

CAMP BLUE DIAMOND

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August 2026 ♦ (814) 667-2355



Executive Director:

Brian Bert

Facilities Director:

Paul Witkovsky

Program Director:

Sage Evans

Office Administrator:

Amanda Post

Food Service Director: Shawnee Rupert

The Story Continues: Celebrating Our 60th Summer

This summer marked a very special milestone at Camp Blue Diamond, our 60th summer of camping ministry. For six decades, children and youth have traveled down Diamond Valley Road, said goodbye to their families, and stepped into a week filled with new experiences, new friendships, time in God's creation, and opportunities to grow in their faith. As we look back on another successful summer, it is humbling to realize that the ministry we experienced in 2026 is part of a story that began all the way back in the summer of 1966.



Much has changed over those 60 summers. Buildings have been added and renovated, programs have changed, new activities have been introduced, and generations of staff members have come and gone. Yet, at the heart of Camp Blue Diamond, the most important things have remained remarkably consistent. Camp is still a place where young people can step away from the distractions and pressures of everyday life. It is a place where they can experience the beauty of God's creation, develop independence and confidence, build meaningful relationships, and most importantly, discover more about what it means to follow Jesus Christ.

This summer was another wonderful example of why this ministry continues to matter. Throughout our weeks of camp, we watched campers arrive with a mixture of excitement, nervousness, and anticipation. By the end of the week, many of those same campers were reluctant to leave. In between were days filled with swimming, hiking, campfires, games, Bible study, worship, laughter, conversations around the table, and countless moments that may seem small at the time but often become the memories campers carry with them for years.

We were also blessed with a dedicated group of summer staff who gave an incredible amount of themselves to make this ministry possible. Being a counselor or summer staff member is not always easy. The days are long, the work can be tiring, and living in close community requires patience and grace. Yet our staff continued to show up for our campers each day. They encouraged them, prayed with them, laughed with them, challenged them, comforted them, and helped create a community where campers could feel welcomed and valued. We are incredibly thankful for the role each of them played in making our 60th summer such a success.



Celebrating 60 summers also gives us an opportunity to think about the thousands of people who have been part of Camp Blue Diamond's story. Today's campers are walking many of the same trails, swimming in the same lake, gathering around campfires, singing songs, and worshipping the same God as campers did decades ago. Some of today's parents and

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grandparents were once campers themselves. Some of the people who now volunteer, donate, serve on committees, or support camp through their congregations first developed their love for Camp Blue Diamond as children.

That is one of the beautiful things about camp ministry. We do not always get to see where the seeds planted during a week of summer camp will eventually grow. A conversation with a counselor, a Bible study beside the lake, a quiet moment in the woods, or a song sung around a campfire may stay with a young person long after they leave Camp Blue Diamond. Sixty years of summer camping means 60 years of planting those seeds and trusting God to provide the growth.

None of those 60 summers would have been possible without the tremendous support Camp Blue Diamond has received from our churches, families, volunteers, donors, staff members, and friends. Every scholarship provided, every hour volunteered, every prayer offered, every camper encouraged to attend, and every financial gift has helped make this ministry possible. Our 60th summer belongs not only to those who were physically at camp this year, but to everyone who has helped sustain this ministry over the past six decades.

As we close the chapter on our 60th summer, we do so with tremendous gratitude but also with excitement for what comes next. The world our campers are growing up in looks very different from the world of 1966, but the need for places like Camp Blue Diamond has not diminished. If anything, young people need places like Camp Blue Diamond even more where they can unplug, experience genuine community, spend time in creation, ask questions about faith, and be reminded that they are deeply loved by God.

For 60 summers, God has used this little place in Diamond Valley to touch lives. We are grateful for those who had the vision to begin this ministry, thankful for everyone who has carried it forward, and excited for the generations of campers who have not yet traveled down Diamond Valley Road for their first week of camp.

Sixty summers are now part of our history. With God's guidance, we look forward to many more.



2026 Summer Staff

back row left to right: Spencer Siegel, Jack Myers, Harper House, Hope Gandy

middle row left to right: Paul Witkovsky, Lydia Carnwath, Bailey Wilt, Laura House, Lia Barahona, Kenny Ott

front row, left to right: Brian Bert, Amanda Post, Julie Witkovsky, Lauren Duvall, Yalena Harris, Brynn Flatt, Sage Evans, Maya Morgan, Daniel Longell, Shawnee Rupert

Heritage Fair: Sept. 19th

Heritage Fair is just around the corner, and we can't wait to welcome you and your church family to Camp Blue Diamond for a day of fellowship, fun, and fundraising in support of both Camp Blue Diamond and the Middle PA District. This annual event is a true joy, a time to reconnect with friends and family, savor delicious food, enjoy great activities, and take in the beauty of camp.

Children will have their own special area filled with fun, including scarecrow making, a bounce house, a sawdust pile, and plenty of games and activities. Adults and youth can browse food and craft booths, explore displays, listen to live music, take a turn at the Dunker Dunk Tank, and bid on unique items at the auction. We hope your church is already spreading the word about Heritage Fair and making plans to host a booth or contribute to the auction.

