



# CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN OHIO

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

*A covenant network of congregations in mission:  
We are the Body of Christ gifted and called in covenant together as Disciples of Christ  
to be centers of transformation on the new mission frontier of our own communities*



Dear Parents,

Greetings to you and yours! Thank you so very much for registering your child/children to attend Camp Christian, in Magnetic Springs, OH. The Camp is nestled among a sanctuary of natural greenery and splendor. Camp Christian is owned and operated by the **Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ)** and is nationally accredited by the *American Camp Association (ACA)*. Our Camp is in compliance with individual health, safety, and program quality standards.

This communication is designed to share some details about our camp, which we believe will help both you and your child/children better enjoy camp and all that it has to offer. *Please take the time to read the **entire document** and if there are questions and/or concerns, don't hesitate to contact us.*

The basic purpose of Camp Christian as established by Harold B. Monroe is to **Build the Beloved Community**. Our programs and activities are designed with this purpose in mind.

## **BASIC INFORMATION**

1. **ADDRESS FOR DRIVING DIRECTIONS AND MAIL:** 10335 Maple Dell Rd, Marysville, Ohio 43040
2. **EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER:** (937) 348-2811
3. **COUNSELORS and STAFF:** Camp counselors, nurses, and staff are highly selected and screened for service at camp. All camp personnel who come into contact with campers must submit to a background check through an accredited nationwide criminal and sex offender search. Letters of reference are submitted and Voluntary Disclosure Statements are completed. Counselors and staff participate in training sessions appropriate to their tasks and/or grade level assignments. There will be at least one counselor for every eight campers.
4. **CITs or Counselors in Training** are teenagers who are paired with and work under experienced adult counselors at Otter and Ribbit Camps to become counselors at some point in the future. CITs are required to submit a pastoral reference, as well as two (2) additional references. Additionally, CITs are asked to write a compelling paragraph regarding why they have chosen to become a CIT.
5. **NURSE:** Health care is available at camp 24/7. Camp Christian enlists the services of certified medical professionals (Registered or Licensed Nurses, Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics), who are highly selected and exemplary in their chosen medical field. Nurses are screened for service at our camp in the same way as counselors and staff.
6. **MEDICINE AND MEDICAL CONCERNS:** **All prescription drugs, as well as over-the-counter drugs, must be turned in (in their original container/s) to our nurse at the time of registration along with instructions for their use.** Medicines are generally administered to your child from our infirmary. However, age and levels of maturity may dictate where and how meds are administered. The camp nurse should be made aware, in advance, if there are special concerns regarding the distribution of meds so that we can monitor and record their distribution. It is always a good idea to inform us in advance of special medical concerns. ***Please consider allowing campers to continue taking whatever medications during their week at camp that they take during the school year.***
7. **PERMISSION TO TREAT:** On the health document there is a place for parents/guardians to sign which gives the doctors and/or medical professionals' permission to treat your child. **Please sign your name on this line.**

8. **EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER(S):** Occasionally, it is necessary for our nurse to contact the person who has been identified as your “Emergency Contact”. Please be very sure that the contact number(s) written on the health documents are accurate. Re-check all phone/cell numbers on the form. This information is extremely important.
9. **HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD:**
- Write Letters:** The simple act of receiving letters will greatly enhance your camper’s experience. It reassures your child that they are loved and remembered. Therefore, consider writing several times during the week. If this is your child’s first time at camp, it would be wonderful if you would mail a letter on the Thursday before she/he leaves so that it will be received on Monday - the first day of camp. Address the letter to her/him, Camp Christian, 10335 Maple Dell Rd, Marysville, Ohio 43040.
  - You can also fax a note to your child at (937) 348-2845. Put your camper’s full name on the fax. We have a few “Mike’s” and “Emily’s”, etc., and we have a whole camp full of “honeys” and “sweethearts” who have “moms” and “dads” and “grandmothers”. Faxes are handed out with the mail after lunch each day.
  - We do **not** offer email access to campers. Please do not email your child through the Regional Church Office email or the Camp Secretary, they will not be delivered.
  - No Boxes of Food:** They always cause more harm than good and plus... food attracts ants and other little critters. Letters are better.
  - No Visits Please:** While it would be very nice to have visits, we have found that they have greatly disrupted the camp program and have caused homesickness among children in the past. Of course, you are allowed legally to have access to your child 24 hours a day. Please contact us if there is some emergency of which your child needs to be aware. Otherwise, let them enjoy their special week. You will understand that we cannot allow campers to call home except in rare circumstances, because hundreds of campers using the phone would isolate us from all incoming calls. If you have any concerns, phone the camp at (937) 348-2811 and ask to speak with the Camp Director.

