Antiochian Village



Sacred Arts Camps Camper/Parent Information

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Letter from the Camp Director

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Christ is in our midst!

We are very excited that you have registered your child (or children) for one of our Sacred Arts Camps at the Antiochian Village. You are in good company. According to the American Camp Association, millions of kids attend camp each year. We appreciate the fact that you are ready to entrust into our care the ones who mean the most in the world to you. We work to never take that trust for granted, and feel privileged to be able to partner with you for the growth of your child.

The following pages contain information vital to your ability to properly prepare your camper. We take the safety and well-being of your child as our first priority, and therefore we ask and expect that you will read each section carefully so that you can properly prepare your camper for their Village experience, and we can be properly prepared to receive and care for them. This is especially important in that we constantly strive to improve our work and this booklet includes some information which has been changed from previous years.

We look forward to seeing your camper this summer at the Village!

Your servant in Christ,

V. Rev. Anthony G. Yazge

Camp Director

Preparing Your Camper for Camp Life

The camp experience is like other important experiences in life: the better one is prepared, the more one gets out of the experience. This section covers all of the key areas that require attention before your camper leaves home. One of the first things to do, especially with new campers (but returning campers need reminders, too!) is to talk with your camper(s) about what they can expect. Below are a few sections of things you should review with your campers to help ease their transition to camp life.

A Typical Day at Camp

Each Sacred Arts Camp will be focused on learning either chanting or iconography. The structure of the week will follow the typical Antiochian Village schedule with daily services each day, Matins and Vespers, and Divine Liturgy twice during the week.

Iconography campers will eat meals with the campers of Session 3 Summer Camp, but will spend the morning, afternoon, and most evening programs learning the sacred art of Iconography.

Byzantine Chant Campers will spend the morning program (a 2-hour time period) learning the sacred art of Byzantine Chant. The afternoon and evening programs will be spent participating in the standard camp activities.

Camp Life

Just about everything about life at camp is different than life at home. Preparing your camper with as much information as possible will be helpful to their adjustment. While giving them a positive preview of their coming experience, let them know that life will be different, and that you want them to gain many new experiences while away. Some of the areas to prepare them for would include the following:

Iconography Camp

During Iconography Camp, participants will learn to "write" icons in a Traditional Byzantine Style. During this one-week session participants will complete an 8" x 10" panel icon. Supplies that will be provided include: 8" x 10" panel prepared with gesso, 23 kt gold leaf, acrylic paint, paint brushes, a resource manual, and various materials required to complete the icon (pencils, tracing paper, shellac, varnish, etc.)

Byzantine Chanting Camp

Chanting Camp will focus on teaching the basic skills of chanting the 8 tones of Byzantine Music. Specific hymns that will be focused on include hymns from Sunday Matins and Saturday's Great Vespers. Depending on the level of the participants, more hymns of greater difficulty may be taught as well.

Living Arrangements

Campers will live with up to seven fellow campers and their counselor in shared quarters. Each cabin has 4 sets of bunk beds and a private bathroom. Campers are grouped according gender. Iconography Campers will stay in cabins according to gender with the other campers participating in Iconography Camp. Byzantine Chant Campers will be in cabins with the campers according to age and gender.

Meals

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are eaten together as a community in our Dining Hall. Rest assured, our dietician-reviewed menu is both nutritious and attempts to meet the variety of tastes of the kids. Many items will be to your child's liking, some items served may be things your child may never have tried before, while other items may be things they dislike. Because of our need to feed over 300 people in a relatively short period of time, we are not able to handle special requests for meals. Help your camper by relaying your expectation is that they will try new things and eat what is served. If for medical reasons there are dietary restrictions for your camper, please notify the camp in writing, at least two weeks prior to arrival, so that the Camp Nurse and Kitchen Staff may properly prepare for your camper's arrival.

Fasting

As an Orthodox Christian camp, we adhere to the tenants of the faith, and therefore, on prescribed days we follow the fast of the Church in a very simple and humble attempt. Our fasting practice here at the Antiochian Village is to refrain from meats on fasting days. While we recognize that families follow different fasting practices, here at the Village we feel this is a reasonable expectation of all campers and staff to aid us in our spiritual growth. We encourage you as parents to speak with your children about fasting while they are at camp.

