



FORTUNE LAKE LUTHERAN CAMP

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2024 YOUTH CAMPER/ PARENT GUIDE

Welcome CAMPERS AND FAMILIES! We are excited that you will be joining us this summer at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp (FLLC)! We are eager for you to arrive and are busy preparing to make your time here a fun, faith-filled, and memorable experience. We are committed to providing a safe experience, filled with faith, hope, and love for each camper. This informational guide is your best resource in preparing you and your camper for camp at FLLC. Included you will find information about:

- Arrival and Departure Times
- Camp Registration Fee
- Cancellation Policy
- Health & Medical Info
- Homesickness
- Connecting with your Camper
- Cell Phone Policy
- Special Program Elements
- Camp Store Information
- Miscellaneous Information
- Packing List

Please review this camp guide and save it for future reference. If you have any additional questions that are not answered here, please contact us at officemanager@fortunelake.org. We are happy to help!

CAMP ARRIVAL

Families will be assigned a check-in time

Check-In Times

- **3:00-3:45 pm* CENTRAL--Last Names beginning A-L**
- **3:45-4:30 pm* CENTRAL--Last Names beginning M-Z**

*Please do NOT arrive earlier than your scheduled arrival time, as we will not be prepared to check you in.

If you will NOT be able to arrive on time for check-in, please make alternative arrangements with the camp office in advance. Directions to camp can be found online at fortunelake.org.

1. Staff members will greet you at the entrance and give further instructions. Please remain in your vehicle until told otherwise.
2. All overnight campers will need to provide proof of a negative rapid COVID-19 test result (done within 24-hours of arriving at camp). A printout or photo of the negative result will be acceptable. A photo of the negative test will serve as proof.
3. Check-in will occur outside of the chapel (or inside of the chapel in inclement weather). Parents will greet cabin leaders near their cabins (or in the field for Vagabonds and Night Owls) but will not enter cabins or treehouses.
4. Please keep your goodbyes brief. This is a best practice for camper transitions.

CAMP DEPARTURE

We will have in-person closing worship services at the end of camping programs. Parents/guardians are encouraged to attend. Closing services will begin promptly at 10:30 a.m. and occur outside (or inside of the chapel in the case of inclement weather). All campers* must be **signed out from their cabin leaders for departure no later than 11:30 am**, and will be released only to the persons authorized on their registration or Camper Health History Form, or pre-arranged with the office. We recommend that whenever possible, the same person does both check-in and pick-up.

1. Staff members will greet you at the entrance and give further directions.
2. Please park in the designated area and proceed to the field where campers will be gathered for outdoor worship. Once the closing chapel service is complete, parents may sign out their camper with the cabin leader..

***Mighty Ones** will conclude with a closing worship at 6:15 pm Central, and campers must be checked out by 6:30 pm.

Early departures for secondary obligations must be cleared through the camp office in advance. There will be no time away from camp once campers arrive unless there is an extenuating circumstance that has been cleared with the Camp Director. ***No camper will be permitted to leave camp without written parental/guardian permission on record.***

CAMP REGISTRATION FEE

A **non-refundable deposit** is required at the time of registration.

Discounts taken on your registration will be audited for accuracy and eligibility (see website for full details and eligibility); discounts are voided if account is not paid in full by the June 1 due date.

If you anticipate a **church scholarship** and have not yet sent the signed form to FLLC, please get it approved by your church office and send a signed copy to FLLC as soon as possible. You are responsible for ensuring that this payment is submitted by the due date to reserve your camper's space. If the scholarship will not be submitted to camp by June 1, you are responsible for paying the full registration fee on time, and seeking reimbursement of the scholarship amount directly from your church.

Your final registration balance is due by June 1 (or at time of registration if registering **AFTER June 1).** Contact the camp office with any questions.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Please contact FLLC if a scheduling conflict arises with your camp session. We will work within our means to switch your session to accommodate your schedule. A camper's deposit and payment can be transferred to attend another camp session if space is available but are non-transferrable to another camper. Please note that we anticipate some programs will fill quickly.