**TIMES – Please note: Otter and Ribbit Camps begin & end at different times. There is separate information for these.**

10. **SUNDAY REGISTRATION:** There is no need to hurry to get to camp early. We cannot possibly start registration and cabin assignments until 3:00 p.m. because of the many tasks that the staff needs to complete between the closing of the previous camp and the opening of the new camp. Usually, we are able to register everyone within one hour. When you do arrive, please feel free to go anywhere in camp (except the Dining Hall or the Monroe Lodge which serves as our staff summer living quarters). ***If you have not yet completed and/or turned in any of the required forms (registration, health, activity, etc.) you must bring them with you to Camp on the Sunday of registration. If you do not have all of these forms completed, you will be asked to fill them out onsite.***
11. **CAMP CLOSING FOR CHI RHO & CYF ON SATURDAY** at 11:00 a.m. **LUNCH WILL NOT BE SERVED ON SATURDAY.** However, you are invited to come early to hear and join in the singing and to see the closing ceremonies of the camp.
12. **DRESS CODE:** Please note that we are a Christian Camp and have explicit expectations regarding the dress of our youth at camp, particularly our middle school and high school campers and conferees, both boys and girls. However, these same expectations apply to our Otter & Ribbit Campers, as well.

Boys are asked **NOT** to wear pants and/or shorts which reveal their underwear and/or male “cleavage” (as we refer to it at camp). Girls are asked to wear tops which **do not reveal cleavage**. Boys and girls are asked to pay close attention to the **length of their shorts**. One “credit card length” from the knee is a good way to judge where shorts should stop. If campers wear **T-shirts**, the shirts should not have suggestive, provocative, or questionable slogans, words or phrases written on them ... nor should their T-shirts promote drugs, alcohol, or tobacco.

**Parents, please check your camper’s clothing before leaving your home for camp.** Infractions of our dress code will not be tolerated and will be dealt with appropriately. Informal clothes are all that are needed in camp. **There is one “dress up” occasion for CYF conferees... the banquet on Friday night.** An extra pair of shoes, if possible, is a good idea in case one pair gets wet in rainy weather. Otter & Ribbit campers participate in hiking and are asked to bring a pair of *closed-toed shoes and a pair of long pants for this purpose.*

13. **WHAT TO BRING:** Bedding or a sleeping bag (keep in mind some nights it might get cold at camp); pillow, towels and toiletries; outdoor clothes, at least two (2) pairs of shoes, jacket and swimsuit. Don't forget your Bible and several pencils, a flashlight, insect repellent (**no aerosol cans**), and sunscreen. Music players with ear phones between taps at night and wake up in the morning are allowed. Please note... campers will be sharing sleeping facilities with other people. We want everyone to get a good night's sleep so they can enjoy the next day's activities and remain healthy.
14. **WHAT NOT TO BRING:** Radios, CD players, TV's, cell phones, or expensive equipment of any kind. **Camp Christian will not be responsible for lost or stolen electronics or equipment of any kind which your child brings to camp.** Please... no matches, lighters, fireworks, cigarettes, or weapons. **Aerosol cans of any type are prohibited.**

**Smoking tobacco or the ingestion of illegal drugs or alcohol is strictly forbidden.**

**Note for Adults:** Camp Christian has a **No Smoking Policy 365 days a year for the entire property**, which includes Sundays & Saturdays when the youth are being dropped off or picked up.

15. **SPENDING MONEY:** We purposefully try to keep the canteen as inexpensive as possible for your budget's sake... \$10 to \$15 is adequate for your Chi Rho or CYF camper through the week. Otter & Ribbit campers do not need any money because the canteen is only open on the Sunday of their arrival at camp, and their last day. Camp Christian Merchandise (Hats, T-Shirts, Sweatshirts) range in price from \$5 to \$25. *The 2017 Camp T-shirts are \$12.*

#### **Christian Youth Fellowship D.I.G. (Dividends in Growth)**

Each summer, our CYF Conferences sponsor an activity known as D.I.G. (Dividends in Growth). Proceeds from D.I.G. go to worthy causes identified by the Youth Council. D.I.G. auctions are one of the most lively, popular, and competitive activities at CYF conference. The fun is in the bidding and winning of the "coveted" item. Campers are passionate about D.I.G. and very generous in their giving. Though not the only D.I.G. fund raiser, the auctions are, by far, the most successful fund raiser of the CYF Conference week!

It has been suggested by our Youth Council that \$25 be the targeted amount for each camper to contribute to D.I.G. in some form. **Please note: Campers are NOT required to participate in any D.I.G. activities, nor are they required to contribute money to any fund raising efforts at camp. Giving is STRICTLY VOLUNTARY!**

There are other opportunities to give at camp... Friday evening Consecration Service (both Chi Rho/CYF) is one of those times. Chi Rho campers participate in giving through **The Good Samaritan** project. We should encourage our children to bring our gifts to God who has given us everything in life. We give, however, according to our ability to give.

