

CAMP BLUE DIAMOND

www.campbluediamond.org ♦ info@campbluediamond.org

December 2025 ♦ (814) 667-2355



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Facility Director: Paul Witkovsky
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Head Cook: Sarah Rupert

As the pace of the year begins to slow and Christmas draws near, we find ourselves entering a season of stillness, a quiet pause between what has been and what is yet to come. Here at Camp Blue Diamond, the winter months bring a kind of holy hush. The cabins stand silent, the lake rests under a thin veil of ice, and the trails that echo with summer laughter now wait patiently for footsteps to return. Even the wind seems to move more gently, as if honoring the peace of the season.

In these quiet moments, we are reminded of another stillness long ago, a silent night in Bethlehem when God chose to enter our world not with power or spectacle, but with softness. Nothing about Christ's birth was loud or impressive by the world's standards. It was humble, simple, and quiet. The Savior of the world arrived not in a palace, but in a stable; not surrounded by dignitaries, but by shepherds and starlight.

Christmas invites us into that same posture of quiet wonder. It encourages us to step back from the rush of December and remember the gentle, faithful way in which God comes near. While the world around us grows busy with lists, events, and noise, the message of Christmas draws us into a quieter rhythm—one marked by reflection, gratitude, and rest.

Camp in winter becomes a vivid reminder of this truth. The spaces that overflow with energy in the summer, the beach and lake, the field, the fire circle, now stand still, holding the memories of songs sung, prayers whispered, and friendships formed. The silence isn't empty. It's full. Full of the goodness God has poured into this place. Full of the sacred work He has done in the hearts of campers and staff. Full of the anticipation of what He will continue to do.

Just as campers find God in the gentle moments of summer, early morning devotions, quiet moments along the shoreline, the hush before evening worship, so we are invited to find Him in the gentle moments of this season.

In a candle flickering during Advent. In the stillness before sunrise. In the quiet gratitude that settles over a winter day. God moves in the quiet just as faithfully as He moves in the joyful noise.

As we reflect on the year behind us, we give thanks for the countless ways God has used this sacred place. We remember the laughter echoing across the forest, the powerful moments of worship under the open sky, the conversations that drew campers closer to Christ, and the simple joys that made the summer meaningful. These memories warm the quiet winter months like embers that continue to glow long after the fire has faded.

As we look ahead, we do so with hope. Hope rooted not in our own strength, but in the promise of Emmanuel, God with us. The same God who met us in the fullness of summer will meet us again in the stillness of winter, and in every season yet to come.

May this Christmas season bring you moments of peace in the midst of busyness, moments of warmth in the midst of winter's chill, and moments of deep gratitude for the Savior who continues to guide, comfort, and renew us. From all of us at camp, we wish you a blessed and joy-filled Christmas. We look forward with anticipation to the new stories God will write here in the coming year.



3rd, 4th and 5th Graders Won't Want to Miss Camp Blue Diamond's

Junior Retreat

January 30-February 1 In the Wilderness!

What do you think of when you see the word "Wilderness"? Do you think of unexplored places on Earth? Do you think about Camp and all the wonderful woods around us? Maybe you think about Bible Stories like Jesus wandering through the wilderness for 40 days? All those things would be correct! The wilderness can be a physical place, but it can also be a way that we feel. Whether we're walking in the woods or just going through a tough time, God reminds us that we are not traveling alone. Join us for our Junior Retreat and find out more about what it means to be "In the Wilderness"!

WHO: YOU! (3rd, 4th & 5th graders)

WHERE: Camp Blue Diamond

WHEN: Jan 30th - Feb 1st
7:00pm Friday
to 1:30pm Sunday

Cost: \$75.00

≧Special Discount≦

Pay only \$70 if you register by
January 16th!

BE SURE TO BRING: sleeping bag & pillow, Bible,
warm clothes for the outdoors, your best singing voice

★ We will be staying in winterized cabins ★



Please register online or complete the form below, and send it, along with payment to:

Camp Blue Diamond, PO Box 240, Petersburg, PA 16669

Make checks payable to: **Camp Blue Diamond**

Questions: call (814) 667-2355 or email: info@campbluediamond.org

Name: _____ Gender: M / F Grade: _____

Junior Retreat

Street: _____ Phone: _____ Congregation: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Email: _____

Parents: I give my child permission to attend the **Junior Retreat at Camp Blue Diamond on Jan. 30 – Feb. 1, 2026.** I authorize the leaders to act in any emergency and give permission to the physician selected to hospitalize or secure treatment as needed. Should it become necessary for my child to return home for any reason prior to closing, I will abide by the decision and provide transportation. I give permission to use pictures of my child in Camp Blue Diamond brochures & publicity.

