Welcome to Camp Christopher, a Place to Grow in Nature, Community, and Spirit! To make your Family Camp stay with us as pleasant as possible, we provide this information packet to answer some of your questions and explain our policies and procedures. Please read this entire packet, as some things have changed since your last visit to Camp Christopher.

Prior to Camping
In preparation for your visit, we will need some information prior to arrival at Camp Christopher. Please remember that a complete Cabin Roster is due 30 days prior to your session date. Final cabin and camper balances are due two weeks prior to your session date. Please contact us as soon as possible if you will have difficulty meeting these deadlines.

If you have additional space in your cabin that you would like to fill, our office does maintain a list of families who are interested in sharing cabins. Please contact us to complete a Cabin Sharing Form and to access information about other families who may also be looking to share space.

Upon arrival at Camp Christopher, you will find an Itinerary in your cabin with a schedule of events including times and locations. Reminders as well as any changes in schedules will be announced during meals at the St. Francis Dining Hall.

Arrival

1. **Your check in time is 2:00 pm.** Check in will take place in the Happiness Pavilion (in the event of rain, the check in will take place at McDowell Hall). All members of the party must check-in at this station.
2. For reasons of safety and security, each camper will be given a bracelet at registration to wear throughout the week. Please wear this bracelet at all times so that our staff can identify you as a registered camper. Bracelets cannot be transferred among individuals.
3. Our camp staff is available to assist you as you move into your cabin.
4. Our camp road was not intended for heavy travel. For your convenience, we make an exception from our standard practice and allow family campers to unload their vehicles. After unloading, we ask that you park your vehicle in the lot at the entrance of camp throughout the week.
5. Family Camp Orientation will be held all on the first day of camp at the time and location stated in the Itinerary. Please be prompt as we provide everyone with important information about the program and the schedule during this meeting.

Accommodations

6. We maintain simplicity in our rustic cabins. Each cabin provides bunks with mattresses and limited storage space for luggage. You must bring your own pillows, blankets, sleeping bags, sheets and towels, as well as clothing and personal items. A packing list is available for your reference.
7. Most cabins are heated, but there is no air conditioning in the cabins.
8. Cabins have limited electricity. In most cabins, there is one outlet in the smallest section of the cabin which cabin mates will need to share. No air conditioners or refrigerators are permitted. No space heaters of any kind are permitted.

9. Our full service kitchen provides three meals daily. We serve breakfast, lunch and supper. Refreshments and snacks are also available. Grace is said before each meal with song time occurring at least once each day. Please contact the office to communicate special dietary needs in advance of your stay.

10. Our kitchen is inspected and licensed by the Health Department and only employees are permitted inside. For purposes of sanitation, we ask that you refrain from entering the kitchen without express permission from the Food Service Manager or the Program Directors.

11. Campers may bring food and beverages to camp. We recommend that all food is kept in airtight coolers secure from animals. Campers must secure alcohol (inside of their cabin) and out of reach of minors. The use or possession of alcohol by those under the age of 21 is prohibited at Camp. The use or possession of illegal drugs is strictly prohibited at Camp. Anyone abusing or not following the above policy will be asked to leave.

12. The PX or Camp Store hours are provided in your Itinerary. Candy, ice cream, t-shirts and novelties are available in the camp store. Ice may be available at the dining hall upon request. In the event that you need to leave the grounds for supplies, camp employees can direct you to a convenient store for your purchase.

13. Campers may hold community campfires during the evenings at the fire rings in each settlement where wood has been provided. An adult must be present at all times that a fire is burning. Groups must have a sufficient supply of water at the campfire to extinguish the flames completely.

14. Age Group Activities:
   a. Your Itinerary outlines the activities offered for each age group as well as meeting times and locations. Please respect the age group designations and drop your campers off and pick him or her up at the meeting space that corresponds to your camper’s age.
   b. In an effort to comply with the Diocesan policies on safety, young adults (over 17 years of age) are not permitted to attend the teen age group. At the end of the late night program activity, counselors will return campers to their cabins for the night at which time parents are responsible for the camper’s supervision.
   c. Persons 18 and older are considered adults and are permitted to attend all adult activities. Persons under 21 years of age may not consume alcohol at these events.
   d. During times when a child is not in attendance at a scheduled Age Group Activity, parents must provide supervision to their children. Parents may not leave the premises while their child/children remain on the grounds without making prior arrangements with the Camp Director for appropriate supervision.

15. During the summer (June through August), the beach at Lake Marion is open and swimming is permitted according to the schedule in the Itinerary. Campers may only swim when a lifeguard is on duty. Children will be tested and allowed to swim and boat only in the sections permitted by the lifeguard on duty. Parents must supervise their children at the beach and while swimming or boating. In the event that you cannot find your child, please NOTIFY A LIFEGUARD IMMEDIATELY in order to allow them to implement appropriate emergency protocols.

16. Canoes and kayaks are available for use at the beach during summer months. Everyone taking out a boat must have a life jacket (including adults). Campers may only use the canoes and kayaks independently while the lifeguards are on duty, and must notify a lifeguard before boarding.

17. Fishing is permitted in our four lakes. Bread for bait is available at the kitchen upon request. You may request equipment such as poles or line if needed. Fishing is prohibited from the swimming docks and fishing poles should not be brought into the beach area at any time. Parents must provide adequate supervision to campers while fishing.

