



# Camp Bethel Rental Agreement (revised 09.01.2019)

Rules for acceptance and participation in Camp Bethel events are the same for everyone regardless of age, race, color, national origin, gender, or disability.

This Agreement contains requirements and recommendations to enable your group to have a safe and enjoyable stay while visiting Camp Bethel. These guidelines are in accordance with the American Camp Association's standards for camps and conference centers and the policies set forth by Camp Bethel's governing Outdoor Ministries Committee. Your signature on the Event Reservation Form indicates that you have read this Agreement, that you accept the terms of this Agreement, and that you agree to abide by and enforce the rules, policies, and guidelines in this Agreement.

## CONTENTS:

- |                                   |   |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Introduction                   | 9. Leadership and Supervision                               | 15. Pool Rules                             |
| 2. Camp Bethel Rules and Policies | 10. Ten Steps for a Successful Retreat                      | 16. Waterfront Rules                       |
| 3. Camp Rules to Teach Children   | 11. What to Expect from Us                                  | 17. What You Can Do While You're Here      |
| 4. Reservation, Deposit & Billing | 12. What We Expect from You                                 | 18. Environmental Guidelines and Practices |
| 5. Cancellation                   | 13. Guidelines for Groups Using Camp Bethel's Food Services | 19. Common Sense Courtesies                |
| 6. Indemnification                | 14. Guidelines for Groups Providing Their Own Food Services |  |
| 7. What to Bring                  |   |  |
| 8. Health and Safety              |   |  |

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

*TOGETHER: with God, with each other, with creation.* When we live TOGETHER in intentional community, (even for only a short time), we gain person-to-person skills to benefit our homes, schools, churches, communities, nation, and world. Camp Bethel is the outdoor ministry (Summer Camp & Conference Center) of the Virginia District Church of the Brethren that exists to foster and build relationships with God, with each other, and with all of God's creation, TOGETHER. We live this ministry through our summer camps, our services, and availability of our facilities to everyone.

Founded in 1927, Camp Bethel is "sacred ground" for thousands of persons who find sanctuary in these 470 beautiful, peaceful acres. Our primary mission is as a Christian Summer Camp, so our lodging and bathing facilities are rustic and simple. Take comfort in simplicity and bring a spirit of self-sufficiency for your stay, (read #7 "What To Bring"). With this in mind, we welcome your use of our site and facilities for your event. You and your group must abide by this Agreement and the camp's policies and guidelines. *We hope you enjoy your time and experiences TOGETHER at Camp Bethel.*

## 2. CAMP BETHEL RULES AND POLICIES:

These rules and policies will ensure the comfort, safety, and proper peaceful environment of all our guests. Camp Bethel reserves the right to dismiss any guest or to notify law enforcement regarding any disturbance or noncompliance with stated policies. Help monitor camp while you are here to ensure the safety of all guests, especially children.

1. No smoking, e-cigs or vaping. No tobacco, no nicotine, no alcohol, no drugs, no obscene language.
2. You MUST supervise children/teens at all times in all areas and facilities including meal times in the Dining Hall. You are responsible for the behavior, safety and first aid of your children/teens and your group members.
3. Do not enter buildings that you have not reserved. Only the buildings, equipment and areas you have reserved are available and accessible to you. The Ark Dining Hall and the Ark Conference Room (and all amenities within) are only available to guests who have purchased/reserved meals in advance. The House of Pillars Conference Room and its bathrooms are only available to guests who have reserved it.
4. No pets, NO DOGS, and no animals. Leave your pets at home or in someone else's care. The only exception is for you to secure written individual permission by contacting the Camp Bethel office, and then you must bring accompanying proof of dog/animal vaccinations with your individual written permission. If pre-approved by our office, then you must keep dogs/animals outside of our facilities, and on a leash or in a pet crate and kept quiet for courtesy. Aggressive or loud animals are not permitted.
5. No weapons, hunting, ammunition, target shooting, BB or pellet shooting, paint-ball, fireworks or explosives.
6. Vehicles: Speed limit is 5 mph. Park in designated areas; avoid parking in grass where possible. Once on site, park your car and walk to and from your areas of use, unless providing mobility for the disabled. Vehicles yield to pedestrians and cyclists, and cyclists yield to pedestrians. Pedestrians have the right of way everywhere. Turn off your car radio/stereo when on camp. Do not transport your participants anywhere on or off camp property in non-passenger vehicles or in the bed of trucks. Wear seat-belts in moving vehicles.
7. Cyclists must wear bike helmets. Bikes yield to pedestrians; be wary of vehicles. No biking after dark w/out lighting.
8. No motorized bikes, scooters, ATVs, go-carts, etc. Motorcyclists driving to camp must follow rules for vehicles.
9. For insurance purposes, horses are not allowed on camp without the prior approval of the Director.
10. Keep out of posted or "Staff Only" areas and buildings, including the Heifer shed and paddock and electric fenced grazing areas: You may feed animals grass through the fence.
11. Trash: Place all trash in the dumpster beside the Retreat Center. Thank you.
12. Quiet hours & Gym CLOSED 10:00pm-7:30am. Music (unless live/singing) should be inaudible to other guests.

