

PILGRIM PINES WELCOME PACKET



EVERGREEN

FAITH THAT FLOURISHES

SUMMER CAMP 2026

**PILGRIM
PINES**
CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WELCOME

Dear Campers and Parents/Guardians,

We're thrilled that you'll be joining us at camp! Our team has been hard at work recruiting staff and carefully planning for an unforgettable experience, and now we're excited to welcome you.

As you prepare for your arrival, here are a few important things to keep in mind. Campers can look forward to a fun-filled time of learning, play, exploration, and building a strong spiritual community.

Our staff is energized and ready, and we hope you are too. We're anticipating a wonderful experience full of friendship, community, supportive counselors, and plenty of fun.

We encourage you and your camper to review this packet together to help you get ready for camp.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 909-797-1821

or email registrar@pilgrimpinescamp.org.

We can't wait to see you soon!

Our Talented Camp Staff

We are grateful to have an outstanding group of staff and volunteers leading Summer Camp this year.

Our Summer Camp Director, Carol Traylor, heads the Leadership Team and works closely with the

Assistant Director, and our activity and age-level directors to create a fun and

inspiring program for every camper.

Our volunteers play a vital role in camp life as counselors and helpers, and we encourage you to invite others to sign up on our website. All staff and volunteers are carefully screened and trained according to our safety policies. Campers are supported by a diverse team both in cabins and during program activities, and many team members are trained in CPR, first aid, and working with individuals who have special needs.

We also offer a Counselor in Training program for youth ages 16 to 18, providing them with training before they begin volunteering alongside experienced counselors. Health Center staff are available 24 hours a day throughout each week of camp, and pastors join in the camp experience each week as well.

We are thankful for this incredible group of leaders and look forward to introducing you to them!



PILGRIM PINES MISSION STATEMENT

Pilgrim Pines Camp and conference center, a ministry of the United Church of Christ, affirms persons of all ages, sexes, genders, gender expressions, sexual orientations, racial or ethnic backgrounds, socio-economic positions, intellectual, developmental, emotional, and physical abilities, or religious affiliation. We seek to:

- Provide an inclusive and safe environment for personal and spiritual growth and to be accepting of a diverse population of opinions, beliefs, ideas and backgrounds.
- Nurture community by building personal relationships.
- Encourage care and concern for all of God's creation and encourage a sustainable world through modeling environmentally just practices.
- To seek to create a peaceful and healing community in which people learn to cooperate in an inclusive and diverse setting.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP FOR ALL CAMPS

PLEASE ARRIVE AT THE TIMES LISTED BELOW

DROP OFF

**Pinesters,
Pinecones and Seedlings**
Sunday at 2:00 PM

**Minis, Juniors,
Jr. High and Sr. High**
Sunday at 3:00 PM

PICK UP

**Pinesters,
Pinecones and Seedlings**
Friday at 10:00 AM

**Minis, Juniors,
Jr. High and Sr. High**
Friday at 11:00 AM

IMPORTANT PICK UP INFORMATION

To help ensure your child's safety, please review the following pick-up guidelines.

1. Only individuals listed on your camper's pick-up authorization form will be permitted to pick up your child.
2. You and anyone you have designated to pick up your camper must present a valid driver's license when signing your camper out of camp.

****In the unlikely event that the pick-up time or location changes, you will be notified by mass email through the registration system and/or by phone.****

PREPARING YOUR CAMPER FOR SUCCESS

Feeling homesick can happen, and you can help your camper have a positive experience by using a few simple strategies:

- Consider having a first-time camper attend with a close friend, relative, or camp “buddy.”
- Encourage your camper to try new activities and build new friendships. Avoid telling your camper ahead of time that you will pick them up early if they do not enjoy camp.
- Talk about what camp will be like well before your camper leaves, and acknowledge their feelings. You might also role-play common situations, such as using a flashlight to find the bathroom at night.
- Consider sending a letter with your camper at drop-off so they have something special waiting when they arrive.
- Let your camper bring a favorite stuffed animal or a photo as a comforting reminder of home.
- Try to avoid phrases like “I’m going to miss you so much.” Instead, use encouraging words such as, “We’re excited to hear about all the great experiences you’ll have at camp!”

If your camper has difficulty settling in, our caring and compassionate counselors will offer support and encouragement as they adjust and participate in activities. If challenges continue, the Director will be notified and will allow at least 24 hours for your camper to acclimate to the camp environment. If your camper is still experiencing strong emotions after that time, the Director may contact you to arrange a conversation between you and your camper. Every effort is made to help campers feel comfortable and remain at camp before considering an early departure.

Your encouragement and confidence in your camper’s ability to stay for the full session can make a meaningful difference in helping them have a successful and rewarding experience.