In the event you need to cancel your session at FLLC, please contact us immediately. A refund based on payments received – less the deposit – will be granted. If cancellation occurs less than two weeks before the camping session, no refund will be granted. Your deposit is non-refundable except for the following reasons:

1. A medical condition or death in the family prevents the camper from participating in the program. A written excuse from the camper's physician may be requested.
2. Camper tests positive for COVID-19 prior to arrival and a suitable alternative camp program is not available. Should symptoms appear while at camp and camper tests positive, refunds will be prorated based on the number of nights camper was on-site.
3. FLLC cancels the camp session and cannot find a suitable alternative. A full refund will be issued based on payments received.

We will not prorate fees for late arrival or for attending partial weeks. Departure from the camp program due to homesickness or dismissal for behavior problems is non-refundable.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

Health History Form

To complete your registration for camp, the Youth Health History/Release Form must either be completed with online registration, or downloaded from the website, completed with all required information, and returned to the camp office with your registration. Sharing detailed medical and/or personal information with us about your camper will help our staff provide quality care and is required by the State of Michigan. All information provided will be shared on a *need to know* basis with appropriate staff and held in strict confidence. If medical or health information changes prior to the start date of the session, please contact the office for instructions.

Medical Services

FLLC has a Health Officer trained staff member on-site and in Vagland at all times for health needs and medication distribution. Routine First Aid will be provided by the Health Officer or Vagland Coordinator, or a camp staff member certified in First Aid/CPR as needed. Camp will be in immediate contact with you should there be a serious medical concern, illness, or incident. If medical problems occur, FLLC uses the local clinic and hospital in Iron River to treat medical conditions or accidents. Medical expenses will be billed to you through these entities. FLLC does not carry medical coverage for campers.

Medications

All camper medications should be listed on the Camper Health History Form including name of medication, dosage, frequency, and method of administration. Our Health Officer and Vagland Coordinator collect ALL medication at camp check-in and they are available to discuss any health-related question that you may have regarding your camper's medication and health while in our care. ALL medications must be in the original labeled container; bring just enough for your camper's time at camp. Label containers clearly with the name of camper. Medications will be dispensed as indicated on the bottle unless documentation is provided by the prescribing physician.

We stock standard over the counter (OTC) medications for cold symptoms, minor aches and pains, etc. Do not pack these medications unless your child uses OTC medications DAILY.

Food Allergies and Special Medical Needs

Campers are fed well-balanced meals. Our food service staff are familiar with dietary needs. If your child has a food allergy or needs special accommodations, please list those needs on their Health History Form. In addition, please contact the Camp Director at least two weeks before your child's week of camp to discuss their particular needs. If you have questions about our ability to work with your camper's needs, please don't hesitate to contact us. Please note that while campers may arrange to bring special supplemental food items with them, no food is allowed in camper cabins during the week. All food items will be stored in our kitchens and pantries under the guidance of staff.

Parent Notification of Health Treatment

Parents/guardians will be notified of health treatment for a camper via a phone call from the Camp Director or Health Officer/Vagland Coordinator under the following situations: when a camper is vomiting or has diarrhea lasting more than 24 hours, a camper has a severely sprained limb or broken limb requiring advanced medical care, a camper has been removed from programming for 4 hours due to headache, fever, etc., anytime we suspect a communicable disease requiring medical treatment, or any emergency situation where an ambulance is called. **We will NOT notify** parents/guardians for minor cuts or wounds requiring simple cleaning, minor bruises requiring ice and rest, a headache, vomiting or diarrhea lasting less than 24 hours unless combined with other symptoms.

HOMESICKNESS

Homesickness is a very normal and often temporary response to being away from home. Proper preparation and preventative measures can start long before your camper's arrival at camp. With sensitive handling by you and trained camp staff, most homesickness can be prevented or overcome, leading your camper to feelings of independence, pride, and self-assurance. Talk with your child before they leave for camp to help ease the transition. Speak of how exciting camp will be, new friends they might make, and how proud you are that they are willing to try something new. Further, let your child know that if they are feeling sad, afraid, or lonely, there is always someone at camp they can talk to, whether it is their Cabin Leader, Health Officer, or even the Camp Director. Please see the Fortune Lake website for more tips!

