

Bluewater Covenant Bible Camp



38400 Bluewater Rd Grand Rapids, MN 55744 (218) 326-6058
www.bluewatercovcamp.org

Summer Camp Information Sheet

*Bluewater Covenant Bible Camp, a ministry of the Red River Valley and Lake Of The Woods Evangelical Covenant Churches, exists to **provide both a spiritually and physically enthusiastic environment that brings adults, youth, and children into a loving relationship with God and others through Jesus Christ.***

We are excited to have your loved one here this summer at Bluewater. Our goal is to provide a quality place for guests to feel safe and have fun in the presence of God within a Christian community. In preparation for this summer, we have listed a few suggestions to help your camper have a wonderful experience prior to camp, while here at camp, and after the camp session. We aim to have open and honest communication while your camper is with us and ask you to do the same in your discussions before camp. This preparation and willingness to work with our staff will aid in making your child's experience at Bluewater a success. We ask that you review the material below with your camper to ensure a fun and safe time for all who attend Bluewater.

WHAT TO BRING:

BIBLE, bug spray, camera (please write name on camera), closed-toe shoes (i.e. tennis shoes), sandals, notebook, pen, play clothes (t-shirts, shorts, jeans), underwear, socks, **ONE-PIECE SWIM SUIT**, rain gear, sleeping bag (or bedding for twin-size bed), pillow, sun screen, warm sweater or jacket, long pants, toiletries, wash cloth, towel, flashlight, spending money. Clothing and other items may be purchased in the camp store and vary in price from \$5.00 to \$50.00. The canteen features candy bars, snack foods, ice cream novelties and beverages. Prices range from \$1.00 to \$2.00. Craft Hall projects may cost anywhere from no charge to \$3.00. A Missions Offering for our summer mission project will be taken at the end of each week. Please discuss proper stewardship of money with your child before he or she arrives.

CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL:

We desire for campers to have an experience in a natural setting where the distractions of every day are removed. For this reason we ask that a number of today's luxuries be left at home including: CELL PHONES, electronic games, expensive jewelry, fireworks, computers, radios, CD players, iPod /MP3 players, etc. Bluewater policy states campers shall not have or use alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs at Bluewater. The absence of the above items will assist in furthering involvement and interaction between campers and staff. Please support Bluewater in our decision to not allow these items at camp. Bluewater is not responsible for lost or broken items.

**Special note on cell phones, cameras, and video equipment*

Cell Phones: We understand that cell phones are common among today's youth and may be helpful while traveling to and from camp. However, due to cameras and video capabilities and uploading to the internet, cell phones will be collected and stored in the camp office. Cell phones enabled with camera and video options will not be considered cameras and will be held in the camp office for the week. **Cell phones found by Bluewater staff not turned in will be placed in the office and there will be a \$25 donation to the missions project when retrieving it.** Taking pictures can be fun and help retain wonderful memories created at camp. We ask that all pictures taken be respectful and appropriate. We desire campers to have an experience in a natural setting where the distractions of every day are removed.

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HEALTH HISTORY FORMS AND MEDICATION:

Please be sure that the form is filled out completely, is reviewed and sign. These are crucial for the health and safety of your child in the case that he or she becomes injured or ill at camp. Special medical food needs, including food allergies, should be included in the Health History Form along with suggested meal ideas.

We ask that medications/supplements containers be well-marked and detailed instructions included if appropriate. Special diets and foods should also be noted and included on the Health Form.

TRANSPORTATION:

Is provided through your local Covenant church in the Red River Valley and Lake of the Woods area. If you are not a part of one of the churches, you are welcome to contact the church to use their transportation. The church's phone numbers are located in the brochure. Check-in time is at 1:00. If you are transporting your child, please do not arrive earlier than 1:00. Campers leave between 12:00 and 1:00. The buses typically depart around 12:45.

HOMESICKNESS:

We want your child to have a positive experience at camp. In order for this to take place, a collaborative effort on the part of the parents/guardians and the camp staff is essential. It may be helpful to discuss, prior to the camp session, what may happen if your camper gets homesick.

We offer a couple suggestions. First, always be pro-camp. Prior to the camp start date, begin sharing your excitement for them by talking about the fun they will have and watch the camp videos from prior summers. When writing a letter, ask how much fun they are having and avoid informing them of what they may be missing at home. Secondly, never tell your child "if you get homesick, we will come and get you." You can always pick-up your child if they are homesick. Most children, and even some staff, feel homesick at some time, and that is OK. However, knowing this as an option often proves to be a downfall. Feel free to call the Camp Director anytime to check up on your child, but please don't call your child unless it is an emergency.

CABIN ASSIGNMENTS:

One of the strengths and luxuries of Bluewater is for campers to meet new people and see the greater community that is beyond the normal church youth group and everyday friendship circles. We also know that it can be a beneficial for friends to come to camp together, staying in the same cabin and enjoying these experiences. Each camper has the ability to select 1 cabin buddy on the registration form. In order to be placed with a friend of your choice, both the camper and friend must request each other as cabin buddy.