Camp Activities

While the majority of time will be spent indoors learning either iconography or chanting, there will also be times each day to get outside and enjoy the beautiful camp setting. Byzantine Chant Campers will participate in the traditional summer camp activities including field sports, archery, swimming, canoeing, and more. Iconography Campers will go off camp to visit a local parish and iconographer to see different styles of iconography. Rainy days are a frequent occurrence, so rain gear is a must.

Conduct

All campers are expected to act in ways appropriate to an Orthodox Christian setting. While all disciplinary action will be taken to attempt resolution on site, the Camp Director reserves the right to dismiss campers for gross violations of camp rules. Parents will be responsible for arranging and covering costs for their child's early departure.

Independence

Last but not least, one of the major adjustments campers experience is being independent from parents, with typically no contact during the camping session. This can be one of the most positive experiences they can have at camp and one which can be invaluable in the process of growing up. Be aware that you as a parent may need to prepare for this as much—if not more—than your camper!

Arrangements Parents Need to Make Before Camp

Fees

To receive the early-bird discount, full payment must be received by March 1. Balance of all payments is due by May 1, or the camper's spot may be moved to the waitlist for the session for which they were previously enrolled. Special payment arrangements can be made by writing the Camp Director, but such requests must be received prior to the May 1 deadline. All balances will be billed to the camper's parents, regardless of any parish subsidies, so parents are encouraged to ensure that all parish subsidies are paid before the May 1 deadline to avoid losing their camper's spot in the session.

Scholarship Information

Each parish in the Antiochian Archdiocese receives \$700 in scholarship funds from the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch. Your parish priest determines the disbursement of these funds and can be consulted for all details. Parish priests must return these forms to the Department of Camping office at the Antiochian Village no later than March 1 or these funds will be disbursed to other needy campers through the general Campership Fund.

Additional scholarship funds are also available from the Antiochian Village for families needing financial assistance. To request financial assistance, please fill out the online "Scholarship Request Form" from our website: www.avcamp.org/forms, no later than March 1. Notification of awards will be sent around April 1. All scholarship requests are confidential, and awards are only given on the basis of financial need.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

We appreciate prompt notification in the event of cancellation. Cancellations before June 1 will receive a full refund less the deposit. After June 1, refunds of tuition payments may be requested in writing and will only be granted if a replacement for the open spot is found, except in cases of family emergency. The deposit is non-refundable and non-transferable.

Health Care

Your camper's health and safety are our #1 priority. To adequately serve our campers, our health care staff needs enough time to prepare for their needs. Therefore, all health information for your camper(s) is due 1 month prior to the start of his/her camping session. This includes the health information you fill out online as well as the doctor's form. If health information form and/or doctor form is not received by the 1-month deadline, a \$50 late fee will be assessed. If you are unable to get the doctor's signature by the 1-month deadline, please let us know before the deadline by calling the office at 724-238-9565 or e-mailing office@avcamp.org.

The Health History & Information for your camper may be submitted online by logging into your account and clicking on the link to the Health Form under your camper's name. You may also download this form at http://www.avcamp.org/forms, and it must be filled out in its entirety by you and the camper's doctor, and returned to our office no later than one month prior to the beginning of your camper's session. Our Camp Nurse reviews all medical forms in advance. Forms are occasionally lost in transit when being sent, so please make a copy of the completed form before mailing it to the Camp Office. If your child has any medical issues or conditions requiring special accommodations at camp, please contact the Camp Office as soon as possible. Please do not allow embarrassment to prevent us from providing adequate care for your child in your absence. The form is confidential and the information is only available to the Camp Director, the Health Staff, and any trip leaders.

A Registered Nurse is in residence during the camping season to take care of any health care needs. Upon your camper's arrival, he/she will meet with the Camp Nurse to review any medical concerns. All medication (prescription and over the counter) will be collected upon arrival at camp, so please pack them in an accessible location. Prescription medication must be brought in the original prescription container with the original pharmacy label. Please do not send over-the-counter medications with your camper, as we stock it in our Health Center (Tylenol, Advil, cold medicine, etc.)