18. Between the months of September through May, campers may not walk on the docks or enter any body of water without the express permission of the Camp Director. WALKING OR FISHING ON THE ICE IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.
19. Athletic equipment (basketballs, volleyballs, footballs, softballs, etc.) is available in the shed at the courts. Please ask a staff member for assistance locating these items.

20. The Craft Shop will offer activities at the times and locations stated in your Itinerary. The Craft Shop Supervisor will facilitate activities for the day. A schedule projects will be identified in the Itinerary. **Please do not enter the interior craft shop.**

21. During summer sessions, the Stables will offer horseback riding to campers in the mornings during their scheduled age groups. In addition to that, there will be a sign up sheet available in the dining hall for families to sign up to ride together in the afternoons. Please select one session initially so that everyone has a chance to ride during the week. Any open riding appointments will be announced daily at which time you may schedule additional riding if it is available.

22. The Celebration of the Mass is offered at Family Camp (based on the availability of priests) and is an integral part of our program and our Camp. The schedule for mass will be announced at Orientation.

**Safety**

23. SAFETY is, by far, the number one priority at Camp. Please help us to keep everyone safe by observing these practices:
   a. Always wear shoes!
   b. Campers should always use the buddy system and no child is permitted near the cliffs, woods, lakes, dams or boating and swimming area without supervision.
   c. Campers may not be on or near the Ropes/Challenge Course unless they are authorized and accompanied by a staff member certified to provide instruction.
   d. No pets or animals are permitted on the grounds of Camp Christopher.
   e. No weapons, firearms or fireworks are permitted on the grounds.
   f. Bicycles, skateboards and scooters are not permitted on the grounds.
   g. The terrain at Camp Christopher can be dangerous. Storm damage and erosion has resulted in changes to the topography and paths may no longer be safe. Therefore, **campers may not hike independently throughout the woods or cliffs. Guided hikes are available.** Interested campers should speak to the program directors to coordinate the hike and schedule the guide.
   h. **Only persons 21 years of age or older may drive on the camp grounds,** but please limit driving as much as possible. The speed limit is 5 miles per hour. When not loading or unloading, please park cars in the parking lot at the front of the camp. Please do not park on the roads or block passage of other vehicles.
   i. Community campfires are permitted in existing camp fire sites only. Firewood is limited but may be provided when available. Please refrain from burning during daylight hours unless the temperature is below 60°F in order to conserve wood.

24. Most staff members are certified in first aid and CPR and can assist in caring for minor injuries. All injuries should be reported to the camp office where they can be properly documented and additional supplies or treatment can be obtained. In the event of an emergency, notify a staff member who will implement appropriate emergency protocols.

25. Every night from 9:30 pm to 12:30 am, our staff will patrol or “rove” the cabins to watch over and comfort children between the ages of 3-12 while the parents participate in late night program (a parent must supervise campers under the age of 3). Please share with the Rovers any important information relating to your child’s care. Parents must notify the Rover of the names of individuals they will permit to relieve the Rover from duty. Either the parent or their designee must return by 12:30am to relieve the Rover and sign the release sheet.

26. There will be NO SMOKING at Camp Christopher except for the designated smoking area at the Veranda behind the Dining Hall. Smoking is not permitted anywhere else at Camp.

**Visitors**

27. All Visitors must sign in with the camp administration upon arrival. **Visitors will be expected to sign the same Release and Waiver of Liability as registered campers.**

28. Visiting hours are between the hours of 9:00 am and 11:00 pm. Visitors must remain in the company of the family they have come to see. Visitors are permitted to access the activities available to the West
of the McDowell Hall (Between the parking lot and McDowell Hall). Visitors may not displace campers from participation in activities which have limited space/time/resources. Visitors may not access the High Ropes Course.

29. Visitors are permitted to stay for meals for a small fee. Please notify the Program Directors at least 2 hours prior to the meal so that kitchen staff can prepare additional meals. The fee for each meal is $5.00. Payment must be made at the time of the meal is served, and can be given directly to the Program Directors.

30. Visitors are not permitted to spend the night. All visitors must leave by 11:00 pm. If you would like to transition your ‘visitor’ to a ‘camper’, you may pay the full program fee and the visitor will then become a camper with full privileges to spend the remainder of the camping week and reside in your cabin. The program fee WILL NOT BE PRORATED regardless of when during the camping week the transition is made. Making this transition will require submission of a written authorization by the primary account holder for your cabin. Program fees are non-transferable.

**Departure**

31. Check out time is 10:00 am. We ask that you observe these times so that we can prepare for the campers who will be arriving immediately after your stay.

32. Please try to leave the cabin in the same condition as you found it. Be sure to pack all personal items and place all refuse in the trash cans provided. If necessary, there are larger trash cans located outside the cabins in each settlement.

33. Lost and found will be kept for up to two weeks in storage at the camp. If you find that an item is missing, send the description to camplostandfound@ccdoecl.org. Someone will contact you with the results of our search within a week of receiving your e-mail.

We hope that this information packet is helpful to you as you prepare for your week with us. Please do not hesitate to contact us in advance with any questions you may have about these materials. We are looking forward to seeing you around the campfire!