BETHEL HORIZONS

SUMMER CAMP

2027 Parent Handbook



4651 Co Rd ZZ, Dodgeville, WI 53533
www.bethelhorizons.org
608-257-3577

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Bethel Horizons! Our mission is to foster a better understanding of God, self, others and nature. This summer is going to be filled with new friends, fun adventures, and memories to last a lifetime!

In this Parent/Guardian Handbook, you will find helpful information about preparing for camp—what to pack, how to contact us, daily expectations, and more. Our goal is to make the journey to camp smooth and worry-free for both you and your camper.

We invite you to join us for the Summer Camp Open House at Bethel Horizons (4651 Co Rd ZZ, Dodgeville, WI) on Saturday, May 15th from 1:00p-4:00p. This free, casual event is the perfect opportunity for the whole family to tour our campus, meet the staff, and ask all of your questions!

We are committed to providing a positive, safe, and supportive experience for all of our camp families. Please do not hesitate to contact our team with any questions or concerns.

We cannot wait to see you at Horizons!

Sincerely,



Linda Warren
Office Manager and Registrar
(608) 257-3577, ext. 334
bethelhorizons@bethelhorizons.org

PACKING FOR CAMP

PACKING TIPS

- Label everything! Clothes, shoes, water bottles, flashlights - if it can be misplaced, label it!
- Send clothing that can get dirty. Comfort over fashion!
- Put bedding (sleeping bag, pillow, blanket) in a trash bag with your name on it. These items are frequently mixed up or dirtied during move-in.
- Bethel Horizons has a limited supply of items for campers who forget or do not own a listed item

PACKING LIST

Clothes

- Shorts
- T-shirts
- Socks & Underwear (2 pairs/day suggested)
- Warm Pants
- Sweatshirt
- Pajamas (bring layers if tent camping)
- Raincoat or Poncho
- Tennis Shoes (closed-toe)
- Sandals with a heel strap
- Hat or Sunglasses
- Secure-Fitting Swimsuit

Toiletries

- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Soap
- Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Hair Brush & Hair Ties
- Bath Towel
- Beach Towel (or additional bath towel)
- Washcloth
- Sunscreen
- Bug Spray
- Prescription medications

Gear

- WATER BOTTLE
- Flashlight or Headlamp
- Sleeping Bag
- Blanket
- Pillow
- Bag for hikes (draw-string or backpack)

Optional

- Personal Reading Book
- Money for canteen

DO NOT BRING

- Cell Phones
- Smart Watches
- Food, Candy or Drinks
- Handheld Gaming Systems
- Laptops or Tablets
- iPods, MP3s or Speakers
- Weapons
- Valuables (wallets, jewelry, etc.)
- Alcohol or Illegal Drugs
- Matches or Lighters
- Tobacco or E-Cigarettes
- Pocket Knives or Multitools
- Personal Sports Equipment
- Animals (service animals excluded)
- Fireworks

Any prohibited items will be confiscated and stored in the camp office and released to parents/guardians at pick-up. Bethel Horizons is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items.

LODGING

BARN RETREAT CENTER

The Barn Retreat Center houses our youngest campers, the Horizons Explorers. This cozy lodge has rooms of 5 beds, a fireside room, and a game room! Night lights, bedtime stories, and a team of caring counselors make the BRC feel like home.





FOREST VILLAGE CABINS

The Forest Village Cabins are home to our 4th - 6th grade campers. Each cabin sleeps 10 campers and 2 counselors in bunk beds. Every cabin has a private bathroom, so campers don't have to walk outside after bedtime! There is a central shower house with single-stall showers and restrooms.





TENT & TRAILER CAMPGROUND

Tent & Trailer Campground offers the traditional camping experience for our 7th - 9th grade campers. The campground features a picnic shelter and shower house with water and electricity. Campers can choose to sleep in tents or hammocks.



PRAIRIE CENTER

The Prairie Center houses our speciality and Adamah Art camps. This is the central lodge on campus, where meals and indoor activities are held. Each of the 14 rooms have attached bathrooms and fit up to 4 campers.





For more photos and information, visit www.bethelhorizons.org/retreat

DAILY SCHEDULE

Camp is wonderfully unpredictable! Camp challenges us to be flexible problem-solvers. Weather, travel, field trips and the unexpected make every day at camp a surprise. There is no such thing as a "typical day of camp," but this is the basic schedule that we build upon to create each unique program:

7:30a **Wakeup**
Get dressed, pack for the day, hike to breakfast

8:00a **Breakfast**
Buffet-style hot meal served at the Prairie Center

8:45a **First Word**
Morning devotion led by our camp chaplain

9:15a **Morning Crew**
Campers work together to tidy their cabins and common spaces

10:00a **Morning Activity**
Dependent on the theme of the camp. Could be hiking, ropes course, art, etc.

