



## Handbook 2025 Edition

Dear Camper,

Welcome to Lake Springfield Baptist Camp! We are so excited that you decided to spend part of your summer with us. Please take a few minutes to read through this handbook as a family. We hope it will answer all the questions you might have about your upcoming camp experience. If there happens to be something it does not cover, please e-mail the camp at [office@lsbconline.com](mailto:office@lsbconline.com) or call 217-441-1813

Thanks! We hope you have a great time at LSBC this summer!

*-LSBC Staff and Board of Directors*

## Philosophy and Mission Statement of Lake Springfield Baptist Camp

The purpose of the Lake Springfield Baptist Camp camping program is to provide opportunities for children, youth and adults to Step Closer to Christ.

The lake Springfield Baptist Camp is committed to the people of Illinois and Missouri. For over 70 years, we have provided camping experiences for children, youth and adults. Our program is intentional as goals and objectives are selected to help further the Kingdom of God on Earth. Thus we would like to share our camping philosophy that leads us on the path to fuller personhood in Jesus Christ.

There are 4 strategic themes that guide and influence us:

- 1. Spiritual disciplines, including worship and prayer**
- 2. Relationships**
- 3. Ministry and Mission**
- 4. Leadership Development**

The objective (mission) of Christian camping at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp is based on the love of Christ to be shared by those who proclaim Him as Lord and Savior. By this we are committed to these tasks: educating about our faith; of developing and participating in relationships and seeing it as part of God' s plan for humanity to engage in Christian community; understanding the out of-doors as part of God' s world, to be enjoyed, respected, and preserved; living the Word as it comes to us and inspiring others by its message; giving identity to people as followers of Christ and encouraging them to grow in the faith. Camping is ministry and mission. We strive to develop leaders to help fulfill the ministry in which we participate. We covenant to fulfill the purpose of bringing all those involved in camping at Lake Springfield a step closer to Christ.

## A Brief History of Lake Springfield Baptist Camp

LSBC was formed in 1952 as a division of the American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region. The camp, along with Blackhawk and Lake Benton Baptist Camps, was operated by ABC-GRR and its employees until the summer of 2010. In 2010, Lake Springfield Baptist Camp was incorporated as its own legal entity and registered as a 501(c)3 non-profit. LSBC is supported solely by camping registration fees and donations made directly to the camp or through missions giving from ABC-GRR churches. LSBC is governed by an independent Board of Directors who in turn hire professional Managers to oversee the day-to-day operations. The camp, while no longer under the supervision of ABC-GRR, maintains a collegial relationship with that organization. When issues of theology arise, LSBC affirms the position or policy of the American Baptist Churches in the USA.

## Definitions

**Camper:** a student registered for a camping session at LSBC.

**Manager:** one of the paid professional staff members.

**Staff:** one of the people paid to live on-site during the summer to provide camping services.

**Director:** a volunteer, often a pastor of an American Baptist church, who is responsible for the schedule, programming and other volunteer staff during one of LSBC's camping sessions.

**Counselor:** a volunteer responsible for leading a group of campers during a camping session. Counselors and Assistant Counselors live in the cabins with

the campers.

## **FAQ**

### **How do I register my child for camp?**

The easiest way to register for LSBC is online at our website, [www.lsbconline.com](http://www.lsbconline.com). Or call the camp office for any assistance 217 441 1813

### **How do I pay my camp fees?**

You may mail payments to LSBC, PO Box 556, Chatham, IL 62629, pay online through our secure website, or pay when you arrive.

### **What if my church is paying a portion of my child' s camp fee?**

You will need to pay only the portion you owe; we will work with your church on the remainder.

### **How much are the camp T-shirts and pictures?**

One camp T-shirt and photo are included with each registration.