Overnight lodging is available in the Lodge, summer camp cabins, and the campground. To reserve a room, cabin, campsite, or to get your questions answered email us at info@campbluediamond.org or call (814) 667-2355. We look forward to seeing you at Heritage Fair!

We Need Your Help

Camp Blue Diamond and the Middle PA District are seeking volunteers to help make this year's Heritage Fair a success! There are plenty of ways to get involved, from assisting with parking and supporting the auction, to staffing the camp booth, helping in the children's area, and more. Even if your church doesn't have a booth, this is a wonderful opportunity to be part of the fun and serve in a meaningful way. If you're interested or have any questions, please contact the camp office, we'd love to have you on the team!

Friday the 18th – Set-Up

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Hamburgers/Hot Dogs on the Grill

Saturday the 19th – The Fair

7:00 a.m. Polar Plunge Fundraiser

6:30 - 8:30 a.m. Diner Style Breakfast in the Lodge

**8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Food/Craft Booths, Displays,
Children's Activities, Entertainment**

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Ministry Support Auction

1:00 p.m. Pumpkinfest Activities

Sunday the 20th – Wrap-Up

9:30 a.m. Free Continental Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship in the lodge



Heritage Fair Polar Plunge

Take the Leap at the Annual Polar Bear Plunge!

Join us for the annual Polar Bear Plunge at Heritage Fair on September 19th! The excitement kicks off at 7:00 AM down at the beach, where brave participants will take a refreshing leap into the water. Signing up is easy, either have your church sponsor you by raising the \$50 minimum entry fee or cover the fee yourself if you'd like to go solo. Every Polar Bear Plunger will receive a certificate and a limited-edition 2026 Polar Bear Token to commemorate this unforgettable experience. Submissions are due by September 14th

Name _____ Congregation _____

I am paying my own Entry Fee of at least \$50 ☐

My Congregation is sponsoring my Polar Bear Plunge & hopes to raise more ☐

A Note From Sage

Camp Blue Diamond is a place unlike any other. I have learned that through being a camper, staff member and now Program Director. This summer as Program Director has been so rewarding. I got the chance to see campers I have known for years continue to grow and blossom into new versions of themselves. Campers do that through all of the activities they participate in, the new friendships they make as well as the old friendships they continue to build on, and the safe environment for growth that is created amongst the summer staff and myself throughout the weeks. Pouring into these campers year after year is such a unique experience I am so grateful to have.

One of the most rewarding parts of this summer for me was getting to see that growth in my own summer staff. Most of the summer staff has either been my coworker, CIT, or camper in the past. Camp Blue Diamond is a place for the summer staff to find their way in life without judgement; they can seek new friendships, explore their spirituality, work with children, and discover new things about themselves. I saw a community built amongst the summer staff this year that was truly special. They were there to lift each other up on tough days, and share the joy of the fun days together.

Our theme for the summer was "In The Wilderness." A lot of our discussion focused on the world and our mind being our wilderness; God is our guide through that wilderness to help us navigate life. We discussed this idea further everyday by focusing on different passages in the bible to understand how God works in our wilderness. We looked at scripture from Psalm, Job, Exodus, Matthew, Esther, Luke, and Jeremiah. What I find rewarding about diving into scripture is getting to meet each camper where they are at in their spiritual journey. Some campers already know the bible passages, and some are not familiar with any. Each camper learns something new from the studies, whether it's a new story, a new perspective, or a good moral, everyone is gaining knowledge.

Camp Blue Diamond is a place for everyone to grow, and I really do think every camper and staff member did that this summer. It made my summer one to remember!

Summer Camp 2027 Schedule

It is time to start planning for next summer! The 2027 Summer Schedule is out, and many campers have completed their pre-registration. Early Bird Registration opens in January and runs through February.

Cooking Camp	Grades 5 - 6	May 14 - 16
Kiddie Weekend	Ages 5 - 7 + Adult	June 5 - 6
CIT Training	Grades 9 - 11	June 5 - 6
Kiddie Camp	Ages 5 - 7 + Adult	June 17 - 18
Tenderfoot Camp	Grades 1 - 2	June 17 - 18
Junior 1	Grades 3 - 5	June 20 - 25
Jr. High 1	Grades 6 - 8	June 20 - 25
Creative Arts	Grades 5 - 8	June 27 - Jul 2
Yough Adventure	Grades 7 - 9	June 27 - Jul 2
Pioneer Camp	Grades 2 - 4	July 6 - 9
Caving Camp	Grades 5 - 7	July 6 - 9
Youth Camp	Grades 8 - 12	July 11 - 16
Junior 2	Grades 3 - 5	July 18 - 23
OLS	Grades 9 - 12	July 18 - 23
Jr. High 2	Grades 6 - 8	July 25 - 30
Jr. Adventure	Grades 4 - 5	July 25 - 30
Family Camp	All Ages	Aug. 20 - 22



Brethren Open - Aug. 11th

A huge thank you to all the sponsors, golfers, and volunteers who helped make this year's Brethren Open at Iron Masters such a fantastic event! Together, we raised over \$11,000 to support Camp Blue Diamond and the Middle PA District. Golfers and volunteers capped off the day with a delicious meal provided by Frederick's Meat Market, sharing laughs and memories along the way. We can't wait to tee off again next year. Mark your calendars and join us for another day of fun, fellowship, and friendly competition on August 10, 2027!