Off-Camp Trips

Campers attending the Iconography Camp will participate in at least one off-camp trip. The trip may include a visit to a local iconographer's studio, and/or a visit to see a local parish's icons. Transportation will be provided for all trips according to Antiochian Village policy.

Health Insurance

All campers should be covered by their family policy. While the Antiochian Village will act as guarantor, any costs incurred by the Camp in providing required treatment for doctor's appointments, prescriptions, etc., will be billed to the camper's parents.

Travel Information

For parents sending their campers to camp via plane, train or bus, all travel information must be

received in our office at least 1 month before the first day of the camp session. A \$50.00 charge will be assessed for any travel information received late. See "Sending Campers by Plane, Train or Bus" on page 13 - 14 for more details.

Photos/Videos

Hundreds of photos will be taken and posted online via the Antiochian Village homepage on SmugMug.com. These photos will be available for your viewing pleasure as well as for purchase. There is a \$20.00 fee for each DVD video. Because only one video is produced for each camp session, you may wish to order only one video if sending more than one child. Please know that we do our best to have each camper videotaped and photographed, but do not expect to see your camper on our website daily.

Media Consent

Throughout your child's stay at the Antiochian Village, staff members will be videotaping footage which will be included in a DVD that will be sold to campers and staff at the end of each session. This DVD will be primarily for the participants as a memento of their experience. However, it will also be used for purposes of promoting the Antiochian Village and its programs.

During each session, the staff will be taking photographs of the participants' activities and posting them on the Antiochian Village website, www.avcamp.org (Summer Memories link). This common practice of many programs keeps parents and friends back home informed of the participants' daily activities. Only participants' first names (not last names) will be used on both the DVD and the website.

Parents must sign a Media Consent Form granting or denying permission for their child's picture to be taken for the camp DVD, promotional materials for the camp, and the daily update pictures on the website.

Packing for Camp

Snacks and Care Packages

No snacks need be sent with the campers or mailed to camp as they will be entitled to two snack items per day from our Gimme Shop, including soda pop, candy, or ice cream, and dessert is served twice daily at meals. The cost of these snacks is included in the camper fee. Here at camp, packages with food or candy are simply an invitation for rodents and ants to come to a scrumptious dinner. Treats from home also often lead to stomach aches and improper nutrition, and complicate relationships between campers with treats and those without. Any food received will be shared immediately or collected for distribution to local shelters.

Christian Modesty

While camping is of its nature informal, Christian modesty should be your guiding principle when packing. Excessively revealing clothing should not be packed as inappropriate clothing will not be permitted to be worn. Inappropriate clothing includes, but is not limited to: open back tops, low-cut fronts, skin tight clothing, half shirts, two-piece bathing suits, tank tops with less than two finger-width straps, shorts cut shorter than a few inches above the knee, low-cut waistlines, and tank-top undershirts. No more than two pairs of earrings are permitted for girls, none for guys. Excess earrings and other body piercings must be removed prior to admittance to

camp. Tattoos must be covered at all times while at camp. Sagging pants and exposed underwear are a no-no as well.

Because of our outdoor setting with uneven terrain, tree roots, etc, backless shoes (flip-flops, etc.), open-toe shoes, and high heels are not safe and should not be packed and worn at camp. Athletic shoes must be worn during Afternoon Program.

As in most of the continental US, mosquitoes in the area may be carriers of West Nile Virus, so we therefore recommend long sleeve t-shirts or other long sleeve shirts during sunset hours when mosquitoes are most active.

Rain is a frequent occurrence so proper rain gear is required so that programs can continue in spite of light rain.

Dress for daily church services is casual but long pants and covered shoulders are required. For Divine Liturgies, celebrated three times each session, boys are expected to wear a collared shirt (tie preferred), and girls should wear a dress or skirt and blouse, with skirt length at least kneelength or lower.

We do not recommend bringing expensive or name-brand clothing or other expensive items to camp. Each article of clothing and all gear must be clearly labeled for identification. Cabin storage space is limited, so each camper should bring no more than two pieces of luggage: one suitcase/duffle bag and one carryon size small bag or backpack.

