



CROSSWAYS
CAMPING MINISTRIES

Crossways Administrative Office

912 N. Oneida St.
Appleton, WI 54911
p: 920-882-0023
info@crosswayscamps.org
www.crosswayscamps.org

2019 CONFIRMATION CAMP GUIDE



FOR CONGREGATION LEADERS

Imago Dei Village

W8160 Cloverleaf Lake Rd
Clintonville, WI 54929
p: 715-823-2902

Pine Lake Camp

W5631 Akron Ave.
Waupaca, WI 54981
p: 715-258-3813

Waypost Camp

210608 Crooked Lake Rd
Hatley, WI 54440
p: 715-454-6487

Welcome! We're excited that you are bringing youth to confirmation camp with us in 2019. This guide contains all the helpful information you will need to know to make this a successful and impactful camp experience for everyone! Included you will find information about:

- * Online registration, payments, and cancellations
- * Health & Departure forms
- * Technology policies
- * Bible study information
- * Arrival times and check-in procedures
- * Packing list
- * Weekly schedules
- * Activities and Overnight Campout involvement ...and more!

Online Registration and Payments

All registration must be completed by participating camper families online. All adults attending the full week with their youth group may also register online with the same instructions that were provided in the parent letter. Adults attending partial week, please complete the Adult Registration Form and return to the Appleton Administrative office by May 3rd. Payments for confirmation camp must come through your congregation. You are responsible for collecting camper registration payments from families and submitting one group payment to Crossways. We accept checks (payable to: Crossways Camping Ministries) as well as credit card payments.

Cancellation Policy

In the event that a family needs to cancel their child's participation in your confirmation camp session they should contact you, the congregation leader, directly. Refunds for balances paid, less the \$50 non-refundable deposit, will be granted in the form of a check made out to your congregation within 2-3 weeks of cancellation. However, if cancellation occurs less than two weeks before camping session, no refund will be granted. The \$50 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. Crossways cancels the session and cannot find a suitable alternative. A full refund will be issued based on payments received.

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

Health & Departure Forms

Health History Form

A Crossways Summer Camper Health History Form must be completed and signed by a parent/guardian for every youth coming to camp for your confirmation camp session. Additionally, all adult congregation leaders staying overnight at camp during your session must fill out a Crossways Summer Adult Health History Form (this does not apply to adult leaders only visiting during the day and not staying overnight). **All health forms must be sent no later than TWO WEEKS prior to the start date of the camp you will attend (Imago Dei Village, Pine Lake, or Waypost). You may collect each form to send in as a group, or instruct your group to mail their forms to camp directly. Families are instructed to check with their Pastor/Youth Director first before sending directly to camp.** The forms are available online at www.crosswayscamps.org/parent-information, and will also be sent to registered families prior to summer. Even if a camper has attended camp at a Crossways site before a new health form and departure form must be included.

Departure Authorization Form

A Crossways Departure Authorization Form must be completed and signed by a parent/guardian for every youth coming to camp for your confirmation camp session. Departure authorization forms can be found online at www.crosswayscamps.org/parent-information, and will also be sent to registered families prior to summer. **Campers must bring the completed departure authorization form to camp with them at the start of their session to be handed in upon check in.**

2019 Confirmation Camp Parent Guide

2019 Confirmation Camp Parent Guide will be available on our website, and emailed to registered families. This document contains essential information for parents to adequately prepare for their child's week at camp. It includes information about the health and departure forms, medical services, food restrictions and dietary needs, homesickness, technology policies, packing lists, and more. When available, this guide can be located at www.crosswayscamps.org/parent-information.

Arrival Times & Camper Check-In

Campers are asked to **arrive at camp between 3:00-4:30 pm on Sunday afternoon**. Directions to camp can be found online at www.crosswayscamps.org/parent-information. Please do not arrive before 3:00 pm. As campers arrive, staff will greet them, guide them to parking, and give them further instructions for dropping off and picking up campers. Campers will check in at a registration table and will be given cabin assignments, then they will be able to meet the health coordinator and turn in any medications brought for the week. Campers and families will have an opportunity to visit the camp store as well. Please remind parents that while family members are welcome at drop-off and pick-up, pets must be left at home. **We will check or confirm the status of any unexplained absentee campers after the close of the check in time.**

Departure Times & Closing Celebration

Families picking campers up on Friday are invited to **join us for a picnic lunch at 11:30 am**.

