



Antiochian Village

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New Parent Frequently Asked Questions

How do Antiochian Village campers travel to camp?

- Antiochian Village campers come from all over the world. Those arriving from nearby in the USA can come by car, plane, or train. It is also important to contact your home parish before sending your children to camp because some parishes send a chartered bus. For campers arriving by plane or train the Antiochian Village makes shuttle runs into nearby airports in Pittsburgh and Latrobe and to the train station in Johnstown. If traveling by airplane or train, please see our Camper Parent Booklet for appropriate arrival & departure times to guarantee we are able to provide transportation.

Who are the counselors?

- Antiochian Village offers an incredible staff with a diverse range of backgrounds and skill sets. All of our counselors are 18 and older and the majority have completed at least one year of college. Staff are required to complete a rigorous eight days of training on site to be equipped and ready prior to the summer camp season starting. Counselors tend to be people that we have known for many years, but some of our counselors are new to the Village and come from all over the Country. It is important that counselors at Antiochian Village are grounded in their faith to help foster a spiritual atmosphere that is Christ-centered and focused on the teachings of the Church.

Are there background checks for staff?

- Every single person who works at Antiochian Village receives a background check.

Is two weeks too long of a time for my kids to be at camp?

- Most campers say two weeks isn't long enough! Each counselor at Antiochian Village has gone through an extensive training process to ensure that each camper will have as much fun in as safe of an environment as possible. We have a wide variety of activities and lessons that keep our campers engaged from the moment they arrive until the minute they leave.

Can we contact our kids?

- We use a system that allows parents to email their kids. We also allow children to correspond with their family or friends by mailing letters.

Do you have a nurse at camp?

- We have two full-time nurses at camp. Our full-time and volunteer nurses are all registered to practice and are trained & prepared to take care of each camper that comes to them throughout the summer.

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

The Most Reverend Joseph

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

Where is the nearest hospital?

- There are two hospitals within a 30-minute drive from camp. One hospital is located in Johnstown, PA and the other is located in Latrobe, PA.

What about medications my child takes?

- Children can bring medication to camp. Medication must be in its original & labeled container. Parents are required to fill out a health form prior to camp, and nurses are available to speak with prior to camp and on arrival day if you are bringing your child to camp. We keep all medication in the health center to guarantee the safety of each camper. We DO NOT recommend changing or stopping medication before camp.

What about homesickness?

- Antiochian Village Staff are well trained to handle homesickness. It is a normal experience for campers of all ages, and typically goes away within a few days. Kids feel a tremendous sense of self-worth and pride once they conquer their homesickness. Strong homesickness that lasts more than a few days is extremely rare.

Is the food healthy?

- Antiochian Village has wonderful food. Our menu is reviewed by a dietician for nutritional content. We make sure to accommodate any campers with food allergies as long as it is indicated on their health forms. We have a trained Food Specialist that handles all specialty meals as needed. Campers always have a balanced meal with a main portion paired with a fruit, veggie, or salad side. Campers are given snacks a couple of times each day to help tie them over in between meal times.

What is the staff to camper ratio? (How many counselors are there for the campers?)

- Most cabins will have one Counselor living with seven campers. We also have additional staff and volunteers that help in the supervision and education of campers.

Do new campers have difficulty integrating into camp society?

- Cabin unity and bonding is promoted from the moment the kids arrive. Counselors are specifically trained to facilitate camper unity. However, we do understand that integrating into a new place can be difficult and cliques do happen. Our counselors are made aware of this fact during staff training and do everything in their power to help every camper feel welcomed and loved.

Do kids get to choose their activities?

- Yes! Antiochian Village campers choose each day from a list of activities given to them by the Afternoon Program Coordinator. These activities include but are not limited to basketball, 4Square, soccer, AV ball, angleball, swimming, archery, canoeing, and track, just to name a handful. The campers will be given a signup list every afternoon where each child will request what he or she wants to do, and then their counselor will sign them up for the listed activity before the start of each day.

More questions? Give us a call (724 238 9565) or email us at office@avcamp.org.