

**** Please note- If you have not paid the deposit and received a Confirmation Letter from the Registrar you are not registered for camp.****



Dear Middle School Camper and Parent,

We are excited that you have enrolled for Camp this summer! Please make sure that both the camper and parent/guardian read this letter. There is some very important information in it that you will need to make this summer a success.. More information can be found on the summer camp website. If you have not taken time to surf the site at www.warrenwilliscamp.org please do!

Here are some things you need to know before you come to camp:

HOUSING: The cabins at camp have been built with the camper in mind. They are air-conditioned dorm spaces. Each camper will have his/her own bed, and bathroom facilities are adjacent to the sleeping areas. Some middle school and high school males will be sleeping in our Wilderness Cabins. These cabins are also air conditioned and carpeted. However they have a central shower house that the campers staying there will walk to. All cabins have locations where campers can lock up their belongings such as clothes and personal items (camera, wallet, etc.) We will provide a combination lock for each camper upon request.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE: Camp registration begins at 2:00 PM and ends at 3:45 PM on Monday at the **Warren Willis Camp**. The first camp activity will be at 4:15 PM. **Please do not arrive before 2:00 PM or after 4:00 PM (no noon meal is served on Monday)**. Camp ends on Saturday morning. Parents are invited to join us our closing Praise Time at 8:30 AM on Saturday. If you choose not to attend this closing Praise Time you should arrive at 9:00 AM. All campers should leave by 10:00 AM. No noon meal is served on the closing day of camp. If you are coming by commercial bus or train, try to schedule your arrival time for the afternoon. Those arriving by commercial bus or train, please call 352/787-4345 within two weeks of the opening day of the camp for which you have enrolled to let us know so we can arrange to have you picked up.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS: All changes and cancellations MUST be made in writing. They can be emailed to summercamp@flumc.org or mailed to Summer Camp Registration Office, 1140 East McDonald St. Lakeland, FL 33801. If a cancellation request is received 30 days prior to the start of the camp session the camper is attending, the full amount paid will be refunded LESS a \$25.00 cancellation fee. If notice is received less than 30 days prior to the start of the camp session the camper is attending, or no notice is given, **no refund will be made**. Note: No refunds will be made until after the close of all summer camp sessions. Payments that have been made by credit/debit card will be refunded with a credit to the credit/debit card account. Payments that have been made by check will be refunded with a check. Payments made by a local church will be refunded by check to that church.

SAFETY & HEALTH: Everything possible is done to make the camp a safe place for the campers. Two nurses are part of the staff all summer, and the camp is only a few minutes drive from a modern hospital in case of emergency. During waterfront and swimming pool hours, certified Lifeguards are on duty. There are strict waterfront and pool regulations. Food at camp is prepared by the Aramark Corporation, which is staffed by professional cooks and dieticians. Meals are wholesome, well balanced, and there is always enough to eat. Should your child have special dietary needs (that were not listed on the application), please write us a letter at least one week prior to your camper arriving at camp listing specifically what those needs are and what your camper can or can't eat. The Snack Shack is open only at specified times. Each facility is cleaned daily.

In an effort to protect the health of everyone at camp, each camper will be given a health screening and their temperature will be taken with an ear thermometer at the Nurse's Station at the time of check-in. The camp cannot serve children with contagious diseases because of the congregative lifestyle of the camp. **If your camper arrives with any symptoms and a body temperature of 101° or greater they will be sent home.**

www.warrenwilliscamp.org • 4990 Picciola Rd. Fruitland Park, FL 34731

Phone: (352) 787-4345 • **Toll Free:** (866) UMCAMPS opt. 3 • **Fax:** (352) 787-8650

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If your camper is on any medication for a chronic, non-contagious illness, or is on medication *during the school year* (such as Adderall), please send this medication to camp with them. Camp is a structured environment like school. The Nurse will see that medications are distributed to campers at their scheduled times during the week.