13. To avoid foot injury, wear shoes at all times (except in bed, in shower, in pool). Flip flops are discouraged.
14. To avoid injury or damage to camp property and facilities, do not throw anything, except during outdoor games. Do not play throwing games near or inside buildings (other than the Gym), and no rough or dangerous play or activities.
15. You should bring your own First Aid Kit, but just in case, a First Aid Kit is on the office porch. An A.E.D. is in the Ark Dining Room. In a life-threatening emergency, call 9-1-1.
16. No swimming or wading in ponds. We maintain our ponds and streams specifically for natural and aquatic life. Be aware of the sensitive pond and creek wildlife habitat, and be aware of the likely presence of snakes and bees.
17. Fishing is by permission only in the Ark Pond or Quarry Pond, and only on catch-and-release using barbless hooks.
18. Keep wheelchairs and strollers back from ponds or pool, lock brakes, and prevent accidental rolling into the water.
19. Leave facilities, furniture, equipment and areas of use orderly, clean, and free of food-waste. Please transport your trash to our dumpster above the Ark Parking Lot.
20. Extra paper supplies, trashcan liners, cleaning supplies, plungers and brooms can be found in closets and cabinets. Please be as self-sufficient as possible during your stay; thank you for helping us by helping yourselves.
21. Follow the Camp Bethel "Environmental Guidelines and Practices" as detailed in this packet.
22. Follow the Camp Bethel "Common Sense Courtesies" as detailed in this packet.
23. See rules and guidelines for Pool use and Waterfront activities as detailed in this packet.

### 3. CAMP RULES TO TEACH CHILDREN AND TEENS IN YOUR GROUP:

1. Wear shoes always (except bed, shower, pool).
2. Do not throw or kick anything.
3. Walk (don't run) on paths, pavement and gravel.
4. No rough play.
5. Stay with your adult leaders.
6. Obey your adult leaders.