### **What happens during registration (check-in)?**

When you arrive at LSBC, please park in the main parking lot. Bring your camper and their belongings to the registration center, which is most usually held in Lightbody Conference Center. Once registration begins, you will move through a series of stations. You will be greeted by Camp Staff who will ask you to sign a registration log, make sure that your registration forms are complete and that payment arrangements have been made, and ask you to fill out a form regarding arrangements for picking up your child at the end of the camping session. We will collect or review your child' s health form (no child is allowed at camp without one) as well as collect any prescription medication your child will need while

they are away from home. We will review the medications instructions with you, so we understand exactly what is needed. Your camper will receive their camp T-shirt and then meet the camp session Directors and receive their cabin assignment. After all that is completed, you are free to take your camper to their assigned cabin and meet their Counselors.

### **What about check-out?**

Check-out is a much faster process than registration, but there are some important things to know. Check-out also takes place in Lightbody Conference Center. No camper will be released to anyone without first verifying that person's identity (*usually a valid driver's license*). If you, as a parent, will not be picking up your camper personally (child is riding with a friend's family, grandparents, church group, etc.) we must have that information on file ahead of time. At registration, you will be asked to indicate who is authorized to pick up your kiddo from camp. We do this to prevent possible situations of kidnapping or non-custodial parent interference. (In the event of an emergency, please call the camp at 217-441-1813 to advise of a pick-up change.) Please do not wander onto the grounds to find your child; your child should come to Lightbody to find you. A Manager (not a session Director) will verify your ID, present you with a camp photo and return any medication. At that point you are free to take your camper and their belongings to the parking lot.

### **What about water sports?**

Although we are located on a lake, we do not allow swimming in the lake. (We do have canoes available for use). There is usually room in the schedule to swim in the pool once a day, sometimes twice! A swimming test is given on the first full day of camp to assess your camper's skills in the water. We use wristbands to differentiate between "shallow-end" swimmers and "deep-end" swimmers. Red Cross trained lifeguards are present during each swimming session. If you have concerns about your camper's swimming skills, please discuss that with a manager during check-in.

## **Pool rules**

To ensure everyone's health and safety, there are a few rules to follow in and around the pool.

- 1. You must shower before entering the pool**
- 2. No running, shoving, pushing or dunking.**
- 3. No chicken fights.**
- 4. No food, drinks or gum in the pool.**
- 5. No cut-off shorts are to be worn in the pool, and swimsuits are not to be worn around the camp.**
- 6. No playing on the divider rope.**
- 7. Lifeguards will be present during swimming activities, are to be obeyed, and may remove anyone from the pool at their discretion.**

## **What other activities are available?**

LSBC offers many opportunities for recreation. We have lots of walking trails, a baseball diamond, an outdoor basketball court, playground, mini/modified disc golf course, sand volleyball, portable gaga ball pit, and for the older campers a ropes/challenge course and Mountain Biking. Directors also tend to come up with fun activities like counselor hunts, scavenger hunts, water balloon games, night glow swims, movies and music-filled worship experiences.

## What should I bring?

Good question! Please refer to the packing list at the end of this guide.

## Can I send mail or e-mail to my camper?

E-mail, no. Snail mail, yes. Our local post office is not the fastest runner in the pack, so it's usually good to *send your items the WEEK BEFORE you drop off your camper.*

The address to send items to is:

LSBC, PO Box 556,

Chatham, IL 62629.

## Can I communicate with my camper through text?

We do not allow electronics at LSBC. Please leave the phones, iPods, tablets, laptops and other devices at home. If those items are found after registration, they will be confiscated until check-out. One of the major advantages of summer camp at LSBC is the chance to "unplug" from the world and experience God, fully immersed in His outdoor Creation. That's not entirely possible

*Note: Some older campers are allowed to have cell phones during free time, but devices will remain in storage at all other times. Camp directors have discretion on whether this will be allowed during any camping session. LSBC will oversee storing cell phones in a secure location.*

## Can I call or visit my camper?

Calling and requesting to speak to your child and/or visiting the unannounced camp not only disrupts the schedule and breaks the spiritual retreat atmosphere, but it can also bring important legal considerations into play, most significantly camper privacy and legal guardianship/custody issues. We understand that emergencies do happen, and, in those

cases, we do everything possible to be accommodating and compassionate. Please call (217) 441-1813 and speak to a manager and we will work together to find a good solution.