In our attempts to accommodate the number of campers that we will have during a camp session we work with cabin buddy requests, cabin sizes, number of counselors, number of campers of each gender, age and more. Because of these constraints, not every request can be granted, but we will work to accommodate where we can. Cabin assignments will be shared with the camper upon arrival.

Our goal is to provide the 3- 6th grade camps with cabins with a majority of the same town. However, in the older camps, we believe in the "Kingdom" experience of camp and the positive experience of putting aside our allegiances and competitiveness towards schools and athletics and provide opportunities to meet other believers from other towns. We still work to keep "buddy" requests together. In our day of communication, these friendships may give a positive influence for the future.

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MOSQUITOES & TICKS:

Due to the location of Bluewater, the mosquito population can be extremely high during the summer. According to the MN Mosquito Control Office, there is little that Bluewater can do to lower that population. Please send insect repellent and instruct your child on its proper use. Wearing a lightweight, long-sleeved top and long pants in the evening may also be helpful.

CLOTHING:

We want Bluewater to be a place where Jesus is the focus, not our clothing. We recognize the distraction clothing can be. Therefore, please leave at home: short shorts, tight or midriff baring shirts, two-piece swimsuits and revealing tank tops. We want the focus of campers, staff and volunteers to be on what campers are doing and saying and not on what they are (or are not) wearing. If the clothing is believed by the camp staff to be inappropriate, the camper will be asked to either change his or her apparel or wear an item that will better align to the Bluewater environment.

LOST AND FOUND:

Bluewater counselors try their best to send kids home with the articles they brought to camp. It would be helpful to label all items (including suitcase and sleeping bags) and leave valuables at home. Items left at camp will be held until Labor Day Weekend, and then given to charity. If you know of a particular item left, please call camp promptly at 218-326-6058.

COMMUNICATION:

Campers love to get mail. Send it early. Write your child at:

Camper's Name
Bluewater Covenant Bible Camp
38400 Bluewater Rd
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Fax: 218-326-6458

Please Note - Mail is delivered after the evening meal each day. Since the mail arrives after 1:00 the campers will not receive mail on the day they leave. Therefore, make sure to send mail so that it gets to camp by the last **full** day. Campers do not have access to computers for email and only emails with the camper's full name in the Subject line will be distributed. Please do not include attachments; they will not be given to the camper. We want to be good stewards of our paper resources, so **please limit faxes and emails to no more than one per day**. Send emails to: micah@bluewatercovcamp.org. In case of emergency, campers may be reached via the camp office at 218-326-6058. **Campers generally are not allowed to call home unless it is an emergency.**

MISSIONS PROJECT:

An offering will be taken at the end of the week towards our mission projects. In 2011, Bluewater campers raised over \$5,680 to assist a Covenant Bible Camp in Russia, Living Water International (clean water in Uganda), Missions in Motion (vehicle for missionary in Alaska) and Bluewater Covenant Bible Camp. Please talk to your children about giving to help others.

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CANCELLATION POLICY:

In the event that a SUMMER registration is cancelled, you will receive a refund of fees paid minus a \$50 non-refundable processing fee as long as the cancellation is made more than one week prior to the start of the camp session. No refunds will be issued for a cancellation within 7 days of the summer camp date.

DAILY SCHEDULE:

Each day at Bluewater is different and unique, but days often follow a similar structure. Below is a sample Junior High camp schedule. Please note that the schedule will vary based on the age-group we are serving.

| | |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00 a.m. | Breakfast |
| 8:45 | Cabin Clean-up |
| 9:15 | Rotations: Fishing, Sailing, Hiking, Rock wall, Group Activities, Canoeing, etc. |
| 10:30 | Morning Chapel |
| 12:00 p.m. | Lunch |
| 1:00 | All Camp Game |
| 2:00 | Free Time (Basketball, volleyball, swimming, Rock Wall, etc.) |
| 3:00 | Canteen/ Tubing/ Waterskiing/ Wakeboarding |
| 6:00 | Supper/ Mail Call |
| 7:00 | God & I Time |
| 7:30 | Evening Chapel |
| 8:30 | Canteen |
| 9:00 | All Camp Activity |
| 10:15 | Get Ready for Bed/Devotions |
| 11:00 | Lights Out |

Lights out time changes with the camp sessions. Scouts will be at 10:00 and Trailblazers will have lights out at 10:30.

We look forward to having your child here this summer and to all the exciting events that he or she will be involved. Please keep Bluewater in your prayers as we continue to prepare for each session. If you have any questions, please call Bluewater Covenant Bible Camp at 218-326-6058 or email us at chad@bluewatercovcamp.org, or for emails to campers - send them to: micah@bluewatercovcamp.org