### 4. RESERVATION, DEPOSIT, BILLING, & RATES:

- a. **Reservation:** Your reservation is not complete without a specific minimum deposit, your signed "Event Reservation Form," and your completed "Special Requests Form," all returned within 30 days (or the date shown). The minimum deposit counts toward your total bill. We will hold your tentative reservation for 30 days. If your signed "Event Reservation Form" and minimum deposit are not returned within 30 days or the date specified on your Form, your reservation will be cancelled.
- b. **Minimum Deposits:** (See our Rates for details.) We will calculate your minimum deposit for your event. For lodging, your minimum deposit is the minimum fee per night per facility. For conference rooms and picnic shelters, your minimum deposit is the fee per room per day. For rented equipment, your minimum deposit is the fee per item. For pool and programming, your minimum deposit is the fee per hour. For meals, your minimum deposit is 50% of the fees for your reserved meals. See our Rates for deposits on other services and equipment rentals. No RV or Tenting deposit necessary, but you must call or email ahead to reserve individual RV and Tent camping.
- c. **Billing:** Settlement for any remaining fees (balance due) will be completed after your event is complete. When you arrive at camp, we will give you a form titled, "Your Event Data Form." Before you leave camp, return the completed "Your Event Data Form" to the office porch bulletin board. After your event, if there are any questions regarding your numbers, our Guest Services Coordinator will call you 1 or 2 days after the conclusion of your event. For meals, you will be billed for your reserved number of persons or your actual number of persons, whichever is larger. Your final bill (invoiced after your event) will be subject to the rates and fees in use by Camp Bethel during the year of your event. We will bill you via post-mail (or email) for any remaining fees due. You are responsible for damages to camp property or facilities.
- d. **Rates** are subject to yearly increases on September 1. Your invoice for lodging and rentals will reflect the rates of the year (Sept 1-Aug 31) in which you pay your reservation deposit. Your invoice for meals and programming will reflect the rates of the year (Sept 1-Aug 31) in which you hold your event.
- e. Provide us with **updates** to your projected attendance, meal count or Special Requests ASAP and no later than 14 days prior to your arrival. If you are requesting meal service, you must provide your final count no later than 14 days prior to your arrival. For meals, you will be billed for this reserved number of persons or your actual number of persons, whichever is larger. Your reservation is not complete without your minimum deposit and your signed "Event Reservation Form."

### 5. CANCELLATION:

If Camp Bethel cancels the Agreement for any reason, User shall be entitled to a full refund of any deposits paid, or User may apply deposits to reschedule their Event within the calendar year. If User cancels the Agreement more than 90 days prior to the scheduled event, User shall be entitled to a full refund of all deposits paid **minus a \$25 processing fee**. If User cancels the Agreement less than 90 days prior to the scheduled event, the minimum deposit is non-refundable because Camp Bethel has reserved the facility for User up to that time, and it is not likely that Camp Bethel will be able to rent the facility to another group after that time.

**Emergency Cancellation:** In the case of cancellation due to direction of civil authority or government-declared state of emergency, User may request a full refund of all deposits paid, or User may apply deposits to reschedule their Event within the calendar year. Otherwise, Camp Bethel is obliged to be open and ready for User's event in any kind of weather.

### 6. INDEMNIFICATION:

To the fullest extent permissible by law, each party agrees to save and hold harmless the other, including its owners, employees, trustees, agents or officers from and against any claim, suit, cause of action settlement or judgment brought against it by any party arising out of the indemnifying party's breach of its duty of reasonable care or intentional act arising out of the subject matter of this Agreement, including attorney's fees and other costs of suit.

## 7. WHAT TO BRING:

Remember: Camp Bethel is a primarily a non-profit church summer camp; not a luxury hotel. We recommend packing lightly and minimally so that you are not bogged-down or distracted from the goals of your event. Find comfort in simplicity.

- Camp Bethel does not provide linens, so bring linens for overnight guests including bedding, towel and washcloth.
- Bring sleeping bag or blankets/sheets (for overnight guests) appropriate for bunk use, and a pillow.
- Extension cords and chargers you may need for your event equipment. We recommend bringing your own A.V. equipment.
- Flashlight for overnight guests: Camp Bethel supports dark night skies (darksky.org). Our site is not over-lit by street lights, so if your event involves night walking you need a flashlight. Bring star-charts to enjoy our view of the universe!
- Clothing/shoes appropriate for the weather: Please enjoy the camp's natural setting. If you are able, please walk (not drive) to and from your areas of use. Check upcoming weather reports for Buchanan, VA, and bring rain gear.
- First Aid Kit(s): Bring one or more well-supplied kits or your group.
- Supplies for your event, including copies of handouts, tape, markers, signs, etc. Use tape/tacks only in designated areas; do not deface walls or doors.
- Wheelchair for anyone for whom walking is difficult.
- Bicycles are welcome and encouraged on our roads, paths, and trails. Cyclists must wear helmets.
- Recreational equipment: If your event is depending on good, reliable equipment, you should bring your own.
- All your personal items including soap, shampoo, toothbrush, etc.
- Cell phone and charger if you are expecting calls, and for emergency use. Land lines are not available at Camp Bethel.