Camper Packing List

Changes of clothing for at least 7 days, with all items marked in indelible ink or tags

- ➤ Basic summer-wear (underwear, socks, t-shirts, shorts)
- Nice outfits for Divine Liturgies (3 per session, 2 for iconography camp)
- ➤ Long pants (jeans or sweats are OK) for church services each day other than Divine Liturgy
- Long sleeve t-shirts or other long sleeve shirts (mosquito protection)
- > Sturdy tennis/athletic shoes
- Modest swimsuit (no two-piece suits or one-piece with cut-outs permitted)
- > Sweater, sweatshirt, or lightweight jacket
- > Waterproof raincoat or poncho
- > Sleeping bag, sheet (twin-size) and pillow or (twin-size) set of sheets, blanket and pillow
- ➤ Laundry Bag, marked with camper's name
- > Two towels, washcloth
- ➤ Insect Repellant (non-aerosol, 10% max DEET for children under 12, 30% max for 13 and up)
- ➤ Toiletries, including: Comb/brush, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant (non-aerosol)
- > Flashlight
- ➤ Optional: Bible, camera (marked with name), journal, hiking boots (age 16-17), water bottle, travel games (non-electronic), cards

**For Iconography Camp- Please pack a work shirt to be worn over your clothes when you are painting (the paints will not wash out of your clothes). A men's cotton button down dress shirt will work good. Make sure that it will NOT leave fibers or fuzzies.

LEAVE HOME... (any of these items will be confiscated upon arrival to camp)

- > Food
- ➤ All electronics (iPods, cell phones, electronic games, iPads/tablets, etc.)
- > Jewelry and other valuables, including sports equipment
- ➤ All alcohol and tobacco products
- > Immodest apparel
- > Dangerous implements, i.e. knives, axes, fireworks, etc.
- Any illegal substances (campers found with any will be sent home immediately)
- > Pets
- Any aerosol products (hairspray, deodorant, insect repellent, etc.)

Laundry

Laundry will be done only once per two-week session, so pack enough clothing to last at least one full week. All campers should bring a laundry bag in which to accumulate dirty clothing. Your child's name should be written on each piece of clothing with a permanent marker or with a name label to minimize loss. Upon return home, please check your camper's luggage immediately, and notify the Camp Office of any lost items. Clothing left behind will be held for two weeks after the end of each camping session, after which all unclaimed items will be donated to local families in need.

Spending Money

The camper fee covers all regular camping expenses. Shopping in our popular Camp Bookstore, which stocks books, icons, items of clothing bearing the Village logo, etc. does require spending money, which can be sent prior to camp or collected upon registration. Any remaining balance will be given back to the camper upon departure. No money will be kept with the camper in the cabins, as the Antiochian Village is not responsible for any lost money. Please do not send cash to your child in the mail while he/she is at camp. Average amounts brought by campers range between \$20 and \$50.

During the Camping Session

Relax!

While your child is at camp, take advantage and enjoy the (temporary) quiet! If you miss your kids, write a letter or two—campers love getting mail!—or go to our website to get information about sending email to your camper. Relax, knowing your children are in good hands.

Visitation Policy

Please feel free to meet our staff and tour the camp facilities on check-in day. However, because campers often become homesick when they see a parent or family member (even parents of other campers), we ask that there be no other visitors to camp during the regular camping session.

For parents who want a more thorough experience of the Antiochian Village, we have scheduled

a weekend of **Family Camp** during Memorial Day and Columbus Day Weekends, where you can experience camp life as a whole family.

For former Alumni (any former camper, staff, or volunteer over the age of 18), we will have an Annual Alumni Weekend held at the Heritage & Learning Center each summer. Alumni Weekend is an opportunity for alumni of all ages to return home to the Village. Although we will stay at the Heritage & Learning Center, most activities, if not all, will be at the camp and with the campers. Please visit our website for more details and registration information.

Contact with your child

The active camp schedule prevents regular contact with your camper. If your child is sent to camp via plane, bus, or train, your child will be required to call home collect immediately after checking in, in order to confirm his or her safe arrival. Thereafter, outgoing calls may be allowed only at the discretion of the Camp Director, and only for emergency situations. Receiving or placing phone calls during the session disrupts the program and often makes homesickness worse, so we do not allow them except, as stated, for emergency circumstances. You therefore will probably not hear from the camp or your camper and "no news is good news!" If your camper suffers serious injury or illness, you will be promptly notified. These would include any issue requiring off-camp health services or an illness in which a fever lasts for more than 24 hours.

