

***How long has the camp been in business?***

This summer is our ninth summer of hosting our church camp

***How many campers attend each summer?***

We serve between 500-600 campers and staff each summer

***What is the camp's camper return rate?***

Our camp return rate is about 85%, of course we lose our beloved seniors each year, but we are excited to gain our new third graders.

***Where is camp physically held?***

This summer our camp moves to a new location. We will be at Chi Rho Center in Annandale Mn, on Lake Sylvia.

***What is the background and experience of camp director and staff?***

Our Camp Director is a Luther College graduate. Following graduation, Chris went on to pursue music education at the University of Minnesota. Chris has spent the majority of his summers at camp. He was first a staff member at Camp Olson, a YMCA camp located in Longville, MN. He then found Wayzata Community Church Summer Camp where he has served as a counselor, work crew leader, head counselor, and a member of the program team. He is humbled to be able to come and serve as the Interim Camp Director, a role that is one of many within this thriving ministry.

In addition to his camp experience, Chris is a professional musician and choral music educator. He was the Choral Music Director at Mound Westonka High School while staying active as a musician in the greater Minneapolis area. Along with serving as a section leader for the Wayzata Community Church Chancel Choir, Chris was the Director of Digital Media for the Vox Nova Chorale, an organization that provided assistance in educating, empowering, and creating opportunities for singers, emerging conductors, and composers. He was a leader with the Minnesota Ambassadors of Music where he oversaw recruitment & nominations.

Chris has spent the last two years in New York City serving as an Ensemble Coordinator & Production Associate with Manhattan Concert Productions, where also sang tenor in MCP's in-house professional choir, Manhattan Chorale. His team produced a variety of concerts at NYC venues such as Carnegie Hall, Apollo Theatre, Alice Tully Hall, David Geffen Hall, and other venues all across the United States.

Lisa Boes is our Staff Director for the second year. Lisa's career in higher education began with orientation programs and residence life at Miami University, SUNY Cortland and the University of Maine. After earning her masters in College Student Personnel at Miami University and doctorate in Learning & Teaching at Harvard's Graduate School of Education, she coached new teachers at the Bok Center at Harvard as a post-doctoral fellow. She returned to undergraduate advising, and for seven years served as Allston

Burr Resident Dean of Pforzheimer House at Harvard College. As a member of the faculty of Education at Harvard, Lisa offered a course on college student identities and development. She also served as Dean of Academic Services at Brandeis University for three years, leading a staff of 22 academic advisors and student service providers focused on academic achievement and success for a student body of over 3,800. Throughout her career she has supported young adults in their development with a focus on service-learning, public service, and civic engagement.

To support Chris, Lisa, and our students we have an outstanding staff of college-age and post-college counselors and leaders who will work with us this summer. These are young people you will be thrilled to have as mentors and role models in your child's life. You can find a brief introduction to our staff on the church website. The additional support of our full time church staff and clergy, as well as a nurse or doctor who is onsite, will maintain our highest priority of safety.

### ***Why was the camp started in the first place?***

Church Camps come in all shapes and sizes. We longed for a camp that didn't teach students things they would have to unlearn...A camp that would focus on affirming campers... a camp that daily communicated that God loves the camper and wants them to love others...A camp that created pique moments that would connect campers to their faith for their life to come.

### ***What makes the camp different?***

*Our camp focuses on 5 key goals.*

- SAFETY—first and foremost, everyone at camp is kept physically, emotionally, and spiritually SAFE. From this foundation grows all our other goals.
- FUN—the best way to show a student that you care about them is to help them have good, clean fun—and lots of it. Fun builds trust, breaks down barriers, and removes masks. Fun also keeps them coming back for more allowing us to build relationships.
- MESSAGE—this is the “WHY” of Summer Camp. We will share an honest and compelling picture of God's love as we experience it through Jesus Christ. The Gospel should be the best news we ever hear in life, and be full of joy.
- AFFIRMATION—we love every student, just as they are. Period. This is not a means to another end, this is an end in and of itself. Campers will know that they were genuinely and wholeheartedly loved with no strings attached.
- COMMUNITY—one outcome of accomplishing the first four goals is a profound experience of Community. These are friends and camp counselors on whom they can count, long after everyone returns home.