16. **CAMP SAFETY:** The following measures have been taken for the safety of your child:
- Camp Christian is accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA) and has met national standards regarding safety measures.
  - The staff constantly tests the water of the swimming pools. Qualified lifeguards are on duty at the pools.
  - Bunk Rails have been installed on the top bunk of each bunk bed.
  - All health standards for food preparation and sanitation set by the State of Ohio and the ACA are maintained and the camp is inspected by the State regularly.
  - The services of a doctor and a dentist in Delaware are available to us. In the event of an emergency, two hospitals are close by – one in Marysville and one in Delaware. We will always contact you if your child goes to the doctor or hospital.
  - All Camps and Conferences, practice an emergency drill (much like the fire and/or tornado drills they experience at school). We must always be prepared to move our campers to a place of safety in case there is some unforeseen emergency.

17. **INSURANCE:** Your family insurance is considered the primary insurer for your child. We carry only supplemental insurance only for accidents. You will be billed for any emergency care provided by the doctor and/or hospital emergency room. Our insurance will pay for that amount not covered by your insurance or in the case that your child is not insured.

18. **HOMESICKNESS:** We generally do not have more than a few cases of homesickness in the thousands of campers we serve. Years of experience have made it possible for us to help most campers to overcome this condition, which we all have experienced at one time or another. If we feel that your child has a serious case, we will phone you; otherwise, we hope you will have confidence in our ability to help your child through this normal period of maturation. If you are concerned about your child, please call the camp and speak with the Camp Director.

19. **FRIDAY EVENING WORSHIP:** One of the high points for most campers is our Consecration Service on Friday evening. Communion is always part of that service. We know that not all children have had communion before, but our tradition is that it is open to all. The service always includes an offering as well.

20. **SCHEDULE:** Here are the basic schedules for Chi Rho Camp & CYF Conference.

<b>CHI RHO CAMP</b>		<b>CYF CONFERENCE</b>	
7:00	Rising	7:00	Rise and Shine
7:45	Warning Bell	7:45	Morning Watch
7:50 – 8:05	Morning Prayers	8:15	Breakfast
8:25	Breakfast	9:15	Cabin Capers
9:10	Camp Capers	10:00	First Class
9:30	Inspection	11:15	Second Class
10:00	Morning Assembly	12:30	Lunch
10:15 – 12:12	Quests	2:00	Committees &
12:30	Lunch	Workshops	
1:15	Crafts, Games, Free Time, Canteen, Swimming	3:00	Free Time: Swimming, Basketball, Crafts,
<b>All Camp Emergency Drill, day/time TBA</b>		Fishing,	Boating, etc.
4:15	Camp Council	<b>All Camp Emergency Drill on TUESDAY, time TBA</b>	
4:45	Assembly	6:00	Supper
5:15 – 5:45	Cabin Meetings	7:30	Evening Vespers
6:00	Supper	8:30	Recreation
7:30	Evening Prayers	10:00	Closing Circle
8:15	Recreation	10:15	Bell – get ready for bed
9:30	Closing Chi Rho	11:10	Final Music – Lights out
10:20	In Cabins		
10:30	Lights Out		

## Camp Christian Policies

Years ago, Rev. Dr. Herald B. Monroe, a Camp Christian icon and a man described as, “*a veritable whirlwind of action*”, determined that the purpose of Camp Christian was to... ***Build the Beloved Community***. To this very day, that purpose lives throughout our programs, activities, and even through our policies.

In order to create a healthy, wholesome environment which is conducive to spiritual growth, lasting friendships, and a love for the Word of God, the following policies (which are not new and are published in our camp brochure and on our registration form and website...) have been thoughtfully and prayerfully enacted at camp...

- **Bullying** - Camp Christian cannot and will not tolerate any form of bullying because bullying in any form is ungodly and wrong. Our policy states: *Any camper found to be harassing, making fun of, or intimidating another camper is subject to disciplinary actions and may be sent home.* Our counselors are prepared to appropriately address concerns of this nature.
- **Search and Seizure** - *A camper and/or campers' belongings may be searched by camp administration whenever there is reasonable suspicion that the camper has violated or is violating either the law or camp expectations. Any evidence produced as a result of the search will be confiscated and appropriate action(s) will be taken by camp administration.*
- **Encouraging Positive Behavior: A Biblical Model for Resolving Disputes**- Counselors, Assistant Directors, and Directors are available to help our campers work through bothersome issues with themselves and/or others in ways that are honorable and godly. Our model of discipline looks, *first*, to the insights provided by Jesus in Matthew 18 and is called *The Rule of Christ*. Jesus encourages us to be prayerful, to look within and to reflect upon our differences with others. Jesus encourages us to follow a carefully prescribed path to reconciliation and lasting peace as outlined in Matthew 18. Counselors and staff, Directors and Assistant Directors are expected to follow the model laid out by Jesus and are well able to discuss our Positive Behavior Model with you. Contact our office for additional information regarding Positive Discipline... we are glad to share. Parents, however, will always be contacted if/when camp administration has concerns about any behavioral situation which is not solved within a reasonable time.