## 8. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

- a. You are responsible for your own First-Aid. Camp Bethel does not provide on-site medical care. Provide one or more adequately supplied First-Aid kits for your group.
- b. You must provide adequate adult supervision of children and teens at all times. You are responsible for the safety and behavior of your children and participants. Your adult leadership must supervise the group at all times.
- c. Provide at least one adult (age 21+) who is currently certified in CPR and First-Aid.
- d. Provide an operational vehicle with enough fuel to reach Roanoke (25 miles) in case of emergency.
- e. Provide a cell phone (and charger) for receiving or making emergency calls. Local EMS knows our location.
- f. Collect from your group, bring, and have available a list of participants that includes their names and addresses, emergency contact names and numbers, all known allergies or health conditions, and any restrictions or special needs requiring accommodation during your event.
- g. For each participant under the age of 18 and not accompanied by their parent or guardian, bring a signed form (or religious waiver) granting permission to participate and to seek emergency treatment if necessary.
- h. In case of accidents or injuries occurring at Camp Bethel, you must notify the host or on-site camp staff if: an injury directly resulted from camp property or facilities; camp property or facilities were damaged in the incident; or when local emergency services are called to Camp Bethel.

## 9. LEADERSHIP AND SUPERVISION:

- a. You must provide adequate adult supervision of children and teens at all times during your event. You are responsible for the safety and behavior of your participants. Adults must supervise the group at all times in all areas.
- b. Provide the following adult to child ratios by age group: children 4-5 years old = 1:5; 6-8 years old = 1:6; 9-14 years old = 1:8; 15-18 years old = 1:10. An adult is a responsible person at least 21 years old.
- c. In order to provide adult supervision, an adult should bunk in rooms/cabins with persons 17 and under unless special permission is given otherwise.
- d. The person in charge, as indicated on the "Event Reservation Form," will be responsible for informing the group of camp rules, ensuring that facilities and equipment are cared for, and that all rules and policies are enforced.
- e. We strongly recommend performing comprehensive background checks for all your leadership who will have responsibility for or access to children and teens during your event. For a fee and through an outside service with 8 days advanced notice, Camp Bethel can perform a comprehensive background search for your leadership with their signed permission.

## 10. TEN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PLANNING A SUCCESSFUL RETREAT:

- ONE: Start planning early. Reserve facilities and dates as far in advance as possible to secure your first choice of dates. Involve some of your participants in the planning process. Camp Bethel reserves up to two years in advance.
- TWO: Identify your purpose and goals for your event. What do you hope participants gain by attending the event?
- THREE: Budget carefully and honestly. Base per-person fees on your total expected costs; add 10% for unexpected expenses, and add another 10-25% as deposit funds for the next retreat.
- FOUR: Collect participant fees in advance to help ensure their presence AND to ensure your expenses are covered. Develop a policy about refunds and cancellations based upon Camp Bethel's policies.
- FIVE: Know what to expect at Camp Bethel. Read all our information. If possible, visit Camp Bethel early with your planning team to see your requested facilities.
- SIX: Plan activities and resources. Fit the retreat purpose and activities to the needs, skills and limitations of participants. Utilize available activity and program options at Camp Bethel and reserve accordingly. Also, plan appropriate interaction with Camp Bethel's vast and beautiful 470 acres of trails, forests and streams.

- SEVEN: Promote your event directly and individually to possible participants well in advance. Prepare written information, and involve your planning team in making personal invitations.
- EIGHT: Creativity and confidence: There will likely be surprises during your retreat, so plan to be flexible while keeping sight of your goals. Be creative but maintain some traditions which are meaningful to participants. Also, don't cancel due to low numbers: proceed and give everyone a great time. Their enthusiasm will ensure success next time.
- NINE: Evaluate and adapt: Prepare an evaluation process. Were goals met? What was especially meaningful? What could be done better?
- TEN: Your next retreat: Start planning your next retreat now and reserve space at Camp Bethel as soon as possible and at least one year in advance. We allow reserving up to three years in advance with a minimum deposit.