12:00p **Lunch**
Picnic lunch (includes a sandwich, fruit, vegetable, juice, granola bar & treat)

1:00p **Beach Time**
Campers hike to Twin Valley Beach for an afternoon of swimming & relaxing

3:00p **Afternoon Snack**
Take a break from swimming to fuel up for more fun at the beach

5:00p **Cabin Time**
Bus back to camp to shower, change and rest before dinner

6:00p **Dinner**
Buffet-style hot meal served at the Prairie Center

6:45p **Evening Crew**
Campers build a sense of ownership and belonging by working together to care for camp

7:15p **Evening Activity**
A different all-camp activity every evening (campfire, carnival, live animal show, etc)

8:30p **Cabin Time**
Get ready for bed and unwind with some chill cabin bonding

9:30p **Lights Out**

SUNDAY DROP-OFF

When completing camp registration, parents/guardians choose between dropping their camper off at Bethel Lutheran Church in Madison or dropping off directly to camp in Dodgeville.

MADISON DROP-OFF

Bethel Horizons provides free round-trip bus transportation between Bethel Lutheran Church and camp. Campers riding the bus must arrive at Bethel Lutheran Church (312 Wisconsin Ave, Madison) between 2:00-2:15pm. The bus departs promptly at 3:00pm.

DODGEVILLE DROP-OFF

Campers driving directly to camp (4651 Co Rd ZZ, Dodgeville) should arrive between 3:15p - 3:30p. Please park in the parking lot and unload all camper belongings. Find a staff member to begin the check-in process.

DROP-OFF PROCEDURE (applies to both locations)

1. **Luggage Drop:** A staff member will tag campers' belongings by camp and load them into a van. Before loading luggage, please remove all medications, forms, canteen money, and contraband. Take these items with you to the next station.

2. **Wellness Screening & Medication Check-In:** All campers must complete a wellness screening with the Camp Health team. Campers will be asked general questions about their health, and scanned for any bumps, bruises, lice or symptoms of illness. After the screening, the health staff will check-in any camper medications.

3. **Meet our Leadership:** The final step is for campers and guardians to chat with a member of leadership to ask questions and share any important information. The leadership staff will collect forms, canteen money, and any contraband (if applicable).

4. **Say Goodbye & Join the Fun!** Once campers and guardians are feeling confident and excited for the week, it's time to say goodbye. A counselor will welcome campers into a group activity and introduce them to their new friends!

FRIDAY PICK-UP

When completing camp registration, parents/guardians choose between picking their camper up from Bethel Lutheran Church in Madison or directly from camp in Dodgeville.

MADISON PICK-UP

The bus of campers arrives at Bethel Lutheran Church around 1:15p. If the bus is delayed, parents will be notified via email ahead of time.

DODGEVILLE PICK-UP

Campers can be picked up directly from camp between 11:30a - 11:45a. Please park in the parking lot and walk down the hill to the white tents outside of the Prairie Center.

PICK-UP PROCEDURE (applies to both locations)

1. **Camper Check-Out:** Upon arrival, please find a staff member. Provide your and your camper's name. Our staff will cross reference with the list of authorized adults on the camper's profile. Parents/Guardians must complete a Camper Pick-Up Authorization form for anyone not listed on the profile.

2. **Retreive Medications & Contraband:** After verifying pick-up authorization, staff will return any medications and confiscated items to parents/guardians.

3. **Gather Luggage** Please help your camper collect ALL of their belongings! Pillows and sleeping bags are frequently left behind. Double check for any art projects or souvenirs that may not have been stored inside a bag or suitcase.

BEHAVIOR POLICIES

CAMPER CODE OF CONDUCT

All campers are expected to:

Be Safe

- Follow directions given by counselors and staff.
- Stay with your group. Notify a counselor and use the buddy system if you need to go anywhere.
- Follow all posted rules in the bus or camp vehicles.
- Follow all beach rules. Stop and look at the lifeguard immediately when you hear a whistle.
- Tell a counselor if you are feeling unwell, or if you notice anything broken or dangerous.
- Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself. Violence is not tolerated at camp.