You should know that it is the standard procedure to escort uninvited visitors off the grounds immediately. Visitors are not to participate in or interfere with any camp and should avoid camper contact. Staff are trained to alert a manager when strangers are observed on the grounds. It is VERY IMPORTANT that you make prior arrangements if you need to stop by the camp for any reason. In the event you must come unannounced, please have your identification ready. Ask the first person you encounter to direct you to a manager who will help you.

*Please understand that our guidelines on parent/camper communication are not intended to be punitive in any way, rather, they are designed to make sure that only authorized people are allowed contact with your child while they are placed in our care.*

## **Camper Privacy**

Following up after camp with our campers is a long tradition. Many relationships have been enhanced and maintained by that contact. Due to legal limits on privacy, especially for minors (under the age of 16), we must limit the amount of contact directors and counselors have with campers after the session has ended. Directors and counselors are to follow these guidelines:

- 1. Camper information (address, phone number, SS#, medical forms, etc.) is not to be distributed to anyone outside the camp setting.**
- 2. Contact with campers should be limited to writing. At no time should a camp worker initiate contact with a camper by phone, personal visit, or by electronic means (Facebook, email, etc.) without the parent(s) consent. Mail should be sent "In Care Of" the camper's parents. Permission for electronic communication should be provided to the permanent camp staff and kept on file.**



3. Writing to a camper is to be limited to business or follow-up from the camp experience. Copies of the letter are to be kept by the camp worker.
4. Camp workers are discouraged from using words of affection in letters to campers.
5. If a camper contacts a camp worker expecting a response, the parents are to be contacted first so that permission to correspond may be obtained.
6. If a camp worker is invited to a camper' s home for any reason, the invitation must be from the parents. In the State of Illinois, it is against the law to contact anyone under the age of 17 by email without written permission of the parent or guardian. Visits to a camper' s home are generally discouraged.
7. LSBC understands that in some cases, campers and counselors/directors may come from the same church or community. In those instances LSBC expects the counselors/directors to obey the laws of the State of Illinois but realizes that prior relationships with the family may override guidelines 1-5 above.

*These guidelines are designed to protect both the camp worker and the camper.*

## Notice to Parents/Guardians Regarding the Reporting of Child Abuse

If a camper discloses to us that they are being abused or have recently been abused (with concerns that the abuse may continue), we are legally required to report the incident to the Department of Child and Family Services in the state where the child resides. Failure to do so is a Class A misdemeanor in the State of Illinois. The law reads that if we even suspect abuse or neglect, we are to report.

When an incident is reported, we are required by law to maintain confidentiality. LSBC's staff and volunteers are not allowed to contact anyone else or release any information. Doing so is also a Class A misdemeanor in the State of Illinois. This means that we are not allowed to contact parents, guardians, pastors or anyone else not connected with the reporting of the incident at the camp.

The camp is licensed by the State of Illinois. Failure to follow mandated reporting procedures could result in LSBC being found negligent in the handling of an abuse situation, resulting in the revocation of our camp license and legal liability should any party representing the abused child choose to seek legal remedy including prosecution.

LSBC wants to provide your child with a safe place while at the same time maintaining your integrity as a parent. Please understand that if your child reports an abuse situation, we are not making a value decision, we are simply obeying the law.

*For further information about your rights as a parent, guardian, or church worker with minors, please contact your local DCFS office, call the State of Illinois hotline at 800-252-2873, or download the guide from the State of Illinois website.*

## Baptism

Our primary purpose as a religious camp is to lead people to Christ. This does not, however, usurp the role of the local congregation as the base community of faith for the individual. No baptism may take place at camp without written consent of the camper's parents, pastor, and church moderator of the individual's home church. It is the function of the local church to perform baptisms.