## 11. WHAT TO EXPECT FROM US

- a. Please make all arrangements and special requests prior to your arrival. Be as self-sufficient as possible. We trust that you chose to have your event at camp because you are self-reliant, you enjoy the outdoors, and you tend to be a "do-it-yourself" group. Even so, let us know how we can help to make your event successful.
- b. If you arrive before 5:00pm Monday through Friday, stop in at our office and meet us. If it is after 5:00pm or Saturday or Sunday, a welcome packet can be found in your reserved facility with "Your Event Data Form" and contact information for your on-duty Staff/Volunteer Host.
- c. Each facility you have reserved will be unlocked, AND there should be a welcome sign on the door of each facility you have reserved. If you are unsure how to locate your facility, refer to the enclosed site map of Camp Bethel or check the map at our entrance kiosk. We will have a directional sign board at our entrance kiosk pointing your way. You are welcome and encouraged to post other signs to direct your group throughout camp.
- d. A Camp Bethel Staff-or-Volunteer Host will be on call and available to you by phone during your event, and their phone number will be printed on "Your Event Data Form" and on your facility "Welcome" signs.
- e. Unless we have direction of cancellation by civil authority or a government-declared "state of emergency," Camp Bethel is open and ready for your event in any kind of weather. In the case of lasting power outage, we will discuss options with you.
- f. During cold weather, our facilities have heat. Thermostats are easily operable; (please do not over-heat your facilities). In facilities with a fireplace, you are welcome to have a fire, (be sure the flue is open; collect your own kindling outside; do not burn anything except wood and paper). Our firewood-for-indoors supply is located behind the Maintenance Shop/Yard (refer to map). The shed at Maintenance Yard entrance labeled "Campfire Firewood" is for outdoor campfires only: it is pine wood.
- g. Unless otherwise noted, our bedding is bunk-beds with mattresses. Bring your own linens. We supply toilet paper, paper towels, and hand soap. Bring your own toiletries and personal items (soap, shampoo, etc.).
- h. You will find your requested/reserved furniture and/or AV equipment in your facility as you have indicated on your "Special Request Form." Arrange your furniture however you like without damaging carpet/floor or interior. Replace all furniture to the location in which you found it before you depart.
- i. We recommend that you arrive early to arrange your room(s) and furniture prior to your group's arrival. We typically do not set up tables and chairs for groups in advance so that YOU can arrange them how you need them to be.
- j. Facilities with kitchenettes have a small refrigerator, microwave, two-burner stove-top, a sink and small countertop.
- k. Unless another guest group has paid for exclusive use of the Deer Field Gym, you are welcome to request shared Gym use. We recommend bringing your own basketball or recreation equipment. Be sure to ask our Guest Services Coordinator whether the Gym is available for your shared use.
- l. Our Guest Services Coordinator will call you within one or two days of the conclusion of your event to confirm your number of persons who attended your event as indicated on "Your Event Data Form." For meals, you will be billed for your reserved number of persons (provided at least 14 days in advance) or your actual number of persons, whichever is larger. Your final bill (invoiced after your event) will be subject to the rates and fees in use by Camp Bethel during the year of your event. We will bill you via post-mail for any remaining fees due. You are responsible for damage done to camp property or facilities.
- m. Camp Bethel adheres to over 300 health, safety and operational standards. We hope you enjoy your time here!