Families are encouraged to come and worship with us at our **closing celebration on Friday beginning at 12:15 pm** lasting about 45 minutes. Parents and families will learn about what has happened at camp and join in the all-camp closing worship celebration. Campers are dismissed after the closing program. **All campers must sign out with their cabin leaders only and will be released to the persons authorized on the Camper Departure Authorization Form.**

In the unlikely event our departure/pick-up time would change, all congregation leaders and parents/guardians will be contacted by Crossways.

Camp Store Information

When campers arrive on Sunday they will be able to visit the Camp Store to add money to their account. Parents may also add money to their child's camp store account by doing so online ahead of time. The deadline to add money to camp store accounts by phone or online is one week before your scheduled session. Parents should send cash or a check made out to "Crossways Camping Ministries" with their camper to camp if they did not meet this deadline. The Camp Store will be open for purchases of camp gear and souvenirs during drop-off and pick-up times.

The Camp Store ("canteen") is generally open twice daily for campers to purchase a drink, candy, healthy snacks, ice cream, and clothing. Campers are limited in the amount of consumable items purchased at each visit. **Campers may not keep any food items or cash in their cabins.** Camp store balances remaining at the end of the week will be returned to the camper in cash. Campers will have the opportunity to donate their remaining balance to the summer mission project if they wish to do so.

Mission Project

Every year Crossways selects an organization to support with our mission project donations. In a world filled with seemingly unceasing violence, innocent families are in desperate need of a safe place; a place where they can find asylum for their children and themselves from the evils that the world produces. Some of these families in need of protection are being taken away because of their faith in God. A faith in God is a faith in the children who know of God's love and grace. The Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service in partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America works for the families in foreign countries safety and peace. This summer, before you bring your camper to Crossways, pray for these people, pray for their safety, pray for their peace, pray for their prayers to be answered with your help. Please visit www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Immigration-and-Refugee-Services to learn more! All campers will be given the opportunity to learn more about the mission and ministry of

Crossways weekly mission project for this summer is to raise money to donate to the cause of bringing foreign families to a safe place where they can go on with or start a new life for themselves and their families.

Safety at Camp

We have always taken the safety and well-being of our campers very seriously. Our camps have an excellent reputation as a safe and healthy environment. Each camp follows all WI State Health Codes and is licensed and inspected annually. Staff undergo background checks and participate in two weeks of intensive staff training. Each camp follows clear policies and training regarding emergency management and behavior recognition and are supervised by professional full-time staff. The safety of our campers is always our first priority.

We discourage parents/guardians from taking campers away from camp during the week. Campers miss fun activities and their absence affects the community that is built between the campers. No camper is allowed to leave the premises with a visitor (even a relative) during the week without a signed permission slip (departure form) from the parent/guardian who registered the camper. Visits that are absolutely necessary should be scheduled in advance to avoid confusion. All visitors MUST check-in with our camp offices.

Bullying

Crossways is committed to providing a safe, positive and nurturing environment for its campers, staff and all participants. Our staff is trained to identify and address bullying immediately and effectively.

Weather

The summer is a busy time for weather in Wisconsin! All three sites have multiple storm shelters and practice emergency response procedures regularly. When severe weather arises at our camps we keep parents and family members informed in the following ways: (1) Facebook: we post updates on our pages, so please follow your specific camp - facebook.com/imagodeivillage, facebook.com/pinelakecamp, facebook.com/waypostcamp; (2) Phone: in rare cases phone calls to the parent/guardians listed on our registration forms will be made.

Church Leaders Visiting Camp

Sometimes congregations send multiple adults (pastors, youth leaders, etc.) to camp to visit throughout the week. Please make sure every visitor from your congregation is instructed to check in at the camp office immediately upon arrival and check out before departure. This is mandatory.

Behavior at Camp

The safety and well-being of our campers and staff is our number one priority. If a camper's behavior is determined to be unsuitable for our program, our staff reserve the right to dismiss the camper from the program. The camp director will contact the parent/guardian of the camper if their behavior is beyond the capacity of our staff to manage and is negatively impacting the well-being and camp experience of other campers. If a camper is dismissed from our program early due to behavior it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to arrange for immediate pick-up of the camper from the camp.

Special Program Elements for Older Campers

All camp programs and activities are designed to enhance the camper experience. We seek to challenge each individual to grow personally and as part of our community. Some of these 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.