HEALTH PROCEDURES

To help ensure your camper has the best possible experience, they should arrive at camp in good health. Campers live in close community with others, so it is important that healthy habits such as frequent hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes are well established.

Our camp is supported by a Health Supervisor, and a physician is on call if needed. You will be contacted if your camper:

- Spends a night in the infirmary
- Needs to see a doctor or visit the emergency room
- Breaks the Camper Behavior Agreement

All campers will receive a health screening upon arrival, and the Health Supervisor or a designated staff member will review and verify their health information. Parents will be notified if any concerns arise.

All prescription medications must be checked in with the Health Supervisor and may only be brought to camp if they are:

- **In their original container**
- **Clearly labeled with the camper’s name, physician’s name, and correct dosage.**

Non-prescription medications will be administered according to the camp’s standing orders or with written instructions from a parent or guardian, as permitted, or by the individual’s physician.

Parents, please keep in mind that camp involves a busy schedule and increased activity. It is important that your camper continues taking all prescribed medications as directed. This is not an ideal time to stop medications or try new ones unless it is medically necessary. Emergency medications, such as epinephrine or inhalers, will remain with the camper at all times, and staff will be informed of each camper’s specific medical needs.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where do I send mail?

If you plan to send mail, we recommend sending it early, as delivery can take time. Please address mail as follows: Pilgrim Pines Camp 39570 Glen Rd. Yucaipa CA. 92399 Be sure to include your camper's full name, age group, and week of camp. You may also send emails to office@pilgrimpinescamp.org.

Please do not send food or snacks, as they can attract critters.

What if my child gets sick or injured at camp?

Minor injuries and illnesses such as cuts, scrapes, bumps, bruises, or stomachaches are common, and our camp nurse will care for these as needed. If an injury or illness is considered serious, you will be contacted by phone by the Camp Nurse, Program Director, or Executive Director with more information and next steps. This may include picking up your child. For less serious concerns that require more than basic first aid, the nurse will document the care provided and may ask to speak with you briefly at pick-up.

What if there is a family emergency?

In case of an emergency, you may contact the camp nurse directly at 909-797-2691. This line is reserved for emergencies only. If there is no answer, you may call the office at 909-797-1821 and leave a voicemail. For non-emergency communication, please email office@pilgrimpinescamp.org.

What happens if there is an emergency at camp?

The safety of our campers and staff is our top priority. We have established emergency procedures that our staff are trained to follow. If an evacuation is necessary, campers will be transported by bus to a designated safe location. Parents and guardians will be notified by email with detailed pick-up instructions.

Can I bring my Phone? Camera? Music Player?

Campers are strongly encouraged to leave valuable items, including cell phones and handheld devices, at home. If brought, campers assume full responsibility for these items.

The camp is not responsible for lost or damaged belongings.

Can we visit our camper at camp?

Camp is a unique and intentional community experience. To help campers fully engage, grow, and connect, we do not allow visitors during the session.

We encourage you to stay in touch by sending letters and cards.

What if my camper needs to arrive late or leave Early?

If you need to arrange a late arrival or early departure, please contact the Summer Camp Director in advance.

Is there a Dress Code?

Closed-toe shoes must be worn at all times. As a mountain camp, clothing should be appropriate for outdoor activities and changing weather conditions.

Will the ropes course be available this Summer?

Unfortunately, the ropes course will not be available this summer. We hope to have it restored soon and appreciate your understanding.

MORE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the COVID policies/procedures?

Campers are required to take a COVID-19 rapid test at home before arriving at camp. Proof of a negative test taken within 24 hours of check-in must be provided upon arrival. During camp, campers may be asked to take an additional rapid test if any symptoms appear.

PINESTERS, PINESCONES AND SEEDLINGS

Help your camper have the best week! Please read these eligibility specifics carefully.

All new Pinester, Pinecone, and Seedling campers are encouraged to attend our open house or schedule a visit at another time to ensure our summer camp program is a good fit. Campers in these programs should be able to manage the camp's altitude with regular rest breaks, walk independently with their group to and from the dining hall and upper camp cabins, use the toilet and shower on their own, stay with the group during activities, and follow directions.

Our counselors provide support during meals and activities, and our kitchen staff are skilled at accommodating specific dietary needs. If a camper requires more support than we can provide in our summer camp setting, we can offer referrals to other camp programs. Additionally, campers with greater needs are welcome to join our Pod Camps alongside a caregiver or family member, allowing them to experience camp with personalized support.

We look forward to partnering with each camper and their caregiver to ensure a safe, fun, and rewarding experience. If you have any questions or concerns, please email our registrar at registrar@pilgrimpinescamp.org or call the office at (909) 797-1821.



PACKING LIST

To help your camper feel prepared for camp, involve them in packing their belongings. This encourages independence and makes the first few days at camp go more smoothly. Be sure to label all items with your camper's name.