HOMESICKNESS: If you anticipate that your child may become homesick, please do not tell them to "just try it for a couple of days", or "if you don't like it, you can call me", or "if you don't like it, I will come get you." In saying these things, the child is set up to fail. Just encourage them and tell them that you will write to them. Campers are not allowed to use the camp phones to make phone calls. If we think it is necessary, we will call you. Homesickness can occur at camp, even among experienced campers. At the Warren Willis Camp, we encourage homesick campers to stay to the end of the week to allow them to truly experience camp. Our staff and volunteers are trained to help children through homesickness so that they have a great and positive, camp experience. In the event that a camper becomes severely homesick, parents will be called by either the Team Leader or the Assistant Director so that the best decision can be made regarding their child.

HEALTH HISTORY FORM: You will need to print off the summer camp web site a Health History Form. These forms can be found on our summer camp web site at www.warrenwilliscamp.org in the Forms and paperwork Section. Have your parents fill it out and sign it before a Notary Public. Please do **not** send it, but **bring it with you**. It will be asked for at registration, and **you will NOT be accepted at camp without it. Be sure the Emergency Permission is signed by your parent or guardian and notarized!**

MEDICATION DESCRIPTION FORM: All campers who will be taking any kind of medications while at camp (prescription or non-prescription) must complete a **Medication Description Form**. Please enclose all medications (enough for the week your child is at camp) in their original pharmacy labeled bottles, in a sealed bag along with the completed **Medication Description Form** and bring this with your camper to camp. Please note, all medications must be in a pharmacy labeled container with your child's name or their over the counter packaging. The **Medication Description Form** can be found on the Summer Camp web site at www.warrenwilliscamp.org in the Forms and Paperwork section.

CAMPER RELEASE FORM: In order to ensure the safety of all our campers we are asking parents/guardians to complete the Camper Release Form. This form identifies and authorizes who is allowed to pick up your child from camp. If your child will be going home with your local church, please have the local church person who will be signing them out of camp, sign the form as well. These forms will be collected at camp on Monday during registration.

CAMPER FUN CARDS: During their week at camp we provide campers with the use of camper fun cards. The use of these cards alleviates the need to carry cash around. You can purchase the cards on Monday at registration in increments of \$5 or \$10. We highly recommend starting off with a smaller increment as you can purchase another card later in the week if you need to. These cards are non-refundable. At the end of the week any money left on your camper fun card can be given to the camp offering. No cash will be taken at the Snack Shack or the Camp Store except on Mondays during registration and Saturdays during check out.

CAMP OFFERING: A Camp Offering is collected at the end of each week to supply camp scholarships to children who would not otherwise get to come to camp. You can simply put the remaining balance left on your camper fun card towards the camp offering, or if you'd like to bring cash for the offering you can keep it locked in your cabin until the offering is collected.

CAMP GROUP PICTURE: We will be offering camp group pictures to all campers at a cost of only \$7.00. Early in your week at camp, we will take a group picture of everyone in your camp. Before you leave to go home, you will receive your full color 8x10 photo to preserve those special camp memories. The Camp Group Picture can be ordered during Monday registration.

CAMP VIDEO: This summer every camper will be given a **FREE** camp video on DVD!

ACTIVITIES AT CAMP: During their week at camp, each camper has the opportunity to sign up and participate in 4 different activity groups. These choices are made in the evening on Mondays, which will provide for the opportunity to ask questions and receive explanation about each kind of activity. Although we cannot guarantee availability in every activity for every camper, an effort will be made to place campers in their first choice(s).

Some sample activity groups for Middle School Campers might include:
sailing, canoeing, archery, drama, interpretive dance, yoga, sign language, outdoor games, ultimate Frisbee, nature skill, crafts, etc.
Every camper will also participate in our Low Challenge Course with their small group.

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If you have questions about what these activities entail please see the FAQ section of our web site. If you do not want your child to participate in any of these activities, please contact the Summer Camp Office a week prior to your child's week at camp, and speak with the Camp Director or Assistant Camp Director.