Using and living these five goals this summer, your child will have a week they will never forget, full of pique moments.

***Is your camp active on social media?***

Check us out. See many of the amazing experiences of last summer and the previous summers <https://www.facebook.com/pg/wcccamp/posts/>

***Can you provide parent references?***

We would love to. Send us an email at [camp@wayzatacommunitychurch.org](mailto:camp@wayzatacommunitychurch.org) and we will connect you with parents that can share of their students experience.

**Signing Up for Camp**

***What is the camp's registration process like?***

Registration starts on Sunday, January 27th at 7:00am. Our camps fill up fast on a first register, first come basis. You can make the registration process a bit easier by pre-registering your camper starting, January 5 by clicking here. YOU WILL STILL NEED TO REGISTER YOUR CAMPER ON JANUARY 27TH!

***What is the last day to register or sign up?***

We can take students all the way up to May 1st for sessions with any remaining spots.

***Does the camp have a waitlist?***

No, we do not have a waitlist. All sessions are on a first come, first serve enrollment. Once the spaces are full we suggest your camper move to another camp week.

***Once you register for camp, can you make a change?***

Yes, if there are spots available. If for some reason your camper is unable to attend camp, you will lose your registration fee. We work to be as flexible as we can for families.

***Can the camp make an age exception?***

We do not make age exceptions?

High School sessions are for campers who have completed 8th -11th grades.

Middle School sessions are for campers who have completed 5th -7th grades.

Children's Camp sessions are for campers who have completed 2nd through 4th grades.

All Church Camp is open to all ages (Intergenerational)

Our Work Crew is available for High School aged campers who have completed 9-12 grades.

***Are there prerequisites to enrollment?***

Other than the previous age breakdowns there are no prerequisites. We love when people from the neighborhood join us, when kids bring friends, and when families looking to send their kids to an outrageously fun camping experience find us and sign up.

## **Paying for Camp**

### ***Does the camp offer financial aid or scholarships?***

Financial challenges will never be an obstacle for campers to attend camp. Wayzata Community Church is pleased to offer scholarships to individuals in need of financial assistance. Please contact us at [camp@wayzatacommunitychurch.org](mailto:camp@wayzatacommunitychurch.org) for scholarship information.

### ***Is there a discount for referring friends?***

For every new friend you have sign up for camp, you will receive \$50 off your camp session fee.

### ***Is there a sibling discount?***

Yes. Siblings get a \$50 discount per family member

### ***Can I pay for camp in installments?***

Yes, we have a single, double, triple or four installment option to pay for camp. All credit cards set on instalments will be charged automatically.

### ***Do you accept outside grants or scholarships?***

Yes, we allow you to secure and use funding from a third-party organization to pay for camp. You'll will need a letter of intent to pay from the organization that is supporting your student.

## **Camp Operations**

### ***What are the student to staff ratios?***

*There is generally 1 leader to every 6 students*

### ***What do the pick-up and drop-off processes look like?***

All campers must ride the bus to and from camp. Pick-up and drop-off is from Wayzata Community Church.

### ***Can kids call home when they want?***

No, phones are not apart of the Camp experience. We do understand that some students may experience extreme homesickness or a unique family circumstance that may result in a camper needing to contact home. Each such situation will be addressed on an individual basis.

### **Can and should students bring their phones to camp? Will they get in trouble if they use them?**

To keep camp as “sacred space,” it is important that cell phones are eliminated as a distraction. This policy insures the experience of each individual camper, as well as the group community that is formed. Thank you for supporting us in this effort!

Please remember that phones are available and used by the Camp Director, in cases of emergency or necessary contact from parents at home. **If campers mistakenly bring phones they will be kept by the Camp Director until the session is ended.**

***What should your son or daughter bring with them to camp?***

See the camp packing list [here](#)

***Is the camp director available by phone at all times?***

Yes. They may be working on important projects and programs but they will return your calls within the same day.

