



LCLC Welcome Packet

SUMMER 2026

Dear Camper Family,

We are so excited that your child(ren) will be attending camp this summer at Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center! We here at LCLC believe that when kids come to camp, they have an experience that is not only beneficial to them but also your family and the surrounding community. We believe camp changes the world. Thank you for making this choice. We look forward to an amazing summer season!

The information within this packet is intended to help prepare you and your camper for a week (or two!) of adventure, growth, and fun. Please read through all the information, even if you are a long-time camper, as some details from previous summers may have changed. If you are a Family & Alumni Camper, there are details for you specifically at the end, as not all information applies.

Within this packet you will find timelines, information for drop off and pick up, medical and healthcare needs, details to know when your child is at camp, packing lists, and more.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions concerning your camper's week at LCLC. If you have questions about your registration, forms, or payments, Ben, our Office Manager, is the best contact. If you have questions about the summer program, LCLC as an organization, or specifics about your camper, Kaitlyn, our Executive Director, would be happy to have a conversation. Our contact information is listed below.

We look forward to seeing your family this summer.

God's love and peace,

Kaitlyn Olson Blend
Executive Director

Kaitlyn: kaitlyn@lclcenter.org
Ben: contact@lclc.org
Office phone: (716) 386-4125
Mailing and Physical Address:
5013 Route 430
Bemus Point, NY 14712

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PREPARING FOR CAMP

Preparing Your Camper for Camp

Here at LCLC, we are preparing for camp year-round! We have been anticipating Summer 2026 and are so excited that you are preparing as well. Part of our preparations include training our summer staff. We hire about 20 staff, typically college-aged young adults, who are the cabin leaders and program coordinators for our campers. During their intensive, two-week training, they learn all things from child development, risk management, managing homesickness, how to lead all camp activities, and many other areas that make camp as safe and fun as possible.

It is incredibly helpful when campers are as prepared as possible before arriving at camp as well. While it is normal that kids have many feelings about attending camp, using positive language about their upcoming experience will provide a positive mindset. Let your camper know that they will be welcomed and cared for when they arrive, they will have fun and experience new things, and they will be surrounded by other kids who want to have a good week as well. Please avoid statements like "call me," or "you can come home if you don't want to be there." We will have many steps before our staff will allow for calls to home, and we will always keep the family updated if it seems the camper is not enjoying their time. We ask that you help set both your child and camp up for success. We want them to have a great time just as you do!

When coming to camp, having all items prepared before your camper's arrival will make drop-off much less stressful. Here are the things that we will need you to complete **three weeks before arrival**:

- Full Payment
- Waivers & Contact Info
- Canteen Deposit
- Camper Care Form
- Completed Medical Information
- Camper Physical (Health History & Examination Form)

Full Payment

Please make all final payments three weeks before the camper's arrival. This can be made on the online portal at: lclcenter.campbrainregistration.com. You can also mail a check to camp or call the office and pay with a card. All of that contact information can be found on the front page of this packet.

Waivers & Contact Info

Please be sure all contact information is completed. If the guardians of the child plan to be away from home or are difficult to contact, ensure that there are proper backup contacts listed as well.

Canteen Deposit

The Canteen will be open every afternoon where campers can purchase snacks and drinks. We recommend a deposit of about \$20 or less. We will not be using cash at camp. This deposit can be made on the online portal: lclcenter.campbrainregistration.com or by calling the office. The canteen will also be open on Sunday at check-in and Friday at check-out to purchase items over \$20, like our clothing options, and to get any favorite road snacks for your trip back home.

Camper Care Form

A few weeks before camp, you will receive an email with a Camper Care Form. This will be a quick and easy online form. This helps our staff know each camper better! Please have your child fill this out or help them fill this out prior to arrival so we can coordinate our staff accordingly.

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HEALTH INFORMATION FOR CAMP

Completed Health History & Examination Form

New York law requires a current Health Form and Immunization History **every year** and a physical examination within **one year** of your child's camp experience. This document is attached to the registration email and will also be located on our website. Note that LCLC is required to comply with all NY Health Department and State regulations. This health form is confidential and will be kept on file in our Health Center with our professional nurse volunteers. **This Health History & Examination Form must be signed by both a parent/guardian and the child's Primary Physician.** You can scan or e-mail this completed form to our office at: contact@lclcenter.org or mail it.

Medications

All medications, both prescription and over-the-counter, must be accompanied by a written standing order signed by a physician or with the medications in their original container with the camper's name and information. These medications will be given directly to our nurse at check-in. They will dispense them at the appropriate times with the written dosages. If your child requires any medications to be given while at camp, please be sure to update that on the online registration portal under "Medical Form". If a medicine is not prescribed, our professional staff may need more information from the guardians about the medication needs.

