These young adults are committed Christians with love for camping and ministry with children. All staff members are thoroughly screened, including an application and interview process, a criminal background check, and reference checks. Staff members are oriented to their work through a rigorous training period that includes child developmental theory, Christian education theory, First Aid/CPR certification or review, safety risk management, basic counseling skills, and worship leadership among many other topics. Staff and members employed by Camp Pee Dee Retreat Center on a year-round basis are also present during the summer program.

Roommates/Cabin Mates: It is recognized that campers may wish to share a room or be in the same cabin with a specific friend while at camp. We also recognize and affirm an important part of the camp experience is making new friends and developing community within the group of campers each week. When campers request cabin mates, we are usually able to honor requests, but sometimes we must make decisions based on available housing, program, age and other factors. We do not guarantee placement when multiple roommates have been requested or when campers from one church or area request a "chain" of roommates. Siblings are generally placed in separate cabins so both can grow and share on their own.