Tournament Sponsor (\$1000):

The Huntsman Family Foundation

Course Sponsors (\$500-\$600):

Ameriprise - Hinich & Associates

Bert/Post/Shunk/Roth/Witkovsky

Xtreme Painting & Wallpapering

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Cove Flooring

Scott & Kyle Stern

Cove Lumber

Greg & Kim Stoudnour

Anonymous Friend

Hole Sponsors (\$250):

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Hellers Gas

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Stuckey Automotive

Overhead Door of Blair Co

Rich & Beckie Zeek

Doing Better Business

Martin Oil

Prize & Food Sponsors:

Frederick's Meat Market

Teeter Insurance Group

Crystal Springs Bottled Water

Allstate – Mason Harris

Thank You

Camp Blue Diamond is blessed with many faithful donors and volunteers. Thank you to everyone that made a monetary donation, bought something off our Amazon Wishlist, encouraged someone to attend summer camp or prayed for Camp Blue Diamond. There are so many ways to support Camp. We are truly blessed to have so many wonderful supporters!

Summer Camp Volunteers:

Nurses: Annette Chadwick, Eliana Eicher, Lindsey Suter

CITs: Eliza Anderson, Leah Carswell, Izzy Flatt, Sophia Keith, Tim Leek, Laura Longwell, Alexys Tomlinson, Billy Tovar, Ryann Welsh

Counselors: Kyle Duvall, Eliana Eicher, John Foster, Noah Hinkle, Rachel Hinkle, Landon Meadows, Willow Miller, Devon O'Neal, Jack Westphal

Chaplains: Dave Crumrine, Debbie Eisenbise, Lindsey Frye, Destiny Wagner, Beckie Zeek

Program Help/Others: Tyson Daniels, Tiana Eicher, Joe Hinich, Gabe Imler, Abby Mickle, Kenny Ott, Aaron Specht

Summer Camp By The Numbers

316 Total Campers

177 Middle PA Dist. Campers

23 Campers from other affiliated Churches

9 Other CoB Campers

33 Campers of other Denominations

74 Campers with no Church Affiliation

26 Middle PA Dist. Churches Sent Campers

42 Scholarships Given Out Totaling \$7,072.25

316 Campers Found Jesus In The Wilderness

Upcoming Camp Blue Diamond Events

❖ Heritage Fair Weekend September 18-20

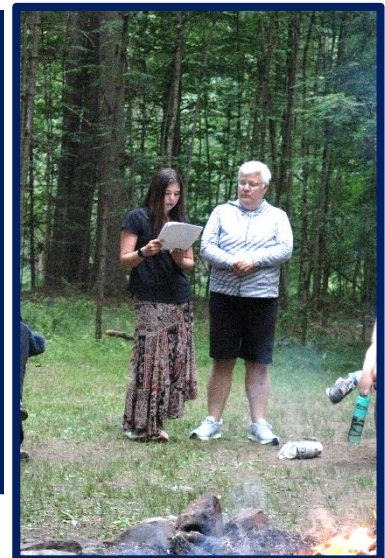
❖ Youth Retreat January 15-17

❖ Jr. High Retreat February 12-14

❖ District/Camp Meeting October 10

❖ Junior Retreat January 29-31

❖ Annual Dinner March 19 & 20





**Camp Blue Diamond Inc.
Church of the Brethren
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Prayer List

Prayer is the most important way that everyone can support the ministry of Camp Blue Diamond. We have been blessed throughout the years with faithful prayer partners that keep the needs of camp in their prayers. With that in mind, we wanted to share some general prayer needs to reflect on as you pray. Thank you again for your faithful prayers.

**Staff and Campers as they Return to School/Work
Annual Camp Meeting and District Conference**

**Successful Heritage Fair
Fall Outdoor School Season**

Wish List

Our Amazon Wish List has just been updated with all the latest items that help Camp Blue Diamond thrive! From the behind-the-scenes essentials in maintenance, the kitchen, and the office, to the supplies that make programming fun and meaningful, there's something on the list for every part of camp life. And the best part? There's something for every budget, items range from under \$10 to over \$500, so everyone can join in making a difference.

By scanning the QR code, you'll be taken directly to our Amazon Wish List, or you can visit <https://a.co/2AO626u>. Each item on the list is carefully chosen to support our campers, staff, and volunteers, helping us provide a safe, fun, and faith-filled environment. Whether it's a small item that brightens a camper's day or a larger donation that supports an entire program, every contribution plays a vital role in making our ministry a success.

Our needs are always changing as we grow and adapt, so be sure to check back often. Remember, you can always find a link to the Wish List on the "Donate" page of our website. By participating, you're not just purchasing supplies, you're investing in life-changing experiences, unforgettable memories, and the spiritual growth of countless children and youth at Camp Blue Diamond!