LEADERSHIP TEAM: A Leadership Team of 90-100 young adults has already been secured for each camp. Your child will have excellent guidance and leadership. He or she will return home with many new and wonderful, life-enriching experiences. Each Team Member is screened using a National Criminal Background Check, a Local Criminal Background Check, and Sexual-Offenders screening. They also participate in a mandatory 9 day Staff Orientation and Training.

CORRESPONDENCE: Parents may send letters and emails. There are no phones available for camper use. Please do not allow your child to bring their cell phone to camp. If there is an emergency we will contact you immediately. In case of emergency, you may contact the Camp Director at 352/787-4345 Please don't tell your camper to call and "check in" with you. Please tell them that they may not call home. Again, we will call you if it becomes necessary.

Please check out the summer camp web site at www.warrenwilliscamp.org and look for the Online Parent Community link. Sign up and log on! A letter will be sent to you in May with the login and password information. This summer, you'll be able to share in the excitement of camp all summer long. **The Parent Communicator Site** will bring camp home to you. You will be able to view photographs of your camper, camp activities, and your camper's friends - updated daily. You'll be able to stay in touch with your camper through one-way email for a small fee (this fee covers the cost of hosting the web site, ink, paper, and staff time needed for printing and distributing these emails). **Parent Communicator** is available to all Classic and Specialty Camps, **except** for the Wilderness Week & Appalachian Trail Hike camps.

Mail is sent out, received and distributed daily. However, we suggest that you not mail any letters or cards after Tuesday of the week your child is in camp. Campers leave on Saturday and there would not be enough time to receive the letter through the Postal Service.

When sending letters, please address your mail in the following manner:

Name of Camper
Name of Camp (Children's, Middle School, High School, or Creative Spirit)
Warren W. Willis United Methodist Camp
5050 Picciola Rd.
Fruitland Park, FL 34731

When sending packages, please address your package in the following manner:

Name of Camper
Name of Camp (Children's, Middle School, High School, or Creative Spirit)
Warren W. Willis United Methodist Camp
4990 Picciola Rd.
Fruitland park, FL 34731

CAMP APPROPRIATE DRESS POLICY:

Please review your packed clothes and make sure that none of your items of clothing make references to cigarettes, alcohol, illegal drugs or are overly tight-fitting, loose, or otherwise inappropriate for a Christian camp setting. If something is "questionable," please leave it at home. Camp staff has the responsibility of encouraging appropriate dress.

Please remember you are only in camp for five days, so don't over-pack. Usually one suitcase or duffel bag is enough. There will be several others in your cabin, and space will be limited.

After the first evening there are no strangers, and you will have a wonderful experience. We try to let you room with the person you ask for on your application form. Changes on registration day are NOT possible since all campers have already been assigned to cabins. To insure roommate selection, both campers must name the other as a roommate. Churches with more than two from the church may not necessarily be housed together. Also, you will be put in a small group with middle school campers from other churches. You may not necessarily be with people from your church.

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Surely, you want to know the purpose and objectives of our camp. The following are several reasons we have our camp program:

1. To help campers know Christ as friend and Savior.
2. To help campers better understand their role as members of the faith and disciples of Jesus Christ.
3. To encourage campers to become participants within the local church.
4. To help campers learn to live with and appreciate themselves and others.
5. To encourage campers to better appreciate God's wonderful world and their responsibility to the environment.
6. To offer campers the opportunity to build relationships with other Christian young people throughout the state.

You will be one of the many campers at Middle School Camp this summer. We will be doing many things together to experience the church as a Christian community. During the week you will have a chance to explore your ideas and feelings about God's world, develop some new friendships, plus much more!

We look forward to seeing you at camp!

Mike Standifer
Camp Director

Heather Pancoast
Assistant Camp Director

Please remember to observe the policy of NO SMOKING, DRUGS, and OR ALCOHOL in camp.