## Medical

1. All campers must have a completed and signed health form on file.
2. Prescription medicine for campers will be dispensed by a member of the permanent staff. Inhalers, epi pens, etc., will be kept by either the cabin counselor or camper, depending upon the camper's age and understanding of their illness.

*Note: Anyone with food allergies or serious medical conditions requiring monitoring (diabetes, heart disease, etc.) should call to speak with a manager before the day of registration for your camp.*

## Refunds

Camper fees will be refunded if cancellation is made at least 48 hours prior to the start of the scheduled camp. Refunds will not be given for no-shows. In case of medical or family emergency that prevents 48 hours' notice, exception may be made at the discretion of the LSBC staff.

## Camp Schedule

This is a sample of a typical day at camp. Directors will arrange their own schedules to fit their specific programming. Lights out times will be adjusted depending upon the age of the campers involved.

7:00 am Wake Up

8:00 am Breakfast

8:30 am Cabin clean-up / Counselor meeting

9:00 am Morning worship

9:45 am Discussion groups

10:30 am Recreation: swimming, boating, crafts

11:30 am Prepare for lunch

12:00 pm Lunch

12:30 pm Rest

1:30 pm Games

2:45 pm Canteen

3:00 pm Recreation: swimming, boating, crafts

5:00 pm Prepare for dinner

6:00 pm Free time

6:45 pm Vespers

7:00 pm Evening activity

8:45 pm Canteen

9:00 pm Campfire

10:00 pm Prepare for bed

10:30 pm Cabin devotions

11:00 pm Lights out

# CAMP PACKING LIST

## Clothing

- T-shirts (one per day + extra)
- Shorts & pants (mix depending on weather)
- Sweatshirt or light jacket (nights can be cool)
- Pajamas
- Socks & underwear (one per day + extra)
- Tennis shoes (required for activities)
- Sandals/flip-flops (for showers & pool)
- Swimsuit (one-piece or tankini for girls)
- Rain jacket or poncho

## Toiletries & Hygiene

- Towel (shower + pool/lake)
- Washcloth & shower puff
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Body wash or soap
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Hairbrush/comb
- Sunscreen & bug spray
- Chapstick
- Feminine hygiene products (if needed)

## Bedding & Sleeping Gear

- Sleeping bag OR twin-size sheets & blanket
- Pillow

## Miscellaneous Essentials

- Bible (important for devotions)
- Notebook & pen/pencil
- Water bottle (stay hydrated!)
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Laundry bag (for dirty clothes)
- Plastic bags (for wet/dirty items)
- Sunglasses & hat

## Optional / Fun Items

- Camera (disposable or digital, no phones)
- Book or journal
- Small backpack/day pack
- Playing cards or small games
- Themed costume items (if applicable)

## DO NOT BRING

- Cell phones, tablets, or smartwatches  
(Unless otherwise notified)
- Electronics (video games, laptops, etc.)
- Valuables (expensive jewelry, large amounts of cash)
- Weapons, knives, fireworks, or matches
- Snacks with nuts (allergy precautions)





### CABIN KEY

- 1 Brett Todd
- 2 Gilmore
- 3 Metzger
- 4 Spinder
- 5 Solenberger
- 6 Snow
- 7 Blair
- 8 Downs
- 9 Seibold
- 10 Brand
- 11 Lightbody



### FACILITY KEY

- |                         |                            |                             |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>C</b> Canteen        | <b>SL</b> Schontz Lodge    | <b>S</b> Storage            |
| <b>CH</b> Carter Hall   | <b>LC</b> Lightbody Center | <b>T</b> Tool & Paint Sheds |
| <b>CS</b> Craft Shelter | <b>M</b> Managers House    | <b>UB</b> Upper Bathhouse   |
| <b>E</b> Canoe Storage  | <b>PP</b> Pool Pumphouse   | <b>LB</b> Lower Bathhouse   |

### CONTACT INFORMATION

PO Box 556  
 5878 Iron Bridge Road  
 Chatham, IL 62629  
 (217) 670-2356  
 lsbonline@gmail.com  
 www.lsbconline.com