## 12. WHAT WE EXPECT FROM YOU

- a. We expect that you have read this Agreement and the enclosed packet of information, that you accept the terms of this Agreement, that you have communicated this information to others in your group, and that you and all in your group agree to abide by and enforce the rules and guidelines in this Agreement, including: the Camp Bethel Rules and Policies; the Camp Bethel Environmental Guidelines and Practices; and the Camp Bethel Common Sense Courtesies.
- b. We expect that you will inform us of your equipment and furniture requests through your Special Requests Form, and that you will arrange your room's furniture the way you want it upon your group's arrival.
- c. FIRST AID: Provide a first aid kit and at least one adult who is currently certified in CPR and First-Aid.
- d. EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION: Provide an operational vehicle with enough fuel to reach Roanoke (25 miles) in case of emergency.
- e. INSURANCE: Each person in your group should have their own personal/family insurance coverage OR your group should provide group/institutional coverage. If your group provides group/institutional coverage, send evidence of the insurance company and policy number with your signed "Event Reservation Form," (digital copy will suffice). If we do not receive evidence of your group/institutional insurance, we expect each person in your group to have personal/family coverage. Camp Bethel only provides limited liability coverage for guests, and we do not provide liability coverage for your personal equipment.
- f. PHONES: Do not plan to receive incoming calls during your event UNLESS YOU HAVE PERSONAL CELL PHONES. If persons in your group expect emergency calls during your event, please provide all persons in your group with your cell phone number. Land line phones are not available at Camp Bethel.

- g. CLEAN-UP: Upon leaving, your facilities should be swept/vacuumed and left clean and orderly. If food waste is in trash containers, please tie the bag and take all trash to our dumpster, located above the Ark parking lot (beside the Retreat Center). Return camp equipment to designated areas. Report any emergencies or breakage to on-site camp staff or hosts, or write damages on the "Your Event Data Form." You are responsible for damage done to camp property/facilities, including stains or special/extreme cleaning needed after you leave camp.
- h. LINENS: You must bring your own linens: sheets, pillows, pillowcases, blankets, towels, washcloths, etc.
- i. LOST AND FOUND: You should check all your facilities thoroughly before leaving and take any lost and found items with you. Persons leaving items must return to get them during camp office hours (M-F, 9-5) or pay for COD charges plus a \$5 service charge to have them mailed. We keep lost items in our Lost & Found box for one month.

### **13. GUIDELINES FOR GROUPS USING CAMP BETHEL'S FOOD SERVICES:**

- a. If you are requesting meal service, you must provide your final count no later than 14 days prior to your arrival. We need this information 14 days in advance so that we can order the correct amount of food and properly scheduled staff help. For meals, you will be billed for this reserved number of persons or your actual number of persons, whichever is larger. Minimum deposit for meals is 50% of the fees for your reserved meals. We cannot provide meals for groups less than 16 persons, unless we are serving meals to other guests or unless you are willing to pay for 16 persons. Often, this minimum of 16 persons can be met by other guests requesting meals. Call us for details.
- b. Meal times are 8:00am, 12:30pm, and 5:30pm unless otherwise arranged with our Food Services Coordinator.
- c. Expect other guest groups to be present at meals. Enjoy the shared fellowship at Camp Bethel!
- d. For more on Food Services, see [www.CampBethelVirginia.org/food](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/food) and "Rates" information pages.

### **14. GUIDELINES FOR GROUPS PROVIDING THEIR OWN FOOD SERVICES:**

- a. If you are not scheduling Camp Bethel to provide your meals, you must provide your own food, seasonings, paper products, utensils, dishware, cups, cookware and cleaning/sanitizing supplies. Facilities on camp with kitchens or kitchenettes have limited cooking/eating supplies. Bring enough plates, cups, utensils and supplies for your group. We encourage you to avoid using disposable products; all facilities with kitchens have sinks for washing dishes.
- b. All potentially hazardous foods (i.e. dairy, eggs, meat, poultry, fish, seafood, some veggies) should be stored at temperatures of 40 degrees F or below. Camp Bethel provides thermometers for all refrigerator units. We suggest you check the temperature of the refrigerator unit regularly during your stay and contact your on-call staff host immediately should the temperature exceed 40 degrees F.
- c. Minimize the time potentially hazardous foods remain in the danger zone (40-140 degrees F). Hold hot foods to a minimum of 140 F by keeping them warm and/or monitoring the temperature.
- d. Use only clean, sanitized utensils and equipment for cooking and serving of food. All food contact surfaces (including countertops, cutting boards and knives that contact raw food) should be cleaned and sanitized with a 1:10 bleach-to-water solution before and after each use. *See required dishwashing in "e." below.*
- e. Dishwashing: Before AND after each use, dishes and food service utensils should be washed, rinsed and sanitized. Wash and initial rinse temperature must be at least 100 F, and a second rinse using chemical sanitizer (1:10 bleach-to-water solution is recommended) then water rinse is required. Dishes and utensils must be air dried and put away in their designated places so they are protected from dust and contamination between uses.
- f. Garbage containers are available in each kitchen and dining facility. Keep containers covered when not in use to prevent the spread of disease. When eating meals outdoors groups are responsible for bagging their trash and placing it in dumpster above the Ark parking lot. Garbage bags can be found with cleaning supplies in closets or cabinets of each facility.