## Camp Attendance Expectations

When campers register or are registered for Chi Rho Camps or CYF Conferences, it is expected that the camper will register on Sunday, stay for the week, and leave on the following Saturday. There are, of course, exceptions to this expectation such as a family emergency, illness or (God forbid), death in the family. Under these circumstances, camp administration and counselors work closely with the family to accommodate their wishes for the camper.

We know, also, that campers are busy and participate in a number of activities (i.e. sports and band camps, school trips etc.), some campers also have jobs. Sometimes there are conflicts with these activities and the set dates for our camps and conferences. We realize the difficulty campers have who fall into this category... having to make a choice between their preferred camp/conference or attending a (perhaps even mandated) sports practice or event... even a job!

However, we ask that parents and guardians covenant with us to impress upon our campers that the one week they spend at camp... the one week for which they have waited all year long... is designed to enhance their spiritual life, an opportunity to spend some time cultivating and nourishing their relationship with God... learning, growing and building relationships in a place that (to them and many others) is a virtual “heaven on earth”.

With that in mind, we offer to campers who have conflicts with their preferred camp/conference date and some other outside activity, the following options:

- Chi Rho Campers/CYF Conferees are allowed to attend any of the other remaining camps/conferences.
- If for some reason a Chi Rho Camper/CYF Conferee is not able to attend one of the remaining camps/conferences and would still like to attend their preferred camp/conference, the camper will be allowed to come to camp at a time during that week when she/he can stay at camp in an uninterrupted fashion.

**Example:** Suppose a camper has soccer tournament on the Wednesday of her/his preferred camp/conference. The coach has insisted that all players MUST attend a practice session on Tuesday evening... the game is at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday. The camper wants to come to camp on Sunday and Monday, leave camp on Tuesday afternoon, and practice with the team... stay at home until after the game on Wednesday and return to camp on Wednesday evening.

**Camp Christian says:** Come to camp on Wednesday after the soccer game when your time at camp will be uninterrupted.

*Campers who choose the option of coming to camp short of the entire week of camp will NOT be entitled to a refund. Our registration fees are not prorated.*

We know some things are unavoidable, but with the options we are offering, we hope situations like this can be worked out.

*Please note that Otter and Ribbit Camps are not affected by this attendance expectation.*

### **CELL PHONES**

***CAMPERS ARE NOT TO BRING CELL PHONES TO CAMP.*** One of the greatest advantages campers admit to regularly is that camp gives them an opportunity to “get away” from the hustle, bustle and sometimes even bruising life circumstances they face. We want to give further meaning to this compelling reason admitted to by many campers. There are many well-planned activities which take place during the week of camp and many opportunities for campers to enhance their relationship with God. *Cell phones are a distraction to the Kingdom building work to which our camp is dedicated.*  
**Encourage your camper(s) to leave their phones at home.**

Campers often say, “*But my cell phone is my camera!*” Start now exploring, with your camper, alternate ways to take pictures at camp. We sell disposable cameras in our canteen as well as the kind that can take pictures underwater. Maybe the answer is to buy or borrow an inexpensive digital camera between now and camp.

I, along with our Counselors, Assistant Directors, Directors and Staff are asking that you covenant with us this summer to allow your camper an opportunity to experience the “*Beloved Community*” in a ways they never thought possible. Technology is addicting. Our campers may find that getting to really know Jesus in this wonderful sanctuary called Camp Christian could be just as addicting.

We have phones in the administration building for necessary calls to or from parents or guardians. Rest assured that Directors, Assistant Directors, Counselors or Staff not will use cell phones either. We will visit the office to make calls, just as we ask our campers to do.

**If cells phones are brought to camp, they will be bagged and tagged at registration and secured for the week.** Camp Christian, however, will not be responsible for lost or stolen items at camp.

We are so grateful for your cooperation and we know that your child will experience a new, sacred closeness to Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Contact me, directly, if there are questions or concerns.

***Peace and Many Blessings***

***Rev. Stephen Bentley***

Regional Associate Pastor and Program Minister

[sbentley@ccinoh.org](mailto:sbentley@ccinoh.org)

614-433-0343 ext. 2 or at Camp Christian at 937-348-2811