Antiochian Village

Camper Parent Handbook

Dates to Remember

Requests for financial assistance
Due by April 15

Full payment due
Due by May 1

Completed Online Health Form (parent portion)
At least 1 month prior to arrival

FARE Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Emergency Care Plan form (if applicable)
At least 1 month prior to arrival

Physician Authorization Form
At least 1 month prior to arrival

Travel Information Due
At least 1 month prior to arrival

201 Saint Ignatius Trail
Bolivar, PA 15923
Phone: 724-238-9565  |  Fax: 724-238-6415
Email: office@avcamp.org
www.avcamp.org
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Dear Parent or Guardian,

Christ is in our midst!

We are very excited that you have registered your child (or children) for camp at the Antiochian Village. You are in good company. According to the American Camp Association, millions of kids attend camp each year, and more than 2,600 young people attend camps throughout the Antiochian Archdiocese each summer alone. 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 hard to never take that trust for granted, and feel privileged to be able to partner with you in the spiritual growth of your child.

The following pages contain information vital to your ability to properly prepare your child and your family for camp this summer at the Antiochian Village. 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 as 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 child at camp this summer here at the Village!

Your servant in Christ,

Fr. Christopher Shadid
Camp Director
Antiochian Village Mission Statement

Antiochian Village Camp transforms lives and nurtures faith in Jesus Christ through Orthodox Christian community living, worship, education, fellowship, and love.

Resources for Parents

We believe that it is important for our camper parents to be informed and to have confidence in our staff and programs. Safety is always a priority for our ministry. We do this by hiring some of the finest young men and women to serve on our staff; through extensive training and education; having a team of professionals from a variety of disciplines to support our ministry; by having at least one full-time Registered Nurse to run our Health Center; and by providing resources for our parents among other things.

We receive our accreditation by the American Camp Association which signifies that we uphold the highest standards for safety and programming in the camping industry. We are visited every five years by a team of accreditation visitors to ensure that we are maintaining these standards for excellence.

We encourage you to visit the American Camp Association’s website for more information about accreditation and to see resources:


In addition to this Camper Parent Handbook, we have a resource page for parents on our website:

https://avcamp.org/parents-corner/

We also have After-Camp Resources available for Campers, Parents, Clergy/Parish Youth Workers, as well as a summary of our Morning Program Christian Education curriculum on our website. These resources exist to help process the experience of camp. Please visit: https://avcamp.org/parents-corner/after-camp-resources/
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 things you should review with your campers to help ease their transition to camp life.

A Typical Day at Camp
Each session is filled with activities that allow young people to experience a holistic Orthodox Christian lifestyle. Campers experience an average day with cabin wake-up at 7 AM, Orthros at 8 AM, followed by breakfast at 9 AM where, as at all meals, we begin and end with community prayer. Songs and playful chants are often heard at mealtimes that help create an atmosphere of love and fellowship. Divided into cabins, the morning program consists of two one-hour sessions, filled with Christian Education classes and other activities such as lives of the saints and chanting.

Lunch is attended by all staff and campers to refuel for an afternoon of sports and fun. All campers attend two one-hour afternoon periods where they will rotate between activities such as Arts and Crafts, swimming, soccer, volleyball, basketball, archery, canoeing, angleball, and AV ball, just to name a few. Then the campers get a snack from the Gimme Shop (included in the camper tuition) to refresh themselves.

4:30 PM offers rest and quiet or social time within the cabin. Evening commences with Vespers at 6:15 PM where camper/staff participation is not only encouraged but gracefully served, and at 7 PM we have dinner.

Each evening at 8 PM, the campers are entertained and involved in a wide variety of programs such as serenade night, skit night, talent night, and much more.

Following evening program, cabin time allows for unwinding and unanswered questions for individual cabins. Contemporary moral issues may be addressed in older cabins while younger cabins are getting needed rest.

