



Heartland Conference U.C.C. Outdoor Ministries 2021 Summer Camp Program FAQ's

What is summer camp?

The Heartland Conference of the U.C.C. offers a five-week summer camping program every summer. The program is designed to offer a camping experience to people of all ages. The camps range from a weekend to three days to an entire week. All of the camps feature overnight stays at their camping and retreat facility, Temples Hills. Summer camp is a program specifically designed to expose our young people to the outdoors, to God, and to their faith in an absolutely picture-perfect setting. Camp is a place where kids learn about themselves, where they develop social skills and problem-solving skills, where they test their limits and try new things, where they discover who they are, and where they learn to have fun. Camp is an essential part of any childhood experience.

What do they do at summer camp?

Summer camp is one week absolutely jam-packed with activities, games, discussions and all the things you would expect from a week in the woods like campfires, swimming, singing, playing, exploring, running, hiking, eating, laughing and making friends that last a lifetime. Each camp in the Heartland Conference U.C.C. summer camp program is unique and features different specialties. A week at camp is overwhelming and exhausting in the best way possible. The question shouldn't be what do they do at camp, but instead what don't they do at camp?

How do I get my kids to camp?

It will be your responsibility to provide transportation to and from camp for your child. Due to COVID restrictions drop off and pick-up will be "drive by/drop off". This means that parents will not be able to get out of their car and walk around camp. To help ease this change, the camp is offering "DIY Days at Camp" in May on every Saturday & Sunday. They are inviting families to come and see camp, explore the site and familiarize themselves with the camp. It is encouraged to bring a packed lunch and make a day out of it. Here is a link to register for one of these DIY Days:

<https://heartlanducc.doubleknot.com/event/diy-day-at-camp/2792553>.

What about COVID-19?

Our camps are taking the pandemic extremely seriously and have outlined a plan to keep everyone as safe as possible when they are at camp. You can read more about this plan at www.heartlandconference.org/outdoor-ministries.

Who leads the camp?

Each of the camps offered by the Heartland Conference U.C.C. is directed by volunteers who are either pastors or lay leaders in a local congregation. The camps are staffed by young people who have been interviewed and vetted to ensure your child has the best experience possible. All camp volunteers must go through a background check and provide references in order to serve as part of the summer program.

Where will camp be held?

All of our camps are held at Temples Hills Conference & Retreat Center. Temples Hills is located just off of I-71 in the town of Bellville. Temples Hills sits on 225 acres of rolling hills. Here is the contact information for Temples Hills:

Temples Hills Conference & Retreat Center
5734 Durbin Rd. Bellville, OH 44813
1.800.282.0740 ext. 3

How do I communicate with my child while they are at camp?

While your child is at camp they will do their best to discourage and limit contact with home. It's best for them. It's best for you. They will also do their best to limit and contain cell phone use. We encourage you to send your children a letter, an old-fashioned, hand-written letter. Provide them with the things they need to do the same (paper, envelope, stamp, pen). Letters from home with encouragement and questions about the week are the best. Telling your child about all of the things you are doing and they are missing is very counterproductive. We do provide an email address where you can send an email...if you must. These emails are distributed to the campers on a daily basis. #writealetter #emailsandcampdontgottogether

Is space limited to go to camp?

Each camp has a limited number of spots available. In most cases they are able to accommodate any child that wants to go to camp. In some cases, our more popular camps will fill up quickly. We encourage you to make a decision soon and commit to this incredible, life-changing experience.

Is camp handicap accessible?

Temples Hills is not entirely handicap accessible, but efforts are being made to make it more accessible.

How old does my child have to be to go to camp?

We offer camping experiences for children as young as 4 years old as part of our Grandparent/Grandchild camps. We offer camping experiences for children as young as 7 years old to attend camp on their own.

How much does camp cost?

Each camp varies in cost. The average cost for a week of summer camp in the Heartland Conference U.C.C. program is \$485. All payments for camp should go directly to the Heartland Conference U.C.C. There is a \$75 deposit required at the time of registration. All balances must be paid in full by May 15th. If you register for camp after May 15th you will be required to pay in full at the time of the registration.

What is the Avon Lake U.C.C. Camp Incentive Fund?

Our church believes in the value of the camping experience so much that we offer a summer camp incentive fund that will pay ½ of the cost of camp for anyone from our church that wants to go to camp this summer.

How do I register for camp?

To register for camp you must FIRST go to www.heartlanducc.org/outdoor-ministries and register there. Once you have completed this process we ask that you complete the Avon Lake U.C.C. Summer Camp Registration Form at <https://avonlakeucc.breezechms.com/form/summercamp2021>. Our form does NOT officially register you for camp. Please note we are using a brand new registration software. You may not save a registration and come back to it later. You will be asked for emergency contact information and medical information for your child as part of the registration process. Please gather this before you begin. ONLY a custodial parent/guardian can register minor children for camp – not grandparents or others. Adults should also only register themselves. A parent registering their child for grandparents camp should not register their parent (the grandparent) as well.

What is the deadline for registering for camp?

The final deadline to register for camp is two weeks before the start date of a specific camp unless the camp is at maximum capacity.

Why should I send my child to camp?

The better question is why should you not send your child to camp. The reasons for sending your child to camp are countless. Research has shown that camp experiences often increase a child's confidence, self-esteem, social skills, independence, leadership qualities, sense of adventure, and positive connection to nature. Combined with the strong supportive relationships between staff and campers, safety, and opportunities for skill-building and involvement, the camp experience offers a learning environment that contributes to the positive development of your child.

How do I find out who else is going to camp?

Registered campers will be listed in our weekly email and our social media accounts and the specific camp they are attending. You can also contact Nate for more information about who all is going to what camp.

What's next?

Once you sign-up, the next thing to do is start talking to your child about camp and their expectations and helping them understand what this experience will entail. As we get closer to camp we will provide links to resources that are helpful in preparing your child for their time at camp. You will also be responsible for ensuring that all balances are paid in full before the start of camp.

Are there scholarships available?

Yes. The last reason a child should not go to camp is cost. We have scholarships available through our church and through the Heartland Conference to ensure every child that wants to go to camp...can go to camp. Please note these funds are available IN ADDITION to the Avon Lake U.C.C. Camp Incentive Fund.

Can I carpool to camp?

Normally I would say...yes. It's good for the kids going, it's easier on the parents and it's better for the environment. Carpools are awesome. BUT...in hopes of preventing an outbreak at camp, transportation to and from camp should be limited to immediate family members in the same vehicle.

Who do I contact if I have other questions not on this sheet?

We have strived to answer the most frequently asked questions on this sheet, but we recognize there could be and will be others. Please don't hesitate to contact Nate for more information:

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