Archery (Pine Lake only) At Pine Lake, older elementary, middle school and high school campers will have the opportunity to participate in archery. Participants will be fitted with an armguard. Our staff are certified in archery, archery equipment is inspected, and campers are educated in safety procedures before participating in the activity. Trained staff are present to instruct and enforce safety protocol.

Bike Trips Our bike trips take our middle school and high school campers off-site on quiet country and lake community roads. Our bikes are maintained regularly. Before each trip campers are properly fitted with a helmet and are instructed in safety procedures.

Two staff, trained in leading bike trips, participate in every trip. 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 (Imago Dei Village and Waypost only) Middle school and high school campers at Imago Dei Village and Waypost are able to participate in canoe trips on a river near camp. For these trips campers are transported to and from camp in camp vehicles. Prior to each trip, campers are taught basic canoe skills. On the trip campers are outfitted properly with paddles and life vests. Campers are accompanied by trained lifeguards and at least two staff who have been trained to lead canoe trips. 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.

Climbing Wall (Imago Dei Village only) At Imago Dei Village, older elementary, middle school, and high school campers will have the opportunity to climb our rock wall. Each camper is fitted with a safety harness and helmet for their climb. Our certified staff instructs all campers in safety procedures before their climb and guide campers safely through each climb from start to finish.

[Health & Medical Information](#)

Medical Services

Each site has a Wilderness First Aid trained staff member on-site at all times for health needs and medication distribution. Routine first aid will be provided by the health coordinator or a camp staff member certified in First Aid and CPR if needed. Camp will be in immediate contact with you should there be a serious medical concern, illness, or incident. If medical problems occur, the camps of Crossways use local clinics and hospitals to treat medical conditions or accidents. Medical expenses will be billed to you through these clinics. Crossways does not carry medical coverage for campers.

Medications

We stock standard OTC medications for cold symptoms, minor aches and pains, etc. Do not pack these medications for 'just in case' **UNLESS you use OTC medications DAILY**. Adult congregation leaders staying onsite overnight will be given a lockbox in which to store their daily medications for duration of their stay to be kept in their own cabin.

Food Allergies & Special Medical Needs

Campers are fed well-balanced meals. Our food service staff are very familiar with dietary needs. If there is a food allergy or a camper needs special accommodations, those needs should be listed on the individuals Health History Form. In addition, **we strongly suggest calling the camp at least two weeks prior to arrival to discuss these needs with the camp staff**. If you have any questions about our ability to work with dietary needs, please don't hesitate to reach out sooner. We would love to assist in the planning for a successful, well-fed week at camp! 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 our staff.

Parent Notification of Health Treatment

Parents/guardians will be notified of health treatment for a camper via a phone call or email from the Camp Director or Health Coordinator under the following situations: Notified when a camper is vomiting or has diarrhea lasting more than 24 hours, the camper has a severely sprained limb and is unable to continue with normal camp activities, a camper has a headache that cannot be controlled within 24 hours, anytime we suspect a communicable disease requiring medical treatment like strep throat or chicken pox, any broken limb, and any emergency situation where an ambulance is called. Not-notified for: minor cuts or wounds requiring a simple cleaning on wound and Band-Aid or minor bruises requiring ice and rest, headache, vomiting, or diarrhea lasting less than 24 hours. Parents will receive a slip upon camper pick-up listing any medical treatment administered to their child during the course of their session.

[Connecting with Campers](#)

Phone Contact

Campers are not able to call home during the week (see Homesickness & Cell Phone Policy.) Parents/guardians may contact the camp by calling the camp office listed below. Keep in mind that during the summer our staff are busy caring for campers and aren't always by a telephone to take your call. Please leave a message and they will return your call as soon as possible. Parents may also contact our Appleton Administrative office at 920-882-0023 during office hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00am – 4:00pm.

Mail

Encourage families to send letters and cards to their campers. Instructions for mailing cards, letters, and packages are included in the 2019 Confirmation Camp Parent Guide.

Email Your Camper

Bunk1.com provides a secure one-way email service to send messages to campers during their time at camp. **Bunk note credits can be purchased with a credit card by using the registration codes to the right.**

We will make our best effort to see that campers receive their Bunk notes in a timely fashion. Due to camp programming, we cannot guarantee emails to be delivered the same day they are sent.