Camp Life
Nearly 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 include the following:

Living Arrangements
Campers will live with 6 to 7 fellow campers and their counselor in shared quarters. Each cabin has 4 sets of bunk beds and a private bathroom. Campers are grouped according to age and gender. **We do not accept roommate requests.** One of the best aspects of the camp experience is learning to adjust to group living, making new friends, and getting along as part of a team.
Meals
Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are eaten together as a cabin. Rest assured, our dietician-reviewed menu is both nutritious and attempts to meet the variety of tastes of the campers. 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 nearly 350 people in a relatively short period of time, we are not able to handle special requests for meals. Please help your camper by relaying your expectation that they will try new things and eat what is served. If for medical reasons there are dietary restrictions or food allergies for your camper, please notify the camp in writing, at least one month prior to arrival, so that the Camp Nurse and Kitchen Staff may properly prepare for your camper’s arrival.

If your camper has food allergies or there are medical reasons for dietary restrictions, please provide a physician note outlining the necessary dietary needs of your camper. For a camper with food allergies, the FARE Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Emergency Care Plan must be completed and signed by both parent/guardian and physician and submitted along with all required healthcare information forms one month prior to the start of his/her camping session. This form may be found at www.avcamp.org/forms/. To help offset the additional costs for this meal planning, all special dietary requests will include supplemental fees depending on the dietary restriction.

Fasting
As an Orthodox Christian camp, we adhere to the tenets of the Orthodox Christian 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 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 so it is not a surprise while at camp.

Camp Activities
Life at camp takes full advantage of our outdoor setting. Activities include field sports, Challenge Ropes Course, swimming, and canoeing. Rainy days are a frequent occurrence, so rain gear is a must. Our oldest campers (age 17 and sometimes 16), will go on an off-site hiking trip, so please pack sturdy hiking shoes!

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 as a parent, you may need to prepare for this as much—if not more—than your camper!
Arrangements to Make Before Camp

Fees
Balance of all payments is due by May 1, or the camper’s spot may be offered to those on the waitlist for that particular session. Special payment arrangements can be made by emailing office@avcamp.org and are subject to approval by 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. If medical information is NOT completed by the 1-month deadline, then a $50 fee will be applied to the camper’s registration.

Financial Assistance Information
The Antiochian Village Camp is committed to ensure a young person is not denied the opportunity to attend camp due to financial concerns. Three efforts are used to assist camper families in financial need. Assistance is often provided through the Camp’s resources and financial assistance fundraising, the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch Financial Assistance, and parish tuition assistance as well as some parishes subsidizing transportation to and from camp (check with your parish priest about parish assistance).

Each parish in the Antiochian Archdiocese receives $700 in financial assistance 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 turn in this information to the Department of Camping no later than April 15th or these funds will be disbursed to other needy campers through the general Financial Assistance Fund.

Additional funds are also available from the Antiochian Village for families needing financial assistance. To request financial assistance, please fill out the online “Financial Assistance Request Form” on our website: www.avcamp.org/forms, no later than April 15th. Notification of awards will be sent sometime in April. All financial assistance 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 (not family choice). The deposit is non-refundable and non-transferable; exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Camp Director.

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 arrival. Therefore, all healthcare information including completion of the online health information, the completed and physician signed medical exam form, and, if applicable, the completed and parent/guardian and physician signed FARE Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Emergency Care Plan form are due 1 month prior to the start of his/her camping session. If the health information is submitted and
completed by the 1-month deadline, you will avoid a $50 late fee. If you are unable to meet this 1-month deadline, please contact the camp office at 724-238-9565 or 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. 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 and the Health Staff.

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.)

**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 or guardian.

**Mental Health**
At the Antiochian Village we take mental health seriously and we do our best to ensure all campers are mentally healthy and receive the help they need. As required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, all staff members are considered “mandated reporters”, which means we are required by law to report suspected child abuse. This means if we have any reason to suspect that a child (under the age of 18) is being abused – physically, sexually, emotionally, or psychologically – we are required by law to report it. At the Antiochian Village, if we suspect any form of abuse, our policy, as mandated by law, is for the staff member who suspects the abuse (i.e. the staff member who received the information first-hand) to call the Pennsylvania Childline and Abuse registry, give the information that is required, and follow their guidelines going forward. Please know that if we do have to make a call, we are only permitted by law to make the report and then provide support to the alleged victim.