Please do NOT tell your child they can call home or can be picked up early. These statements can often make homesickness worse and can prevent campers from fully investing in the camp experience. We agree to contact you in the case that your child is experiencing a more difficult than average adjustment to camp. We will call you to inform you and ask for your input. Our staff is trained in handling these situations. We know that campers are most likely to feel a longing for home during mealtimes and just before bed. We find it much more successful to work with your child to acknowledge that their feelings are normal and to provide support for them as they participate in the Christian community at FLLC.

CONNECTING WITH YOUR CAMPER

Phone Contact

Campers are not able to call home during the week. Parents/guardians may contact the camp, if necessary, by calling the camp office. If you have an emergency that requires you to speak with camp staff or share information with your camper, please call the camp office. Normal business hours are between the hours of 8 am – 4 pm Central. In the event no one answers, please leave a message and we will return your call as soon as we are able.

In the unlikely event of a camp-wide emergency or severe weather disturbance at camp, a representative of FLLC will contact you as soon as possible.

You can maintain non-emergency communication with your child by writing a letter. At camp, youth have a quiet time set aside each day where they have the opportunity to rest, read, or write letters home. You can encourage your child to write letters and share their daily experiences with you. Campers can mail letters or postcards out from camp, so feel free to send pre-addressed, stamped envelopes along to encourage their letter writing home to you, family, and friends.

Mail

There is nothing better than a letter from home when you are away at camp. Please make sure your camper's mail will arrive by Wednesday if your camper is attending a full week of camp. Due to the rural nature of our mail service, we strongly discourage the mailing of packages to camp. FLLC does not accept emails for campers.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Campers are NOT allowed to bring cell phones to camp. We understand that cell phones provide parents and children with security and comfort of unimpeded contact anytime, anywhere. We take the safety and well-being of our campers—your children—very seriously. Cell phones are expensive and can get lost, stolen, or broken. The success of your child's camp experience is largely built on the fact that individuals come to camp, away from the demands and distractions

of the outside world, to build an intentional Christian community. The use of cell phone and text features is a distraction and often campers do not focus their energy and attention on building community. When found, camp staff will remove cell phones and other tech devices for the remainder of the camp session. These items will be returned at the close of the session.

The groundwork for building the camp community begins at home. Talking with your child before they leave for camp will help to ease the transition away from cell phones and other electronics. Remember, you can maintain non-emergency communication with your child using cards and letters.

SPECIAL PROGRAM ELEMENTS FOR OLDER YOUTH CAMPERS

All camp programs and activities are designed to enhance the camper experience. Some of our programs involve giving campers an opportunity to step outside of their comfort zone. It is important for parents/guardians to be aware of certain special adventure activities included with some of our programs for older youth.

Tube Trips

Vagabonds, Night Owls, Mash Up campers, High School programs, and LIT participants may participate in tube trips on a river near camp. Each camper is taught basic rules and is outfitted properly with a life vest. Campers are required to wear old tennis shoes, water shoes, or sandals with backs on them. Campers are accompanied by trained lifeguards who are familiar with the river. On all trips a staff member carries a first aid kit as well as a cell phone to ensure contact with appropriate authorities in the event of an emergency.

Canoe Trips

Campers of all ages may participate in canoe trips on Fortune Lake. Prior to each trip, campers are taught basic canoe skills. Each camper is outfitted properly with a life vest and paddle. Campers are accompanied by trained lifeguards who are familiar with the lake, as well as a cabin leader. On all trips a staff member carries a first aid kit as well as a cell phone to ensure contact with appropriate authorities in the event of an emergency.

High Ropes Course

High School Campers may participate in an off-site High Ropes Course. We partner with Covenant Point Bible Camp in Iron River for the use of their course, and they provide trained facilitators. Campers will learn to face challenges both personally and as a team, learning their own limits and gifts. Campers and their Cabin Leaders will spend a day enjoying the outdoors and bonding over a unique adventure. A special Release form, signed by the parent/guardian is required prior to participation in this program.