### **15. POOL RULES:**

With advance reservation, our pool is available for groups Memorial Day to Labor Day. Pool rules are posted at the pool gate, and:

- a. No entry without a Camp Bethel lifeguard on duty. Our lifeguards are certified by the American Red Cross and are thus certified in Lifeguarding, First Aid, and CPR w/ AED. No children under 12 admitted without an adult.
- b. Keep wheelchairs/strollers back from water, lock brakes, monitor to prevent accidental rolling into the water.
- c. Please rinse off in the Pool Bathhouse before entering the pool.
- d. Camp Bethel lifeguards will instruct each guest group on the pool rules.

### **16. WATERFRONT RULES**

- a. No swimming or wading in ponds. Our ponds and streams are maintained specifically for natural and aquatic life.
- b. Fishing is permitted only in the Ark Pond and Quarry Pond, and only on a catch-and-release basis using barbless hooks.
- c. Keep wheelchairs/strollers back from water, lock brakes, monitor to prevent accidental rolling into the water.
- d. Use care and caution near our ponds, streams and creeks. Remember, do not throw or kick anything anywhere on camp. Be aware of the sensitive pond, stream and creek wildlife habitat. Also be aware of the likely presence of snakes and bees.

### **17. WHAT YOU CAN DO WHILE YOU'RE HERE**

- a. SPORTS: Unless being exclusively rented by another guest group, the Deer Field Gym is open for your use for basketball, volleyball, four-square, or indoor group games. Pick any unused field for group games, soccer, ultimate Frisbee or softball. If your event is depending on reliable recreation equipment, you should bring your own. Be sure to ask our Guest Services Coordinator whether the Gym is available for your shared use.
- b. GaGa, 9-Square & 4-Square courts at Ark Lawn and Pool Lawn. Playground is for children with adult supervision.

- c. CAMP'S TRADING POST sells Camp Bethel shirts, blankets, bottles, and more. Contact us to schedule a Trading Post visit.
- d. HORSESHOES beside the Cave Trail Picnic Shelter and the Shelter-by-the-Spring.
- e. FISHING: Catch-and-release fishing in the Ark Pond and Quarry Pond; no fishing in the Spring Pond.
- f. HIKING: See our trail map for our network of trails and destinations. Also, continue up Bethel Road, along the forest service road, into the National Forest, up along and through Horseshoe Bend, to Black Horse Gap and access to the Appalachian Trail and the Blue Ridge Parkway, (Camp is a 3 mile hike to the Appalachian Trail).
- g. BIKING: Bring your own bikes and helmets for biking along our roads, paths, and trails (pedestrians have the right-of-way). The forest service roads above our property are good for mountain biking. For excellent road biking, Camp Bethel rests along route 76, the TransAmerica Bike Trail, which runs from Yorktown, VA to Oregon.
- h. SWIMMING: Call ahead to reserve pool use.
- i. NATURE: Our 470 acres are rich with indigenous plants and animals, and we border your Jefferson National Forest. Bring your binoculars and camera and plan to enjoy peaceful interaction with God's creative Earth.
- j. HIGH ROPES COURSE, CLIMBING WALL, GROUP GAMES & INITIATIVES, WAGON RIDE, ETC: Check our Rates Sheet and Special Request Form for prices on programming options led by our staff. These must be reserved in advance.
- k. SERVICE PROJECTS: Call ahead to discuss and arrange a service project. Projects are available for all ages and skill levels. We are open to bartering: lower fees in exchange for scheduled work projects.