We are blessed to have licensed social workers at the Antiochian Village Camp available to help us during the summer. Kh. Janet Shadid, who helps in the kitchen during the summer, and Fr. Christopher Shadid, who serves as Camp Director year-round, are both licensed social workers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. They both are able and willing to see campers, staff, and volunteers who wish to talk about struggles they are having. We also have several priests on camp (session priests), who are able and willing to talk to individuals at any time. No individual is ever forced to talk to anyone at camp.
Please know that our goal at Antiochian Village Camp is the safety and wellbeing of our campers, staff, and volunteers. If we determine that an individual is a risk to him/herself or others, we may contact the individual’s parents/guardians and ask them to pick the individual up as soon as possible. This is especially the case if we suspect an individual wishes to hurt him/herself or someone else.

Our staff participate in an extensive training on the topic of mental health. They are informed and given information about several mental health disorders we often see at camp, common behaviors that are manifested in those disorders, and effective strategies for responding to those behaviors. The staff mental health counselors are also available as resources to the staff. We instruct our staff to not “dig” for information from our campers. Our staff, with the few exceptions mentioned above, are not trained professionals in the field of mental health, so their job is to simply listen if campers open up about personal issues. Our staff do not promise confidentiality, and they are instructed to offer the individual the opportunity to speak with a staff mental health counselor or clergy if the individual chooses.

If you have any additional questions regarding our mental health procedures, please feel free to contact our office.

Photos/Videos
Photos will be taken daily and posted online via the Antiochian Village homepage on Bunk1.com. These photos will be available for your viewing pleasure as well as for purchase, and can be accessed from our website, https://avcamp.org. This keeps parents and friends back home informed of the daily activities at camp. Only participants’ first names (not last names) will be used on the website.

Throughout your child’s stay at the Antiochian Village, staff members will be videotaping footage which will be included in a Camp Video that will be shown to the camp at the end of the session. This video will be primarily for the participants as a memento of their experience. However, video footage will also be used for purposes of promoting the Antiochian Village and its programs. The video is included in the cost of tuition and the link will be sent out after departure day. 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
Parents must sign a Media Consent Form granting or denying permission for their child’s picture and video to be taken for the camp photos and videos and promotional materials for the camp. This form can be filled out online in your Antiochian Village account during the registration process, where you may read it and grant or deny permission for us to photograph and/or videotape your camper(s).

Sending a First-Time Camper
If this is your child’s first trip to Antiochian Village for camp, your preparation in advance will go a long way toward helping them have a great experience and minimize the effects of homesickness. We have put together an article entitled “Preventing Homesickness” which may be downloaded from our website at https://avcamp.org/parents-corner/preparing-your-camper-for-camp/. We hope
you will read the article and use the suggestions given to best prepare you and your child for their stay away from home. We have also set up a Parents’ Resource page on our website with valuable information to assist you through the process of having your child(ren) attend camp at https://avcamp.org/parents-corner/.

Packing for Camp

Hello families, parents, and campers! Our staff is so excited to welcome you to camp and we are counting down the days till you get here!

Enjoying everything camp has to offer begins with packing the proper attire. Our program contains a variety of experiences, and we want you to be ready for them all! We will often be sitting on the floor, walking long distances, and participating in athletic activities. This packing list should provide the details you need to prepare for an incredible 2 weeks at camp!

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.

Packing List

Bottoms (enough for at least 7 days)

- Shorts
  - Camp is meant for running, jumping, climbing, etc., so be sure your shorts fit those activities
  - Be mindful of the length and fit
  - Spandex/biker shorts are not permissible
- Pants
  - The mornings and evenings tend to be cool, so some long pants are ideal
    - Sagging and see-through pants are not permissible
  - Long pants are required on the Ropes Course and Overnight
    - Ticks are more prevalent in the woods and may be carriers of Lyme Disease, for this reason, long pants are necessary

Shirts (enough for at least 7 days- maybe more… we tend to sweat a lot)

- Shirts should meet your waistline and cover your chest. Your midriff should be covered while arms are raised, allowing you to participate in athletic activities.
- Active wear and tank tops with thicker straps are great for afternoon program
  - Low cut arm holes and spaghetti strap tanks are not permissible
- We recommend long sleeve shirts and pants during sunset hours when mosquitoes are most active and when in the woods where ticks are most present