Email your camper at
Bunk1.com

Registration Codes for 2019 will be:

Imago Dei Village - IMAGODEI2019

Pine Lake Camp – PINELAKE2019

Waypost Camp – WAYPOST2019

Homesickness: Prepare Your Group for Camp Success

Homesickness is a very normal, and often temporary, response to being away from home. Proper preparation and preventative measures can start long before a camper's arrival at camp. With sensitive handling by congregation leaders, parents, and camp staff most homesickness can be overcome or even prevented altogether, giving campers feelings of independence, pride, and self-assurance.

Please do not tell your youth or parents they can call each other or can be picked up early if they "don't like it," as this often makes homesickness worse and leads to campers having trouble fully investing in the experience. In the event a camper is experiencing a more difficult than average adjustment to camp we will first communicate with you or whichever congregation leader for your group is on-site. Next, we may contact a parent to inform them and ask for their input. Our staff is excellent in handling these situations.

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 have always taken the safety and well-being of our campers very seriously. Besides the fact that cell phones are expensive and can get lost, stolen, or broken, cell phones are a distraction to campers. The success of a 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 phones and texting features prove to be a distraction, and often, campers do not focus their energy and attention on building community.

In the event of an emergency or problem at camp, the Camp Director will contact parents, and/or may ask for your assistance this. If a parent has an emergency that requires them to speak with camp staff or share information with their child, they should call the camp phone number. If you are comfortable, you may also give your contact information to parents as an additional resource in the case of an emergency.

Remind parents that they can maintain non-emergency communication with their child by using the Bunk1 email service or by sending letters and/or cards through the mail.

Worship, Bible Study, & Church Group Time

Every day, Monday-Friday, congregation groups are able to spend time together for Bible study and group-building initiatives following all-camp worship. Please refer to your specific camp's schedule for Bible study and group-building initiative times. Camp staff will partner with congregation leaders to lead an engaging time together. **The 2019 Confirmation Camp Bible study curriculum is available electronically and will be sent via email to all congregation leaders in our system (it is not available on our website).**

On Sunday evening after dinner, congregation leaders will have time to meet with their assigned camp staff/cabin leaders who will be with their congregation group for the week. Camp staff are trained in leading the Bible study and all elements involved, so congregation leaders can take as active or supportive of a role as they prefer. This can be worked out during this meeting.

Before your camp session, please review the daily Bible study so you are familiar with it! Each day includes a "catechism connection" for leaders who would like to incorporate that into their discussions.

Camp staff are also trained in leading group-building initiatives and challenge course elements. Depending on availability and group ability, your congregation group will work through a series of initiatives from Monday-Friday that will challenge your group and bring them closer together. We highly encourage congregation leaders to participate in these activities as well, if not as a group member at

least as a cheerleader and photographer, as these moments tend to make memories that become part of the group narrative for a long time to come.

Weekly Schedule

Our three camps follow a weekly schedule that varies from site to site. Site-specific schedules can be emailed to you if you do not have a copy.

Afternoon/Evening Activities & Overnight Campouts

If able, congregation leaders are encouraged to participate in as much as the camp experience with their group as possible! Campers remember for years to come the pastor that came on their canoe trip or the youth director that visited their campout bearing s'mores supplies.

Overnight Campout

Cabin groups are assigned one night to go on an overnight campout (Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday). Sometimes we cancel campouts due to weather (no one likes camping in the rain). We encourage congregation leaders to visit their campers on their campout! Campsites are only a short hike from the main sites (a bit longer at Imago Dei Village, but all within about one mile). If you are interested in camping out with your same-gender cabin group, please talk with their cabin leader on Sunday evening.

Rest & Renewal for Church Leaders

Time away at camp is also a chance for YOU to experience restoration and renewal! Take advantage of the quiet early mornings or post-lunch "Sabbath" (i.e. naptime). Enjoy fellowship with other congregation leaders. This week is as much for you as it is for your campers!

Miscellaneous Information

Pets

Except for guide service animals, guests are not allowed to bring pets onto camp facilities.

Alcohol & Tobacco

All camp facilities have been declared alcohol and tobacco free environments for our summer session guests.

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 Crossways in honor of a staff member.)

Our Core Values and Program Goals

At Crossways we uplift the following core values in all of our programs: **Faith, Care of Creation, Community, Hospitality, and Discovery**. Our programs are designed with these values in mind and it is our goal that every camper's experience will include engagement and activity in each of these areas. Our goals, based on our values, are:

FAITH: Campers will experience and encounter God in new ways, through Bible study, worship, nature exploration, community life, adventure, conversations, and more.