Dietary Restrictions

Our camp cooks can accommodate most any dietary restrictions. Please ensure that these restrictions/allergies are listed on your camper's online Medical Form so that we can be sure the food is on hand here at camp before arrival. While we often have many choices for food at each meal, we are only able to accommodate dietary *restrictions*, not dietary *preferences*.

Campers will have an opportunity to purchase snacks in the Canteen each afternoon. It is not permitted for campers to bring their own snacks as that will attract critters to our cabins. If you have a very picky eater who will need more substance than what we can provide, we can work together to have those food items with our healthcare team in our Healthcare Center.

Safety Protocols

If anything outside of the ordinary occurs to your child, we will ensure that the guardians listed on the contact information sheet receive a phone call from either a nurse on our healthcare team or Kaitlyn, our Executive Director. If your camper visits the Health Center for a reason outside a listed situation that they should be there, we will document this occurrence and update you upon pickup if there was nothing serious (such as a mild scrape, small bug bite, etc.), or this will be a phone call to the guardian if there should be follow up conversation.

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PREPARING FOR CAMP

Arrival

Please arrive between 2:00 and 4:00 pm Sunday afternoon of your camper's week. **We cannot accommodate early arrivals** as our staff will be preparing for the week up until 2:00 pm. If you are arriving past 4:00 pm, please let us know as quickly as you are able by calling the office so that we can make a plan to introduce your camper to their counselor and cabin as they may no longer be at the cabin.

Check-in will be significantly shortened when you have submitted all forms in advance. If we are missing any forms, you will need to fill them out at camp before leaving.

Upon arrival, please park your car in the designated areas. Do not drive up to cabins. Staff will be there to assist with parking and helping you find your way. You will then:

- 1) **Come to the Registration Table at the Pavilion.** Here, your camper will receive their counselor assignment, cabin, and all other necessary info. We will also be able to inform you if we are missing anything from you.
- 2) **Go to the Nurse's Table.** Here, we will ensure that we have all of your medical information and any other important details regarding your camper's health.
- 3) **Go to the Canteen** in the Dining Hall where you can purchase gear prior to going to your cabin (this is optional).
- 4) **Return to your car, grab luggage, and head to your cabin.** Staff will greet you at the front porch and get your camper settled into the cabin.
- 5) **Say See Ya!** Parents/Guardians, it is easier for everyone if you keep your time in the cabin short and sweet. Both you and your child will have a great week ahead!

Departure

Be sure that you have signed and submitted the Camper Release form, which lets us know who has permission to transport your child home. We will not release your child to anyone not listed.

- 1) **Attend the Closing Program.** This is a 30-minute program that will take place in the Pavilion. This will be a great time to see your child with their new friends, hear stories from the week, and listen as the kids sing a couple of their favorite songs. When arriving, please park along the road near the Pavilion.

Closing Program Times:

Friday at 4:00 pm for Classic Camp, RATS, Senior High Week, and Night Owls

Friday at 1:00 pm for Family & Alumni Camp
Wednesday at 10:30 am for Mini Camp

- 2) **Head to the Camp Nurse** in the Pavilion where they will give back any medications or update with any information from the week that may be needed or important for your child. Note that we will only give medications to authorized adults on the Camper Release form.

- 3) **Go to Camper's Cabin** where your child will be with all of their belongings. This is also where you will officially sign your camper out and they can be released to you.

- 4) **Stop at the Canteen** to purchase any last-minute items.

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OTHER POLICIES & INFORMATION

Phone Policy

To keep this short and sweet, we do not allow our campers to have their cell phones at camp. We find that having phones takes away from the week as we highly value being disconnected from the regular routines of life. If staff see a camper with a phone, it can be taken away and kept until the end of the week. If campers feel they "need" a phone for pictures, we recommend bringing a digital, disposable, or polaroid camera instead. We will also have plenty of pictures taken of the kids throughout the week that will be on our website after the week is over.

Parent/Guardian Communications

We realize that sometimes, parents want to be in communication with their kid during the week. If your child has an important situation that would require them to speak with someone during their time at camp, we can arrange for this with our office phones. We do not recommend speaking with your child while they are away, especially if they are younger or new to camp, as this will likely cause homesickness and will often result in the child wanting to leave camp. The best scenario for homesickness specifically is by communicating through Kaitlyn, our Executive Director, or a camp nurse as they will ensure an honest conversation takes place with how your child is doing.