Daily Services (2 services daily: Orthros, Vespers, and Supplication Services)
• Be sure to have shirts or sweaters to cover your shoulders during church every morning and evening
• Long Pants
  o Pants such as sweatpants, jeans, leggings, etc. are permitted for daily services
    ▪ Sweaters, sweatshirts, or shirts that fall below your buttocks should be worn when wearing tighter fitting pants
  o Shorts are not permissible during church

**Divine Liturgy (Celebrated 3 times each session)**

• Nicer attire is expected for Liturgy
  o Guys: Collared shirt, slacks, and a tie
    ▪ Jeans are not permitted, ties are preferred
  o Gals: Dress, skirt, or dress pants with a blouse
    ▪ Skirts and dresses should be near the knee or lower
• We sit on the floor for homilies so please be mindful of length and ensure your outfit will allow you to remain covered in the front and the back.
• We cover our shoulders for all church services
• Don’t forget your closed-toed church shoes

**Shoes**

• Closed-toed shoes with backs are a must
  o Sticks, dirt, rocks, and hills make closed-toed shoes necessary to keep our feet safe
• Flip Flops/open toed shoes are great but only for the shower and swimming pool
  o Be sure to bring shower shoes!
• Athletic shoes must be worn during the Afternoon program
• Heels are not safe on camp terrain and should not be packed and worn at camp

**Pool Attire**

• Guys: Swim trunks that fit well at the waist (be mindful of length and fit)
  o Speedos are not permissible
• Gals: One-piece swimsuits, tankinis, or swim shorts that cover the midriff
  o Bikinis and front cutouts are not permissible
• Flipflops may be worn at the pool
• Be sure to bring goggles and a towel!

**Piercings/Tattoos**

• Reminder, we are very active during camp: studs may be more practical than dangly earrings
  o Body and facial piercings are not permissible
  o Earrings on guys are not permissible
• Tattoos should remain covered

**Extra**
• Campers shower multiple times a day and will only have one opportunity to wash their clothes during the 2 weeks, so please pack enough clothes to last at least 1 full week
• Underwear
  o Bring lots of it!
• Socks
  o Try to bring 2 pairs of socks per day
  o Our feet get SO dirty at camp with all the dust and games we play
• Jacket/Sweater/sweatshirt
  o It can get chilly in the morning and evening! Be sure to bring layers to stay warm and cover up in church
• Theme nights
  o We will let you know the evening themes prior to camp so you are able to dress up with your cabin!
• Towels
  o Bring 2! 1 for showers and 1 for the pool! Please write your name on it with a marker
  o A washcloth is helpful as well
• Rain Gear!
  o It rains all the time, be sure to bring a raincoat/poncho and rain shoes to stay dry while walking from place to place and participating in activities while in light rain
• Sunscreen
  o The sun is shining most of the day, let’s protect our skin!
• Deodorant
• Shampoo and Conditioner
• Body wash/soap
• Hairbrush/comb
• Toothbrush and toothpaste
• Bug spray
  o Non-aerosol, 10% max DEET for children 12 and under, 30% max for 13 and up
• Chapstick
• Lotion
• Face wash
• Feminine products
• Reusable water bottle
  o We drink LOTS of water at camp
  o Water bottles will be for sale at our bookstore!
• Pillow, sleeping bag or twin sheets, and a blanket
  o We want you to sleep comfortably at camp
• Flashlight
• Stuffed animal
• Laundry bag for dirty clothes (marked with your name)
  o Laundry will be done only once per 2-week session, so pack enough clothing to last at least 1 full week
• Any medicine you take must be in its original container and given to the nurse at check in
• Optional: Bible, camera (marked with name), journal, hiking boots (ages 16 and 17), travel games (non-electronic)

Leave at Home (any of these items will be confiscated upon arrival to camp)