Be Respectful

- Listen when others are speaking. All voices are important.
- Clean up after yourself. We must all work together to care for camp.
- Celebrate our differences. Our community has a wide variety of identities and beliefs.
- Use positive language. Teasing, bullying, and gossip are not welcome at camp.
- Be patient with yourself and others. We are all learning and growing every day.
- Ask before using another person's property. Always return an item to where you found it.

Be Responsible

- Be honest and accountable. We all make mistakes, so let's own up to ours and learn from them.
- Keep track of your belongings. Make sure you have everything before you transition.
- Use equipment and facilities properly. Most fun camp activities are not easily replaced.
- Report bullying, unsafe behavior, or other concerns immediately.

Be a Positive Community Member

- Try new things, participate enthusiastically, and encourage others.
- Resolve conflict calmly, or ask an adult for support.
- Be a leader. Offer help without being asked.
- Be inclusive! Invite everyone to join in on games, conversations, or activities.

BEHAVIOR SUPPORT

Summer staff receive training in positive behavior support. We set campers up for success by building meaningful relationships and setting clear, consistent expectations. If a camper is demonstrating consistent concerning behavior and is not responding to consequences and redirection, camp leadership will create a Behavior Contract and contact a parent/guardian. Violation of the Behavior Contract may result in being sent home early.

We have a zero-tolerance policy for unsafe behaviors. Campers will be sent home immediately for:

- Any action that threatens the physical safety of one's self, another camper, or a staff member;
- Any action or language that is of a sexual nature;
- Any action or language that diminishes others on the basis of their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or culture.

HEALTH

REQUIRED HEALTH FORMS

There are 2 health forms that must be completed for every camper.

1. **Camper Medical Information Form:** This form is completed by parents/guardians during registration on CampWise.
2. **Camper Health Provider Evaluation Form:** This form is completed by the camper's physician, based on any exam within the last two years. This form, along with immunization records, must be submitted by June 1, 2027. These documents can be uploaded to your CampWise profile, or they can be returned to Bethel Horizons by mail, fax, or email.

   Mail: Bethel Horizons, 312 Wisconsin Ave, Madison, WI 53703
   Fax: (608) 257-4044
   Email: bethelhorizons@bethelhorizons.org

MEDICATION

If your child's medical professional has prescribed medication, this medication must accompany your child in the original prescription bottle, in a plastic bag with the child's name on it, along with the instructions, dosage and when to administer the medication. This includes any over-the-counter medication. Parents/Guardians will check in medications with the Camp Health team at drop-off. Your child will not be allowed to come to camp without their prescribed medications.

ACCIDENT OR ILLNESS

Should your child have an accident or illness at camp, the following procedure will be followed:

1. The Camp Health Supervisor will assess and attend to your child's injury or illness.
2. If necessary, camp staff will phone the parent/guardian.
3. Upon assessment, if your child is seriously injured, they will be taken directly to the Emergency Room in Dodgeville and treated by the attending physician.
4. Camp staff will notify you of your child's condition. If the attending physician advises against returning to camp activities, we will work with parents/guardians to coordinate transportation home.

CANTEEN

On Wednesdays, campers have an opportunity to shop at our camp store. The Canteen includes a wide variety of camp merch, including t-shirts, water bottles, teddy bears, stickers & more!

HOW TO SEND MONEY

Parents/Guardians can deposit canteen money one of two ways:

1. Electronic Funds: To add money to your camper's account, log into CampWise using the same credentials you created for registration. You can add funds to your camper's account as late as Monday (the day after you drop your camper off at camp)
2. Cash: At drop-off, a staff member will ask if you have any cash for canteen. Staff will take the cash and put it in an envelope labeled with your camper's name. We will then deposit that amount into their camp store account.

HOW MUCH MONEY SHOULD I SEND WITH MY CAMPER?

On average, campers spend $10 to $20.
Tax is included in our prices.
Price per item ranges from $1 - $30.*

*NOTE the price breakdown to the right is from summer 2026. Some items may be unavailable, and new items will be added! All items will remain under $30.



Canteen

Hoodie	$30
Coffee Mug	$20
Red Shirt	$10
Teddy Bear	$10
Bucket Hat	$10
Tie-Dye Shirt	$5
Pop-It Ball	$5
Bracelet	$2
Water Bottle	$5
Football	$5
Drawstring Bag	$5
Sunglasses	$4
Frisbee	$3
Pin	$3
Sticker	$2
Post Card	$1
Pen	$1

WHAT IF MY CAMPER DOESN'T SPEND IT ALL?