Clothing

- 6 t-shirts
- 6 pairs of shorts
- 2 pairs of long pants
- 6 pairs of socks
- 6 pairs of underwear
- 2-3 pairs of pajamas
- 1-2 pairs of tennis shoes
- 1 pair of shower shoes (for the pool and shower house)
- 1 pair of flip flops or similar
- 1 swimsuit
- 1 jacket or sweatshirt

Nice to Have

- pool towel
- camera
- book
- extra batteries
- sunglasses

Personal Care/Random Needs

- 1 washcloth
- 1 towel for shower
- sunscreen (spf 15+)
- lip balm (spf 15+)
- shampoo/conditioner
- brush or comb
- soap
- deodorant
- toothbrush/toothpaste
- insect repellent
- sanitary items (if appropriate)
- laundry bag (kitchen-sized trash bag works well!)
- flashlight
- water bottle (w/ shoulder strap is nice)
- medications (see pg. 4)
- Bedding: sleeping bag or sheets/blanket
- pillow

Do NOT Pack

- pets/animals
- video games
- gum, candy, or other food items
- laptops or other electronics
- tobacco, illegal drugs, alcohol
- fireworks
- weapons
- matches
- candles
- expensive or irreplaceable items

Sports or Musical Equipment

We recommend leaving extra equipment at home. If your camper does bring equipment, please remind them that it may get lost or damaged. Camp is not responsible for any items that are lost or broken, so avoid bringing anything valuable or irreplaceable.

Lost and Found

Lost items will be collected and held for 30 days after camp. To check if an item has been found, please call the camp office. You can arrange to pick it up in person or pay to have it mailed to you.



SPECIAL ACTIVITIES & PACKING NEEDS

Bring Clothing for our Theme Dinner!

Our theme dinner will be a **tropical vacation** themed party! Please come dressed in fun, beachy attire for the dinner and the dance that follows. You're welcome to wear anything from home, as long as it's comfortable enough to eat and move around easily. 🌴

Special Mini-Camp Needs

Coloring books, colored pencils/crayons and other quiet activities for daily Siesta (rest time)

Special Junior-Camp Needs

Quiet activities for daily Siesta

Special Jr High & Senior High- Camp Needs

Things for talent show Cards or games for daily Siesta

Special Pinester, Pinecone, & Seedling-Camp Needs

Costume for the theme dinner and Pinester dance



OUR SUMMER 2026 PROGRAM GOALS

1. Staff will work to help campers feel safe physically, mentally and emotionally.
2. Staff will provide a nurturing space for each camper to explore their own identities, spirituality, and values; and that will be accepting of a diverse population of opinions, beliefs, ideas and backgrounds.
3. Staff will encourage each camper to learn to thrive in a group environment and larger community.
4. Camp will act as an inclusive environment that celebrates people of all backgrounds; especially those whose identities are part of historically marginalized & oppressed groups.
5. Staff will help each camper develop a relationship with the unceded Cahuilla & Serrano territories, where the camp was built.
6. Camp will encourage care and concern for all of God's creation and encourage a sustainable world through modeling environmentally just practices.
7. Camp will seek to create a peaceful and healing community in which people learn to cooperate in an inclusive and diverse setting.

GETTING TO CAMP

From Los Angeles or points north/west:

- Take the 10 Freeway east toward San Bernardino.
- Exit at Yucaipa Blvd./Highway 38 and follow signs into Yucaipa.
- Follow local roads to Glen Rd. and continue to 39570 Glen Rd.

From San Diego, Palm Springs, or points south/east:

- Take the 10 Freeway west toward Los Angeles.
- Exit at Beaumont Ave./Highway 38 and follow signs into Beaumont.
- Continue on local roads to Glen Rd. and proceed to 39570 Glen Rd.

Tip: Use a GPS or map app for the final stretch, as camp is located in a mountain area with winding roads.

WHAT'S IT LIKE AT CAMP?

Perched a mile high in the San Bernardino Mountains, Pilgrim Pines Camp sits above Yucaipa and Beaumont, in the village of Oak Glen. The camp is on the unceded land of the Serrano and Cahuilla peoples and is surrounded by oak trees, apple orchards, ponderosa pines, and the chaparral of the mountainside. It is a beautiful setting for exploration, discovery, and renewal.

Cabins are divided into two rooms, each with three bunk beds (six beds total) and a bathroom with a toilet and sink. Shower facilities are centrally located in each of the three residential areas: Upper, Lower, and Junior Camps.

Summer weather at camp can vary greatly from year to year. Many summers are very warm, while others may include summer storms. When checking the forecast, use Oak Glen as your destination rather than Yucaipa, since the higher elevation affects temperature. Be prepared for warm days and sometimes cooler nights.