• Food
• Electronics (cell phones, ipods, electronic games, ipads/tablets, etc.)
• All alcohol and tobacco products (including Juuls, e-cigs, dab pens, etc.)
• Dangerous implements (knives, axes, fireworks, etc.)
• Any illegal substances (campers found with any will be sent home immediately)
• Jewelry and other valuables
• Immodest apparel/Clothing with inappropriate writing
• High heels
• Open-toed shoes (besides shower shoes)
• Expensive or name-brand clothing
• Pets
• Any aerosol products (hairspray, deodorant, insect repellant, etc.)
• Money

Try to keep your camper’s luggage under 2 bags, cabin storage space is limited

Snacks and Care Packages
No snacks need to be sent with the campers or mailed to camp as each camper receives two snack items per day from our Gimme Shop, including soda, candy, snacks, fruit, or ice cream, and dessert is served twice daily at lunch and evening program. The cost of these snacks is included in the camper fee. At camp, packages with food are simply an invitation for rodents and ants to come to a scrumptious dinner. Treats from home also often lead to stomachaches and improper nutrition, and complicate relationships between campers with treats and those without. Please note that any food received will be shared immediately and must be nut-free, and/or produced in a factory that does not contain nuts. You may call the camp office to purchase any bookstore items for your camper.

If your camper forgot something essential, please contact our office and let us know.

Laundry
Laundry will be done only once per two-week session, so pack enough clothing to last at least one full week. Each camper will have one load done (so be careful about colors that will run). 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 donated to local charities.

Spending Money
The camper fee covers all regular camping expenses. Shopping in our popular Camp Bookstore, which has books, icons, items of clothing bearing the Village logo, stuffed animals, etc. does require spending money, which can be applied using your online account prior to check-in or with a credit/debit card at check-in. Any remaining balance will be returned to the issuer’s credit/debit card at the end of the session, unless you decide to donate the balance to the Camp. No money will be kept with the camper in the cabins, as the Antiochian Village is not responsible for any lost
money. If a camper does bring money to camp, that money will be put in the confiscation bin and returned to the camper upon departure. Please do not send cash to your child in the mail while he/she is at camp. Average amounts uploaded to bookstore/gift shop accounts range between $50 and $100.

Lost/Stolen Items
Each article of clothing and all gear must be clearly labeled for identification. Please write name or initials on all clothing and belongings. Cabin storage space is limited, so each camper should bring no more than two pieces of luggage: one suitcase/duffle bag and one carry-on size, either a small bag or backpack.

The Antiochian Village is not responsible for lost or stolen items at camp. All personal belongings are the responsibility of the owner. All unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity or thrown away.

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 emails 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 Weekend, and Winter Family Camp during Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, where you may experience camp life as an entire family. We also offer an Adult Camp during a weekend in September for those 21+.

For Alumni (any former camper, staff, or volunteer over the age of 18), we will hold an Alumni Weekend every year during the first weekend in November (the feast of St. Raphael of Brooklyn). Look for announcements, as this is an opportunity for alumni of all ages to return home to the Village.

Contact with your child
The active camp schedule prevents regular contact with your camper. 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 for emergency circumstances. Therefore, you will probably not hear from the camp or your camper during the session, and remember, “no news is good news!” If your camper suffers serious injury or illness, you will be promptly notified. This includes any issue requiring off-camp health services or an illness in which a fever lasts for more than 24 hours, or evidence that your child has been exposed to COVID-19 or another communicable disease.
We know it can be hard 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.

Should an emergency requiring 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 (except for Sundays and national holidays). 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 or problems that may exist at home, 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.

**Bunk 1 (Stay Connected)**
Bunk1 offers photo galleries and allows messages to be sent to a camper using Bunk notes and Bunk Replies for an additional fee. Parents may download the Bunk1 App to enjoy these features or login online. An Bunk1 Account is automatically created once you register for a camping session. Your Bunk1 login information will be the same information used to Login to your Online AV Account. Learn more on our website on the Bunk1 page.

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**After Camp Resources**
We have put together After Camp Resources for campers, parents/guardians, parish clergy, youth workers, and anybody in a camper’s life to help process the experience at camp. These resources include suggestions for how to talk with each other to best process and reflect upon the camp experience, and a summary of the Christian Education curriculum which the campers learn during Morning Program. Please visit [https://avcamp.org/parents-corner/after-camp-resources/](https://avcamp.org/parents-corner/after-camp-resources/) for links to these resources.