***Is transportation provided to and from camp?***

Campers are transported to and from Chi Rho Center by chartered buses, operated by professional drivers. Please make sure that your camper’s luggage makes it into the luggage compartment. Chaperones will be on each bus to ensure a positive experience on the way to and from Camp.

***What is the policy about food packages, letters from home, and so forth?***

We encourage letters for your student. You will even find envelopes and cards available when you drop your camper off to send notes to camp for your student.

Three meals and an evening snack are provided daily by the Chi Rho Center staff. In addition, campers are able to purchase snacks at the camp store each afternoon.

**\*\*\* Due to food allergies in camp, please do not send any additional snacks or food with your camper. \*\*\***

***Can my camper make her own hours in order to attend other activities?***

No, we strongly discourage partial camp experiences due to late arrivals and/or early departures. The experience of camp is designed with the expectation that all campers will be there for the entire camp session; any changes in the makeup of the camper population affects not only the absent person but all of those in camp. **Any late arrivals or early departures must be approved by the Camp Director, at least 7 days prior to the camper’s session.**

***What is the camp's cancellation policy?***

If you camper has to cancel they will lose their non-refundable deposit.

***How does the camp handle discipline?***

Within any group of peers there is the possibility for social challenges. Our counseling staff are trained in helping to discourage hurtful or exclusionary behavior, and to help in mediating any conflicts that exist or arise. Our daily activities are based on inclusivity and safe and kind fun – never at the expense of anyone’s feelings, sense of value or well-being. Any bullying or mistreatment of a camper is unacceptable and will be confronted by the counseling staff and the Camp Director.

***How can I keep track of my child's experience?***

Check in frequently to Facebook to see what is going on with your student. We will also post a daily activity report so you know what is happening throughout the day

***What if your child is sick for a day?***

We have onsite nursing care. Your camper will be well taken care of they get sick or injured at camp. However, Please make sure that you send your children healthy to Camp. If a camper contracts a contagious illness while at Camp, we will ask you to come pick your camper up.

**Camp Experience**

***What kind of camper is most likely to have a good experience at this camp?***

This is a good question. WCC Summer Camp caters to all kinds of kids, and all are welcome. For the athlete we have all kinds of physical activities, for the artist, there is tons of music, crafting and creative outlets, for the introvert it is a great place to get away in nature with a few close friends, for the extravert it is a camp filled with group activities, cabin time, and ridiculous fun. Each session provides intentional time for students to introspectively engage their faith. No matter the type of student will meet them where they are at and walk with them through one of the best weeks of their life.

***What does a typical day at camp look like?***

Large & small group activities, free time, insanely fun & unique games, delicious meals, live music, and much more!

***What does a typical week of camp look like?***

***What is the pace of the day?***

There’s a lot of activities to cover at camp, so our campers & counselors stay pretty busy! We do make sure to incorporate sufficient rest time.

***Is there the opportunity for free time?***

Each day your student gets free time. They are planned activities they can join in or they can just go hang out by the pristine lake, take a walk, or hang with friends.

***What if my child doesn't want to participate in camp activities?***

Our staff is trained to help your student get involved in as many activities as possible. However, we have students who may not want to participate in certain activities and we work to meet those needs as best as possible.

***How long are summer camps?***

Summer camp length varies by age groups.

High School weeks are 7 days

Middle School weeks are 6 days

Children's weeks are 3 days

***Camp Supervision & Safety***

***How does the camp recruit staff?***

Many of our staff come to us as past campers at Wayzata Community Church Summer Camp. We also recruit the best young leaders from within local colleges. (Luther College, Gustavus Adolphus College, Concordia College, Moorhead and St. Olaf College to name a few). We pride ourselves in finding the best leaders possible and maintaining long term training and development of young leaders within our camp system. Our directorial staff is comprised of some of the most qualified post college leaders in the Twin Cities.

***What is the staff return rate?***

Last year we had an 80% return rate on our staff. We love keeping those connections between staff and campers and also look forward to recruiting the best new staff possible each year.