We know how hard it can be to "let go," not knowing what your child is doing during their stay. To give you a non-invasive "peek" in on them, parents and others are invited to check the camp website for daily updates during the camping session at www.avcamp.org (Summer Memories link). At our website, you can find pictures of campers in action with accompanying narration to fill you in on the day's events.

Should an emergency which requires communication with your child arise, please call the Camp Office at 724-238-9565. If it is after hours, the voicemail system will offer you an emergency number to dial.

We encourage letter writing both to and from camp, with mail being delivered daily. Sending a letter before your child leaves home is a good idea, as the mail will be waiting for your child on their first full day at camp. Ask questions about camp, but avoid telling your child how much you miss them, as this may spark homesickness. Short declarations of love such as, "We're so proud of you," or "We love you," or "See you real soon" are just what your child will want to hear.

E-Mail

Parents may purchase a package of five (5) emails for \$5.00, in order to email their child(ren) while at camp. Parents will be able to log-in via the Antiochian Village website to send email to their child(ren). Campers will not be able to send responses via email this year. For more information, please see our website.

Getting your Camper to Camp

Driving Your Camper to Camp

On the first day of the session, campers being driven to the camp may be checked in between 1PM and 5PM. If arriving earlier, parents/chaperones are welcome to join us for Liturgy at 10AM, with brunch following for \$5 per meal (this is not a regularly scheduled meal of the camping session). Arrivals at any other time must be approved in advance by the Camp Director. Chaperones are welcome to stay and visit the camp grounds until 5 PM.

Registration will take place in the Metropolitan PHILIP Welcome Lodge. The process will include being introduced to your camper's counselor, meeting the nurse to discuss any health issues and/or turning over all medications which will be dispensed then from the Health Center (formerly known as the Infirmary), and collecting all cash to prevent loss during the session. Any funds not spent in the bookstore will be given back at the end of the session.

Lodging Accommodations for Drivers

You may contact the Conference Center for lodging the night before or after check-in or check-out day by calling (724) 238-3677 or emailing <u>info@antiochianvillage.org</u>. The Antiochian Village Heritage and Learning Center typically offers a special Camper Parent rate, so be sure to ask for this. On Check-in Day, all drivers must leave the camp grounds by 5 PM, and no return visits will be permitted.

Driving Directions

Although our mailing address is in Bolivar, PA, the Village is actually located in Fairfield Township about 7.5 miles north of Ligonier on Route 711. If you are using an internet mapping website or a GPS device for directions, the camp address is 201 St. Ignatius Trail, Bolivar, PA and the Heritage and Learning Center address is 140 Church Camp Trail, Bolivar, PA.

From the Northeast

Head West on Rt. 80, exiting at Route 220 <u>South</u> (Exit 161). Head South on Route 220 for about an hour as the road alternates between four-lane expressway and two-way highway, passing State College and Altoona. Exit onto Route 22, then head West on Route 22 for about a half hour. Exit onto Route 56. Proceed East on Rt. 56 which will join with Route 711 South. Follow Route 711 South, turning right after crossing a bridge and continue for approximately 13 miles. Entrance to the Antiochian Village will be on the left hand side, approximately 1 mile past Champion Lakes Golf Course and the Real McCoy Restaurant.

From the Pennsylvania Turnpike

Take the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-76) to Exit 91 in Donegal. Follow the signs to Rt. 711 North. Proceed on Rt. 711 North for approximately 15 miles, and you will cross Rt. 30 and drive through "downtown" Ligonier. You will go around the Gazebo in the center of the town, and continue on Route 711 North. After approximately 4 miles, you will see a Sheetz Gas Station at a fork in the road. Bear left, staying on Route 711 North, and it is approximately 3.5 miles from that point. The entrance of the Antiochian Village will be on the right hand side.

From Pittsburgh International Airport

Follow signs leaving airport towards Pittsburgh. Before passing through the Ft. Pitt Tunnel, get into your right-hand lane in order to exit immediately after the tunnel onto I-376 towards Monroeville. Stay on this highway until you reach the Pennsylvania Turnpike exit. Head East on the Turnpike to Exit 91 (Donegal). Follow directions from the Pennsylvania Turnpike above.