Overnight Camp Out

Venturers and High School Campers may participate in one overnight camp out during their week at camp. These camp outs occur on-site at FLLC, and all cabin groups carry a first aid kit as well as a cell phone to ensure contact with camp in the event of an emergency. For High School and LIT programs, campers might camp at a canoe-in site on the shores of Fortune Lake. All sites have emergency access by roadway, and an emergency vehicle from camp would be in place during their time at the site. Campers are accompanied on the lake by trained lifeguards who are familiar with the lake. On all trips a staff member carries a first aid kit as well as a cell phone to ensure contact with appropriate authorities in the event of an emergency.

CAMP STORE (CANTEEN) INFORMATION

Deposits for canteen may be paid at time of registration or at check-in. Our canteen includes snacks, beverages, apparel and a variety of assorted merchandise. Campers attend the canteen once daily and items may be purchased at that time. Food and beverage items range between \$2-\$3. Apparel and merchandise range from \$1- \$40. We have an online store that can be accessed by visiting our website: fortunelake.org. All online orders will be shipped directly to you; we will not be distributing purchases as part of our check-in process. If you wish to have your merchandise prior to arrival at camp, please place your order at least a week in advance.

New for 2024: No refunds for canteen accounts. Balances remaining on your canteen account at the end of the week will be considered donated and you will receive a receipt for your donation as well as a record of your purchases. This is to keep us compliant with best financial practices. We will make every effort to have the canteen open at check-in and check-out to allow for purchasing of apparel and other larger items.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Pets

Except for pre-approved service animals, guests are not to bring pets onto camp facilities.

Alcohol & Drugs

All camp facilities have been declared alcohol, tobacco, and drug free environments for our guests during summer programming. Any camper possessing or using tobacco products, alcohol, or drugs will be subject to immediate dismissal from camp with no refund.

Lost & Found

Please make sure that all of your camper's personal items are clearly marked with their name, and double-check that you have everything prior to departure after check-out. We retain a lost & found bin until September 1; after that time unclaimed items will be donated. Camp staff are **not responsible for locating and returning items left behind.**

Tips & Gratuities

The services we provide are part of our ministry. Please do not offer tips or gratuities to our staff. As an alternative, consider a donation to FLLC in honor of a staff member.

JOIN US ONLINE

Check out our website for current news and information regarding camp programs during the summer and retreat season. Follow us on Instagram & Facebook, where we post pictures of camp, inspiration, and a variety of information as we are able.

PACKING LIST

- Bible
- Money for the camp store
- Notebook & pen/pencil
- Sleeping bag (and/or fitted twin sheets, blanket) & pillow
- Towels (bath, washcloth and beach)
- Flashlight & extra batteries
- Personal toiletry items in a shower caddy or clear, sealable zipper bag marked with camper's name
- Warm & cool weather clothes
- Tennis shoes
- Pajamas
- Jacket
- **Rain gear - VERY IMPORTANT!**
- Underwear and socks for each day
- Swimsuit
- Water bottle (labeled with name)
- Old tennis shoes/water shoes or sandals with backs for tube trips (for campers completed 5th grade+)
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Camera (NOT cell phone)
- White shirt or other item for tie dying (shirts are also for sale in canteen)
- Vagabonds, Night Owls, Venturers, and Mash Up campers should bring a backpack or bag to carry items for time away from site
- Any prescription medicine that will be needed during time at Camp. **PRESCRIPTIONS MUST be in original container** & will be turned in to Health Officer/Vagland Coordinator at check-in. Bring just enough for your time at camp

DO NOT BRING:

Any item on this list brought to camp will be taken away and stored until after camp ends. Any camper possessing or using tobacco products, alcohol, marijuana, drugs or weapons will be subject to immediate dismissal from camp with no refund. The camper's family will be responsible for providing or arranging transportation home. Please check your camper's belongings and remove any questionable items.

- Cell phones (see Cell Phone Policy)
- Personal electronic devices - MP3 players, iPods, computers, e-readers, etc
- Fireworks
- Weapons, including pocket knives
- Soda or snack foods
- Pets
- Extremely valuable items
- Tobacco products, drugs or alcohol
- Unnecessary personal items. We are trying to keep camper's belongings to a minimum for safe storage

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp is not liable for the damage, loss, or the return of any personal property. Be sure you have everything with you before departure.