

Lake Springfield
Baptist Camp

**Camper and Family Handbook
2018 Edition**

Dear Camper,

Welcome to Lake Springfield Baptist Camp! We're so blessed 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 of the questions you might have about your upcoming camp experience. If there happens to be something it doesn't cover, please e-mail the camp managers at lsbconline@gmail.com.

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

Kim Runkle, Business and Marketing Manager

Rev. John Parrish and Kelsey Parrish, Resident Managers

Dave Holland, Maintenance Manager

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 50 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 and heritage; 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 1953 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 child registered for a camping session at LSBC.
Manager:	one of the three paid professional staff members.
Staff:	one of the persons paid to live on-site during the summer to provide culinary, custodial or grounds keeping 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's

How do I register my child for camp?

The easiest way to register for LSBC is online at our website, www.lsbconline.com. We also have paper registration forms that we send to churches (that form is also on our website). Some churches prefer to send the registrations in batches and require the paper form. Please check with your own church about what they prefer. (LSBC greatly appreciates online registrations).

How to 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 is 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 the camp's Business Manager 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. You will also purchase canteen tickets, if you allow your child to have snacks. 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 dosing 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, grandparent, 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 217-670-2356 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 is canteen?

Canteen is what we call our snack bar. Each camp Director chooses their own schedule, but there are usually two canteen sessions per day. Items are priced at either \$0.50 or \$1.00 each. We generally allow campers to purchase 2 items per canteen, although we relax that a little bit with the Senior High groups. The amount your camper will need will depend upon the length of their camp. Generally, we recommend:

Day camps:	\$ 1.00	2- and 3-night camps:	\$ 5.00
24-hour camps:	\$ 2.00	5- and 6-night camps:	\$10.00

Also, canteen is a cashless system. Canteen tickets or punch cards can be purchased during registration. No cash is kept on the grounds after registration day. (Note: Canteen items must be consumed in the canteen area; no food is to be taken into the cabins).

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 at all times, 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 gagaball pit, and for the older campers a ropes/challenge course. 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.

Is there a dress code?

Yes. Please refer to the dress code chart at the end of this guide.

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 if everyone is looking for Pokemon. :)

Note: Senior high campers are allowed to have cell phones during free time but devices will remain in storage at all other times. Camp directors are in charge of 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 camp unannounced not only disrupts the schedule and breaks the spiritual retreat atmosphere, 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 and speak to a Manager and we will evaluate each situation on its own merits.

You should know that it is 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 persons are allowed contact with your child while they are placed in our care.

Camper Privacy

Follow 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 shares information with us that they are being abused, or that they have been recently abused (with a concern that the abuse may continue), we are under legal mandate to report the incident to the Department of Child and Family Services in the State in which the child lives. Failure to do so is a Class A misdemeanor in the State of Illinois. The only exception to the reporting mandate is if we know the information to be false. 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, epipens, 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

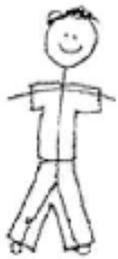
Camper fees will be refunded if cancellation is made at least 48 hours prior to the start of the scheduled camp. Refunds will not be given for no-shows. In case of medical or family emergency that prevents 48 hours' notice, exception may be made at the discretion of the Business Manager and/or Camp Board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

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

LSBC Dress Code



Dress Casual—Jeans and T shirts are great... even at the evening sessions.



Shorts are great too!



Girls no spaghetti straps, bare midriffs or short shorts.



Please no tight shirts, sweaters, pants or shorts. That goes for girls and boys.



No short skirts / dresses or low cut tops.



No bikinis or 2 piece swim suits.



No writing on the buttocks of clothing.



Boys—rear view—keep your pants pulled up.

Any fashion (dress or accessory) that distracts from the spiritual atmosphere will not be permitted. Please note that we are not just trying to enforce a set of rules, but we are trying to encourage a spirit of modesty.