Sending Campers by Plane, Train or Bus

The Village provides round-trip ground transportation for campers arriving into Pittsburgh or Latrobe airports, or by bus or train to those cities. All travel information, including airline, flight number, arrival and departure times must be received in our office at least two weeks prior to arrival. Travel information received late is subject to a \$25 late fee. Campers will be met at the gate by uniformed Village Staff members, as well as escorted to the gate at departure. Flight arrival times must fall between 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. on the first day of the session. Any deviation from these times must be requested in writing and approved by the Camp Director to guarantee that ground transportation will be provided.

Safety Rules for Van or Bus Transportation

Staff members will review safety and evacuation procedures with the campers before departing. At least 2 staff members will accompany each van or bus. Campers will be asked to refrain from unsafe behavior to ensure that the driver is not distracted (being out of seats while van/bus is moving, hands out of window, etc.), remain seat-belted at all times in vans, and load/unload the van/bus in a safe and orderly manner.

Check-out Day

Driving Your Camper Home from Camp

Byzantine Chanting Camp ends on **Friday** morning and all campers must be picked up between 9 AM and 12 Noon. Please pick up your child no later than Noon, as our staff must prepare for the next group of campers arriving. Please note that for any pick-ups falling after 12 Noon, an extended supervision fee will be charged, at a rate of \$25.00 per hour, per camper.

Iconography Camp ends on **Monday** afternoon and all campers must be picked up between 10 AM and noon.

Return Home by Plane, Train or Bus

For Byzantine Chanting Camp, flight departure times must fall between 9AM and 2 PM on Friday. For Iconography Campers' flight departure times must fall between noon and 4 PM on Monday.

Any deviation from these times must be requested in writing and approved by the Camp Director to guarantee that ground transportation will be provided. Please note that for any later departure times approved, an extended supervision fee will be charged, at a rate of \$25.00 per hour, per camper. An Antiochian Village staff member will stay with your child at the airport until their departure.

Antiochian Village Camper Policy for Online Social Networking and Blogging Websites

In general, the Antiochian Village views social networking sites (e.g., MySpace, Facebook, etc.), personal Web sites, and Weblogs positively and respects the right of campers to use them as a medium of self-expression. If a camper chooses to identify himself or herself as a camper at the Antiochian Village on such Internet venues, some readers of such Web sites or blogs may view the camper as a representative or spokesperson of the Antiochian Village. In light of this possibility, the Antiochian Village requires, as a condition of participation in the camp, that campers observe the following guidelines when referring to the Antiochian Village, its programs or activities, its campers, and/or other staff, in a blog or on a Web site:

- 1) Campers must be respectful in all communications (text and photos) and blogs related to or referencing the camp, its employees, and other campers. Any photos or messages that are linked or "tagged" from "friends" and attached to your site(s) or profile(s) that are inappropriate should also be removed.
- 2) Campers must not use obscenities, profanity, or vulgar language.
- 3) Campers must not use blogs or personal Web sites to disparage the Antiochian Village, other campers, or staff of the Antiochian Village.
- 4) Campers must not use blogs or personal Web sites to harass, bully, or intimidate other campers or staff of the Antiochian Village. Behaviors that constitute harassment and bullying include, but are not limited to, comments that are derogatory with respect to race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, color, or disability; sexually suggestive, humiliating, or demeaning comments; and threats to stalk, haze, or physically injure another person.
- 5) Campers must not use these venues to discuss engaging in conduct prohibited by camp policies and an Orthodox Christian lifestyle, including, but not limited to, the use of alcohol and drugs, sexual behavior, sexual harassment, and bullying.

Any camper found to be in violation of any portion of this policy will be subject to immediate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal at the discretion of the Camp Director.

Dates to Remember

Full payment in order to receive early-bird discount. Send in no later than March 1.

Requests for financial assistance Send in no later than March 1.

Full payment due Send in no later than May 1.

Completed Health Form Send in no later than one month

prior to arrival.

Send travel information At least 1 month prior to arrival.