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**Getting Your Camper to and from 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. Arrivals at any other time must be approved in advance by the Camp Director.

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 from the Health Center, 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.
Driving Your Camper Home from Camp

For the **two-week** sessions, camp ends on **Friday** morning and all campers must be picked up between 8 AM and 11 AM. Please note that breakfast will be served from 8 AM – 8:45 AM, and you are welcome to pick them up during breakfast. Please pick up your child no later than 11 AM, as our staff must prepare for the next group of campers arriving. Please note that for any pick-ups falling after 11 AM, an extended supervision fee will be charged at a rate of $25.00 per hour, per camper.

For the **one-week** session, camp ends on **Sunday** afternoon and all campers must be picked up between 2 PM and 4 PM. Parents or chaperones are welcome to join us for Liturgy on Sunday morning at 10 AM, with brunch following for $5 per meal.

**Lodging Accommodations for Drivers**

The Antiochian Village Conference Center offers a special **Camper Parent Rate** for those travelling to the Village to drop-off or pick-up their campers. To make reservations for Conference Center lodging please call the Conference Center Front Desk at 724-238-3677 or email your request to [frontdesk@avcenterpa.org](mailto:frontdesk@avcenterpa.org). A credit card number will be required to make your lodging reservation. **Please note that lodging at the Conference Center is based on availability.** You may ask to be placed on a waiting list should you find there is no availability when you wish to book your reservation.

**Driving Directions**

-The Village is located in Fairfield Township about 7 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, 15923 and the Conference Center address is 140 Church Camp Trail, Bolivar, PA, 15923.

**From the Northeast**

Head West on Rt. 80, exiting at Route 220 South (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 West for about a half hour. Exit onto Route 56 (Armagh exit). 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 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 East 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

Antiochian Village provides round-trip ground transportation for campers arriving into the Pittsburgh (PIT), Latrobe (LBE), and Johnstown (JST) airports. All travel information, including airline, flight number, arrival and departure times must be received in our office at least 1 month prior to arrival. If travel information is received after the 1 month deadline, we may not be able to guarantee ground transportation, and a $50 late fee will be assessed. If we are able to provide transportation, campers will be met at the gate by uniformed Village Staff members, as well as escorted to the gate at departure. In the event that there are any changes or emergencies that would affect the camper’s pick-up or drop-off time or location, a staff member of the camp will call the parents/guardian to inform them of any necessary changes.

Campers may only arrive by plane if they are fully vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine, and/or if they have had COVID-19 within the 8 months prior to their flight.

Authorized Arrival and Departure Times:
Pittsburgh Airport (PIT), Bus or Train Station
- Arrival Day (Sunday): 10am – 4pm
- Departure Day - 2 wk. session (Friday): 9am – 2pm
- Departure Day - 1 wk. session (Sunday): 2pm – 6pm
- Departure Day – Iconography Camp (Monday): 2pm – 6pm
- Departure Day – Arch Weeks (Saturday): 1pm – 6pm
Latrobe Airport (LBE) – whenever flights are able to arrive / depart

*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 arrival and/or 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 or representative will stay with your child until his/her departure.

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 buckled at all times in vans, and load/unload the van/bus in a safe and orderly manner.

Camp Vehicles
Our camp has regularly maintained mini-vans, and 15 passenger vans to transport campers to the airport, train station, or bus station. Our camp vehicles are not equipped to transport individuals in wheelchairs. The Antiochian Village vehicles do not have the capability of wheelchair
transportation.

**Campers Driving to Camp**
If a camper or counselor in training is driving to camp they must turn in their keys to the camp office upon arrival to Antiochian Village.
Antiochian Village Camper Policy for Online Social Networking and Blogging Websites

In general, the Antiochian Village views social networking sites (e.g., Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, 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 websites 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 website:

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 websites to disparage the Antiochian Village, other campers, or staff of the Antiochian Village.

4) Campers must not use blogs or personal websites 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.