You can keep in touch with your camper by sending mail from home. We find this is the best way to show them that you hope they are having a great week, and they will get a little love from home. We will deliver all mail to campers each afternoon. We will take camper mail in these ways:

- 1) Dropping mail off in the Pavilion at check-in upon arrival
- 2) E-mailing our designated e-mail: mail@lclcenter.org
- 3) Mailing through good old snail mail (note that this takes 2-4 days):

Camper's Name
Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center
5013 Route 430
Bemus Point, NY 14712

Camp's Social Media

To be mindful of the online safety of our campers while they are here, we do not post pictures of campers during their week at camp. We send out a mid-week email with cabin updates and pictures for parents and guardians. We will then post on our social media accounts a recap of the week, and all of the pictures will be on our website organized by each program/week.

Code of Conduct

We expect that all are safe, cared for, and welcomed at camp. If a situation ever arises where a camper does not feel these things, our staff will take precautions to remedy the situation. We know that kids may occasionally feel uncomfortable as they try new things at camp. This may often require a conversation to make sure they are okay and ready to continue their week. When a camper feels unsafe, we will immediately act to care for this child.

If a camper ever causes harm to another person or our property, the child will be sent home. If verbal arguments or any altercations arise, the director will make decisions about how to proceed based on the situation. The parent/guardian of effected campers will be brought into the conversation. While we always approach scenarios with a "grace" mindset, LCLC will act in whatever way keeps all kids, staff, and property safe and cared for.

LCLC Packing List

Necessary Items

- Sleeping bag or sheets and a blanket
- Pillow
- Clothes for 5 days
- Pajamas
- Warm clothes (sweatshirts, jeans, sweatpants)
- Raincoat, waterproof jacket, or clothing that can get wet
- Swimsuit
- Shower towel & beach towel
- Reusable water bottle
- Closed-toe shoes (sneakers)
 - two pairs is helpful as shoes will often get wet
 - sandals/flip flops are not allowed for most activities
- Watershoes or sports sandals
 - for swimming, boating, and showering
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Soap & shampoo
- Comb/Brush
- Deodorant
- Any necessary toiletries
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Flash light
- Bible

Please note that LCLC does not have a dress code. We ask that all campers wear what is most comfortable for activities as we are often active and moving. Campers wearing clothes that restrict their ability to participate or campers that wear offensive/derogatory clothing will be asked to change.

Optional Items

- Bag/bookbag
- Journal, postcards, stationary, stamps
- Disposable camera
- Bag for dirty laundry
- White shirt for tie-dye
- Book/craft for rest hour

Items to Leave at Home

- Cell phone
- Tablet/Kindle
- Music players
- Computers/electronic games
- Expensive jewelry/clothing
- Cash/Credit Cards
- Snacks from home
- Knives/weapons

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FAMILY & ALUMNI CAMP

We are so glad you have chosen to spend your time as a family or individual with us here at camp! While much of your week should feel like a typical camp week, there are obviously some differences as your unit will have adults present. Listed below is information that differs from the regular camper week.

Medication

Because an adult will be present in each cabin/room, the parents or guardians can be responsible for any medications brought to camp by your family. We ask that you only bring medications that are prescribed and ensure dosages are followed. You will still have access to our camp nurse in situations like minor injuries, needing any first aid, someone not feeling well, etc. In the event that someone in your family is ill, we would ask your unit to go home for the safety of the rest of our campers and staff.

Supervision

During a regular week of camp, our staff oversees all campers and acts as their supervisors for the week. Because an adult has accompanied the children in your family unit, that adult(s) will act as the direct supervisor of these children. Our staff will not be in charge of their or your time while at camp. There will be daily occasions where we offer different programmed activities. In these clear situations, you are welcome to send your children with our staff for an activity. We will be sure to communicate where the kids are at all times and when to reunite with your child.

We also understand that as a family, you may have a vehicle on-site and may be interested in things in the surrounding area. While we encourage all to remain at camp to enjoy the camp experience, we know that outside trips may need to take place. Please inform Kaitlyn if your family plans to be gone so we know when to expect you and to keep track of meal counts.

Technology

We highly encourage all families to unplug while they are at camp. We acknowledge that adults will have their cell phones along, though we hope active times on these devices are limited.

Activities

Some activities to look forward to while at camp are swimming, sailing, the climbing tower, games, bonfires, and much more. We will have a schedule of the daily options available to you. We encourage family units to enjoy these activities together, and we expect all of our regular camp rules to be followed. Our staff will lead you through all activities to make your time as safe and fun as possible.

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Policy

Our policies at camp express that any use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs – regardless of the legality – may not be used near the presence of campers. Because this week will have Family & Alumni campers present in nearly every area at camp, these substances will not be allowed throughout the week.

If you have any questions regarding Family & Alumni Camp, please reach out to us through our contact information on the cover page. We will be in communication a few weeks before your arrival to relay any other important information and reminders. We look forward to having you here at camp soon!