***What is the camp hiring process like?***

We have an extensive application all potential staff are required to complete. Top candidates are interviewed by a committee consisting of WCC staff, Camp Staff, and adult lay leaders from Wayzata Community Church.

***What kind of background checks are performed before staff is hired?***

One of your top priorities, and the priority of any good summer camp, is to ensure the safety of your child. We do a full criminal background check on all staff and follow up with personal and professional references of every staff person.

***Are counselors adults or teens in a counselor-in-training (CIT) program?***

All of our counselors and CITs are college age or above.

***How is the staff trained?***

We have an intensive and comprehensive staff training process. The culmination of this process is a week long training prior to camp starting each year. Staff are trained for their individual positions as well as an overarching staff training that encompasses safety, programing, counseling, student readiness, human resource training, and much more.

***What is the camp's emergency response process?***

*There are clear emergency action plans on file for how we deal with severe weather & other emergencies. We teach the students these plans as they start each camp week. For more information contact our camp director.*

***What is the camp's approach to supervision?***

We strive to maintain a healthy balance of supervision and a feeling of freedom each student is longing to experience. As students age up in our program, more and more freedom is given. That being said there are different parts to our camp program. Free time is given and students are supervised in all key areas. During program we keep very consistent leadership ratios with students.

***Is there a camp nurse in attendance?***

Absolutely. I don't have to remind you that we are talking about kids here :) It's safe to assume that someone will get hurt, inevitably. Even if it's just a scratch that needs to be cleaned, for all those occasions and to help dispense medication there is an actual nurse around to handle that.

Meals & Snacks

***Is food brought in or prepared on site?***

All food is prepared on site.

***Are eating facilities sanitary?***

Being a professional kitchen all facilities are inspected by the health inspector and receive top ratings for a commercial kitchen.

***Are meals balanced?***

We pride ourselves in making sure we maintain a well balanced and nutritious diet for our campers, while still offering them food that they will enjoy eating.

***Are meals included in the cost of camp?***

Yes all meals are included in the cost of camp.

***How does the camp handle food allergies and medication?***

Our camp staff is trained to handle all food allergies and medications. It is VERY important that you note of all allergies and medications on your campers' enrollment packet. This is in the interest of our number one goal: Safety.

We are a nut free camp - no exceptions made.

***Will water be accessible?***

Clean drinking water will always be made accessible at camp. Our staff are trained to remind everyone the importance of staying hydrated. It is encouraged for our campers to bring their own refillable water bottle!

**Overnight Camp**

***Are sleeping spaces comfortable?***

Yes! We work to make sure each camper feels comfortable in their cabins.

***How much time is allocated to sleeping?***

10 hours of sleeping time is programmed in to our schedule each night. Our days are full of fun activities, making our time to rest very important!

***Can students request a roommate?***

Yes! On your registration materials, you will be able to make cabinmate requests. We make every effort to make sure your request is honored.

***What other expenses are involved?***

*Students can buy snacks and camp merchandise at the camp store. You can add money to your kids camp card so they don't have to bring any cash.*

**After Camp**

***Is there a take-home component once camp ends?***

A compilation video highlighting your camper's week at camp will be made available to you within 2-3 weeks after your campers arrives home.

***Can kids stay in touch with their counselor after camp?***

A big benefit of summer camp is relationship-building, whether it be peer-to-peer interaction or camper-to-counselor interaction.

***What kind of after-camp support is in place?***

*Our camp feeds our weekly program year opportunities. Thus our strategy is to connect with students throughout the year and provide them and their families support throughout an entire year. Many of your campers will be able to connect with their summer leaders throughout the entire year.*

***Are there meet-ups for groups of students to get together?***

We encourage our campers to join us at Wayzata Community Church for our regular programming!

***What is the best way to pass along feedback?***

We love to hear your feedback, one, so we can learn about your experience and pinpoint future changes, but two, because your feedback helps other parents make a decision. Please feel free to share any feedback with us by emailing us at.....