Any unused funds will be refunded at the end of the week. If you sent money electronically, your refund will go directly back to that payment method. If you sent cash, your camper will come home with an envelope of change.

COMMUNICATION

PARENT COMMUNICATION

Bethel Horizons uses the "Share Your Photos" website/app to upload pictures throughout the week. We utilize email and social media for camp-wide updates (including emergency weather response), and call or text guardians directly for individual updates as needed.

CAMPER PHONE CALL POLICY

At camp, one of our goals is to help campers build confidence, independence, and resilience in a supportive environment. For this reason, we do not encourage campers to make phone calls home. Frequent calls can disrupt activities, intensify homesickness, and make it harder for campers to settle in and enjoy their experience.

Parents/Guardians are always welcome to contact camp staff if they have a question or concern, and we can pass along messages as needed. Text or call the Leadership Staff at (608) 574-6744.

Camper phone calls are limited to specific circumstances:

- Medical incidents requiring guardian notification
- Significant emotional challenges when speaking with a guardian may help the camper feel supported
- At the discretion of camp leadership, if a phone call is deemed helpful for the camper's well-being

If a camper expresses feelings of homesickness, our trained staff will work with them first using proven strategies such as distraction, encouragement, and connection with new friends. Most campers are able to move past these feelings quickly with gentle support.

CAMPER MAIL

Campers love to know that someone at home is thinking of them! Family and friends are welcome to send handwritten letters or email messages to their camper. Letters are distributed daily at dinner.

Handwritten Letters

Handwritten letters can be sent to camp in one of two ways:

1. USPS: To ensure that mail arrives during your camper's stay, letters must be mailed no later than the Thursday before your camper's week at camp. Please send letters to:
   "Bethel Horizons Attn: [camper's name, camp program] 4651 Co Rd ZZ, Dodgeville, WI 53533"
2. Give to Staff at Drop-Off: Adults can pass camper mail to staff at drop-off. Please label letters with your camper's name, camp program, and the day of the week when we should deliver the letter.

Email Messages

Emails to campers can be sent to campermail@bethelhorizons.org. In the subject line, please write: "Camper Mail: [your camper's name & camp program]." If you would like your camper to receive your email the same day it was sent, make sure to send it by 12:00p noon. Any emails received after noon will be delivered the following day.

SEVERE WEATHER

Every week, our campers and staff practice a severe weather drill using the emergency procedures posted in all of our facilities. Our leadership team constantly monitors weather conditions. In the event of severe weather, campers are moved to appropriate shelters. Activities will be modified appropriately in response to air quality alerts, precipitation and heat index. Parents will be notified of camp conditions via Facebook or email.

Weather & Tent Camping

Our tents are equipped with rain flies and tarps that keep us warm and dry on rainy nights. In the event of a thunderstorm warning, tent campers will be relocated indoors.

WHO TO CONTACT

REGISTRATION, PAPERWORK, & FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

Linda Warren, Office Manager & Registrar

bethelhorizons@bethelhorizons.org
Call (608) 257-3577, ext. 334

ALL OTHER CAMP-RELATED QUESTIONS

hello@bethelhorizons.org

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

If you urgently need to contact your camper during their week at camp, call or text (608) 574-6744 (one of our leadership staff always has this phone).

AFTER CAMP

FRIDAY EMAIL

After campers depart on Friday, parents/guardians will receive an email summary of the week. The message will include a link to view and download photos, and a link to the 2027 Camp Survey.

SIGN UP FOR ADDITIONAL WEEKS OF CAMP!

Has your kiddo been talking about camp non-stop since returning home? There's likely still time to register for another week of camp, AND we offer a multi-week discount! Registration closes 1 week prior to the start of a camp. To enroll in additional camps, log into your CampWise account, or contact our Office Manager at bethelhorizons@bethelhorizons.org.

LOST & FOUND

All lost items will be stored at camp for two weeks. Items not picked up within that time frame will be donated. If you believe a possession was left behind, email hello@bethelhorizons.org with a detailed description of the item.

Parents/Guardians can coordinate the pick-up of Lost & Found items at Bethel Horizon's Prairie Center (4651 Co Rd ZZ, Dodgeville, WI) or at the front desk of Bethel Lutheran Church (312 Wisconsin Ave, Madison, WI) during business hours. We are unable to ship or mail Lost & Found items.

Bethel Horizons is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen items.

YEAR-ROUND EVENTS

Bethel Horizons offers lots of year-round events for families, and many of them are FREE! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay connected.