CARE OF CREATION: Campers will grow in their understanding of and appreciation for God's creation and will engage in activities to help them learn how to be good stewards of creation.

COMMUNITY: Campers will be welcomed and included as a valuable member of the camp community and will be asked to extend welcome to fellow campers and staff as they take part in creating our camp community during each session.

HOSPITALITY: Campers will not only be served by our staff but will also be invited to serve others and will grow in their understanding of how to be good neighbors who care for each other despite our differences.

DISCOVERY: Campers will be challenged to try new things and engage in new activities that may push them beyond their typical comfort zone in order to spark their curiosity and instill or nurture a desire to learn new things.

Congregation Leader Packing List:

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Money for the Camp Store & Mission Project Offering
- ☐ Notebook & pen/pencil
- ☐ Sleeping bag, sheets and/or blankets and pillows
(**Evergreen Lodge at Pine Lake only: bedding and a pillow will be provided for you.**)
- ☐ Towels (Bath, Washcloth & Beach)
(**Evergreen Lodge at Pine Lake only: 1-regular towel and 1-washcloth will be provided for you.**)
- ☐ Personal Toiletries (soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush, etc)
- ☐ Comfortable shoes
- ☐ Long jeans/pants and sweatshirts
- ☐ T-shirts and shorts
- ☐ Pajamas
- ☐ Hat or cap
- ☐ Jacket
- ☐ Underwear and socks
- ☐ Rain gear
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Medications in original containers
- ☐ Non-Aerosol bug spray
- ☐ Water Bottle
- ☐ Camera
- ☐ Sunglasses

If You're So Inclined:

- ☐ Extra supplies for Bible study activities you are planning to lead on your own (camp provides all supplies for activities in our own curriculum, this is for leaders who decide to do something different/extra)
- ☐ Small Catechism
- ☐ Swimsuit and sandals with back straps for walking to waterfront and/or river trips
- ☐ Closed-toed shoes for camp games, hiking, and/or trips to overnight camp sites
- ☐ Your Fun Mug (for returning campers at Imago Dei Village)
- ☐ Cell phone and personal electronic devices (these are allowed for leaders, but please keep use of electronic devices —with the exception of a camera—limited to your cabin)

Please DO NOT bring:

- ☐ Alcohol, Drugs
- ☐ Weapons of any kind, including pocket knives
- ☐ Fireworks
- ☐ Pets
- ☐ Gum, Candy or snacks (you can buy snacks in the Camp Store)

Crossways is not liable for the damage or loss of any personal property.

Camper Packing List:

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Money for the Camp Store & Mission Project Offering
- ☐ Notebook & pen/pencil
- ☐ Sleeping bag and pillows
- ☐ Towels (Bath, Washcloth & Beach)
- ☐ Personal Toiletries (soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush, etc)
- ☐ Tennis shoes (2 pairs suggested)
- ☐ Swimsuit
- ☐ Water shoes (or sandals) for walking to waterfront – **flip flops are NOT allowed unless for use ONLY as shower sandals; all sandals must have backs and be securely attached to the whole foot**
- ☐ Long jeans/pants and sweatshirts
- ☐ T-shirts and shorts (no bare mid-riffs)
- ☐ Pajamas
- ☐ Hat or cap
- ☐ Jacket
- ☐ Underwear, socks
- ☐ Rain gear
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Medications in original containers
- ☐ Non-Aerosol bug spray
- ☐ Water Bottle

Optional items for campers:

- ☐ Camera (no camera phones)
- ☐ Stationary, stamps, envelopes
- ☐ Small Catechism
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Your Fun Mug (for returning campers at Imago Dei Village)

Campers should NOT bring:

- ☐ Cell phones
- ☐ Personal electronic devices – MP3 players, video games, computers, eReaders
- ☐ Personal sports equipment
- ☐ Alcohol, Drugs
- ☐ Weapons of any kind, including pocket knives
- ☐ Fireworks
- ☐ Pets
- ☐ Hairdryers, curling irons, or excessive toiletries
- ☐ Gum, candy or snacks (we try to prevent woodsy critters from joining the cabin groups!)
- ☐ Vehicles (campers with a driver's license must make prior arrangements)

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