LSBC Packing List

Bible

Pencil & Paper

Toothbrush/Toothpaste

Comb/Brush

Soap/Shampoo/Towels

Flip Flops (for showers)

Twin size bedding or sleeping bag

Pillow

Jacket

Swimsuit

Shoes for canoeing

Clothes (including those for play)

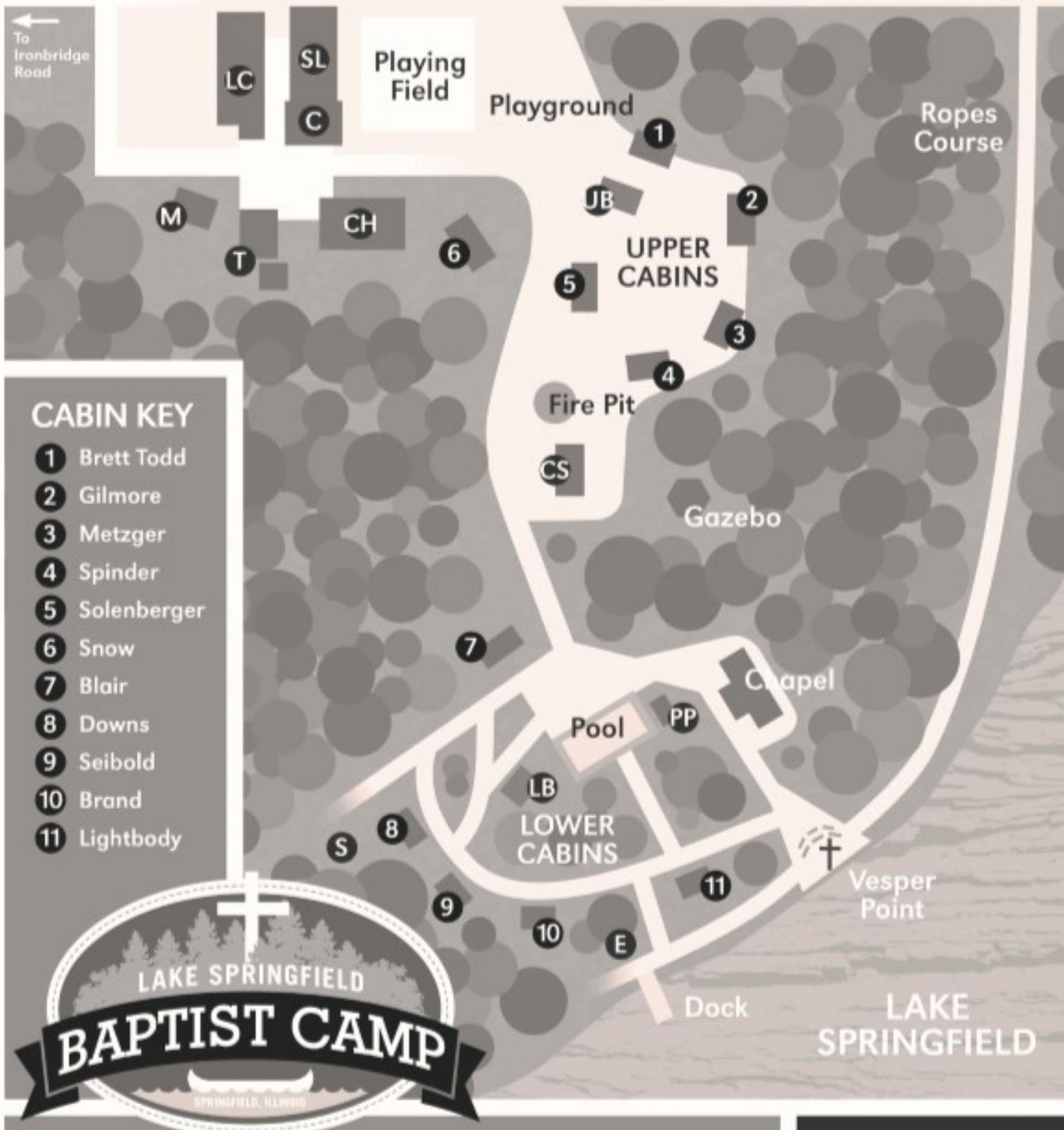
Trash Bag for Laundry

Flashlight

Insect Repellent (opt.)

Sun block (opt.)





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

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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