## 18. ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINES AND PRACTICES

Camp Bethel consciously practices and models stewardship of God's creative Earth. As we gain better understanding of environmental issues, sustainable living, and renewable energies, so too will our guidelines and practices adapt.

### Environmental Guidelines:

- a. HELP CONSERVE ENERGY: Turn off lights, turn down heat, and turn off faucets, fans and electrical appliances when not in use and when you leave. Do not prop doors open in winter and keep thermostats as low as is comfortable. Do not overheat rooms. Upon leaving, close and lock all windows and doors.
- b. HELP CONSERVE RESOURCES: Please plan to bring and use washable cookware, plates, cups, tableware, and clean-up supplies. Most facilities have sinks. Use paper or disposable plastic products minimally, and try to buy only those made with recycled materials. Be sure water faucets are off when not in use. Our dumpster are only for camp operations and our guests.
- c. HELP TO "LEAVE NO TRACE:" Please do not litter, and help pick up after others who are not as responsible. Small campfires are allowed in established fire circles only. Firewood for campfires is available at the wood shed the entrance to the Maintenance Yard. (Do not use wood from this shed for indoor fires: see section 11-f.) Do not cut standing trees, and do not cut/break limbs off standing trees, even if believed to be dead. Collect kindling in the woods off of downed branches. Tent camp or RV camp only in designated areas unless you get approval from the Camp Bethel Office. Park/drive in designated areas only. Hike/walk on trails only; tread gently. Leave wildlife alone except for photos. Do not pick wildflowers. Please *"Take only photos and memories; Leave only footprints; Kill nothing but time."*

### Environmental Practices:

- a. WE WORK TO CONSERVE ENERGY: We do not over-light our grounds or over-heat our facilities, especially unoccupied facilities. In the coming months and years, Camp Bethel will incorporate more use of sustainable energies. You may notice compact fluorescent bulbs, water-wheels, hydro-electric turbines, solar panels, and other energy innovations. As we reduce our energy expenses we can pass these savings on to our guests with low prices and better services.
- b. WE WORK TO CONSERVE RESOURCES: We recycle aluminum, tin, cardboard, mixed paper and plastics 1 & 2. Our recycling station is located beside our Ark Dining Hall, beside the exterior freezers. Please rinse, clean and sort all recyclables. We appreciate your help in transporting our recyclables into town. We purchase paper products (office, kitchen and bath) which contain recycled materials. We try to avoid using disposable plastics, and we typically use washable plates, cups, tableware and cleaning cloths.
- c. WE WORK TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE WILDLIFE HABITAT and WE WORK TO "LEAVE NO TRACE:" Some fields, areas and pond banks are purposely not mowed so as to enhance wildlife habitat. We currently do not harvest any trees except dead, hazard and fallen trees. We do not use outdoor poisons for weed or insect control. There is no hunting at Camp Bethel except seasonal managed bow-hunting by permission only. Our programs (summer camp, adventure outfitting, and outdoor education) practice and teach "Leave No Trace" guidelines.

## 19. COMMON SENSE COURTESIES

- a. Extra paper supplies, trashcan liners, cleaning supplies, plungers and brooms can be found in closets and cabinets. Please be as self-sufficient as possible during your stay; thank you for helping us by helping yourselves.
- b. A limited amount of ice is available for you at \$2/bag from the Ark Kitchen when our staff are present in the Ark.
- c. For their safety, supervise minors at all times. Helmets required for biking.
- d. Noise & quiet Hours: Keep your noise level low. Music (unless live or group singing) should be inaudible to other users. Quiet hours are generally from 10:00pm through 7:30am, and the Gym is CLOSED 10:00pm-7:30am.
- e. Limit your vehicle traffic and use. Speed limit is 5 mph. Pedestrians and cyclists always have the right-of-way.
- f. Only the buildings, equipment and areas you have reserved are available and accessible to you.
- g. Remember: Camp Bethel is "sacred ground," and we are a Christian camp open to all persons. It has been said, *"God walks these hills and valleys."* We invite you to come and walk with God at Camp Bethel.