Day Camp FAQs

What is the cost of camp? What is and is not included?

One full week of Day camp in 2027 costs $299 per camper and covers all program costs and care from 9AM-4PM. Tuition includes snack, a camp T-shirt, and on-site camp activities. There are discounts available; please see the registration form for details.

Extended Care is available at Spruce Lake starting at 7:30am and ending at 5:30pm for an additional fee. This is for campers who need to be dropped off prior to 9am (7:30-9:00am) and/or need to stay past 4pm (4:00-5:30pm). A late pickup fee will be assessed if a camper is not picked up by 5:30pm.

In addition to the daily snack, day campers will have the opportunity to visit the Snack Shop or Trading Post on scheduled days. Spending money for the Snack Shop/Trading Post is not covered in the cost of tuition. There is an electronic camper bank system available to deposit funds if you prefer that your camper not carry cash. Any funds deposited will be refunded at the end of the summer.

What kinds of activities do you have at camp?

We offer a wide range of activities, including swimming, sports, arts & crafts, outdoor recreation, and adventure programming. All activities will be carefully supervised and are age appropriate.

Do you have any programs for children with special needs?

We do not serve special needs populations but are willing to discuss involvements on a case-by-case basis. If a camper requires 1:1 support, the family must arrange for 1:1 support for the duration of camp. Our team & training are not geared toward children with special needs or at-risk children, and all campers must be reasonably mobile in order to participate. Spruce Lake Retreat provides the facilities for an excellent Family Camp each summer called Joni and Friends. Their program is designed to provide a retreat for families that have a family member with special needs. You can find more information about Joni and Friends family retreats by visiting http://www.joniandfriends.org/family-retreats/.

Can we schedule a tour of the camp?

Spruce Lake Retreat is open almost every day of the year. Please contact the camp office to make arrangements to visit Spruce Lake Day Camp.

Are you affiliated with any church or denomination?

Spruce Lake Day Camp is a Christian camp rooted in the Anabaptist tradition. Our mission is "Pointing people toward Jesus Christ by caring for the children of our community". We accomplish our mission by providing a safe, nurturing environment where young people can grow socially, emotionally, and spiritually.

How do you screen and train your team?

We seek to find solid Christian men and women who are living their faith authentically and with integrity who possess the skills and gifting for the roles they are seeking.

Team Member Screening - Each team member at Spruce Lake Day Camp is carefully screened. We require each summer team member to go through the application process annually, even if previously hired. We review applications, screen confidential references, review employment/education history, and conduct personal interviews. All team members complete the clearances required by PA state law for working with children.

Team Training - Team members attend a training event that covers both general subjects and subjects specific to their roles. Our training involves sessions on Health and Safety, Risk Management, Age Group Characteristics, Organizational Mission, Supervision and more.

What is your camper to counselor ratio?

We strive to have a Counselor: Camper Ratio of 1:8. This ratio is adjusted according to the number and age of the campers enrolled in the program.

Tell me about your camp health care program.

We have a nurse on duty at Day Camp for the busiest weeks of the summer, and additional Day Camp team members are trained in CPR & First Aid. Your child's safety is paramount. In the unlikely event that your child experiences an accident or illness at camp, protocol is as follows – Phone contact with parents/guardians is established in an emergency. This process is initiated by the director, nurse, and/or manager but may be delegated to an appropriate team member. Since we have no way of determining what each person considers an emergency, the general camp practice is to contact parents when there is a concern about camper health and/or when a situation is not progressing as expected. As

needed, camp personnel will leave voice messages that appropriately communicate the need for a given parent to call the camp.

Camper Health Form - This is a required form that we need to help ensure your son/daughter's wellbeing during their time at camp.

What happens in the event of an emergency?

In the event of an emergency at camp, we will do everything in our power to contact the guardians as quickly as reasonably possible. Please rest assured that in the event of a communications breakdown, such as a power outage, regional crisis, or national incident, we are doing everything in our power to care for your child.

How do I get to Spruce Lake Day Camp?

The standard parent drop-off and pick-up location for Day Camp is at Spruce Lake Retreat. The entrance is located just off Route 447, about three miles north of the traffic light in Canadensis (the intersection of Routes 390 and 447). Traveling north on 447, you will pass Long Road on the left (this is the Youth Campus entrance). Stay on 447 N until you see the Spruce Lake Retreat sign on the left side of the road. Day Camp signs with directions will be posted at both the North and South entrances.

Throughout the day, campers will move between the Youth Campus and the Retreat Center, so please call the office to confirm your camper's location if you need to drop off or pick up at any time other than the designated drop-off and pick-up windows. If you need to pick your camper up at the Youth Campus outside of the normal pick-up time, turn onto Long Rd from Route 447 and take the first right onto Wilderness Road. Follow the gravel road for about 1 mile and proceed to the Mountain View Gym (up the drive to the right once you reach the center of camp with the open-air pavilion directly ahead).

What should a camper bring to Day Camp?

Lunch, Snack, Water Bottle, Bible (if you have one), Sun & Bug Protection, Backpack, Sturdy Sneakers or Sandals w/ Back Strap, Towel, Swimsuit (see modesty), and Extra Change of Clothes (Please Label Clothes).

What should not be brought to Day Camp?

Cell phones/ electronics, Non-prescription Meds, Drugs/ Alcohol/ Tobacco, Dangle or hoop earrings, Spaghetti-strapped Tops, Bikini-style swimsuits, Mid-cut and short shirts, Personal sports equipment, Animals or Pets, Candy, Pocket knives, Weapons of any kind, fireworks & combustibles.

What is the dress code for Day Camp?

We encourage team members and campers to wear clothing that adheres to the standard described below.

-Swimsuits should be modest and one-piece or a Tankini-only if the fabric fully overlaps (no Bikinis or Speedos).

-All clothing should be suitable for recreation activities.

-Shorts should be suitable for recreation and not form-fitting or overly short (mid-thigh).

-Shirts should be suitable for recreation and modest. Please do not wear form-fitting shirts, or those that reveal the stomach.

-Undergarments should not be visible (bra straps, no sheer tops/bottoms, low cut jeans, etc.).

-Tank Tops must pass all expectations for shirts, have straps that are 2 inches in width, and may not expose the back.

-Dresses should not be low-cut, expose too much of the back, or be too tight. Dresses are expected to have at least a two-inch strap. Skirts and dresses should be knee-length or longer. (Dresses/skirts are generally not appropriate for camp activities.)

-Please do not bring clothing with wording or images contrary to the Christian principles of the camp.

At the discretion of the counselors and/or managers, we may ask a camper to change or refrain from wearing certain articles if the above standard is not met.