Medications: Bring in Original Bottle w/ Instructions: _____

Allergies or dietary restrictions: _____ Child covered by Medical/Hospital Insurance: Y/ N

Insurance Carrier: _____ Policy #: _____ Insurance Phone #: _____

☐ Check ☐ Card Number ____/____/____/____ Exp. Date: ____/____ Security # ____ Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____

Summer Camp 2026 is Coming!

- ❖ Online Summer Camp registration begins January 1. Brochures will be mailed out in late December. Camp Reps. and Churches will have brochures starting January 18th!
- ❖ Register for summer camp in January or February and get the Early Bird Discount! Sign up with your brothers & sisters and save even more with the Sibling Discount!
- ❖ Check out the website at campbluediamond.org for summer camp and retreat dates, rates, forms, online registration and lots of 2025 photos!

Camp Blue Diamond 2026 Summer Camp Schedule!

Now is the perfect time to choose your week at Camp Blue Diamond! Get ready for a summer filled with faith, fun, adventure, and friends. Online registration starts January 1, and brochures will be mailed to past campers in late December. Camp dates, fees, photos, forms, and online registration can all be found on our website.

Cooking Camp	Grades 5 – 6	May 15 - 17
Kiddie Weekend	Ages 5 - 7, Adult	June 6 - 7
CIT Training	Grades 9 - 11	June 6 - 7
Kiddie Camp	Ages 5 - 7, Adult	June 18 - 19
Tenderfoot Camp	Grades 1 - 2	June 18 - 19
Junior 1	Grades 3 - 5	June 21 - 26
Jr. High 1	Grades 6 - 8	June 21 - 26
Creative Arts	Grades 5 - 8	June 28-July 3
Yough Adventure	Grades 7 - 9	June 28-July 3
Pioneer Camp	Grades 2 - 4	July 7 - 10
Caving Camp	Grades 5 - 7	July 7 - 10
Youth Camp	Grades 8 - 12	July 12 - 17
Junior 2	Grades 3 - 5	July 19 - 24
Outdoor Living Skills	Grades 9 - 12	July 19 - 24
Jr. High 2	Grades 6 - 8	July 26 - 31
Jr. Adventure 2	Grades 4 – 5	July 26 - 31
Family Camp	Everyone	Aug. 21 - 23



Camp Rep Training – Jan 18th

Camp Reps are invited to attend the Training Event on **Sunday, January 18th**! This is important to the ministry of Camp Blue Diamond, as we strive to invite children, youth & adults to be a part of our program. The training begins at 2:00pm and will be wrapped up by 4:00pm. Spouses, pastors, friends and anyone that wants to learn more about Camp Blue Diamond are invited to join us. Camp Reps will receive summer brochures, a summer 2025 video and loads of other handouts. We will learn about camp sessions, discounts, scholarships, staffing needs, the ***In the Wilderness*** theme, and reminders about the registration software. Mark your calendars now for this event!

Upcoming Camp Blue Diamond Events

❖ Camp Rep. Training	Jan. 18	❖ Junior Retreat	Jan 30 – Feb 1
❖ Jr. High Retreat	Feb. 13 – 15	❖ Youth Retreat	Feb 27 – Mar 1
❖ Annual Dinner	March 20 & 21	❖ Quilt & Craft Camp	April 17 – 19

Inviting all 6th, 7th and 8th graders for a great weekend at the...

Jr. High Retreat

February 13th – 15th at Camp Blue Diamond

Join us as we welcome special guest Pastor Steve Keim! Steve is the pastor of the Beech Run Church of the Brethren. More details and a theme will be released soon, but this weekend promises to hold some big laughs, plenty of fun, and lots of friends both old and new! We hope to see you there!

Cost \$85

»Special Discount«

Pay only \$80 if you register by Jan. 30th

Who: All 6th, 7th and 8th Graders

When: February 13th - 15th; 7 pm Fri - 1:30 pm Sun.

Where: Camp Blue Diamond

What to bring: Sleeping Bag & Pillow, Bible, Dance

Moves, Flashlight and Warm Clothing for Playing Outside



There will be singing, games, a campfire, outside fun, arts and crafts, and your favorite camp counselors!
See you there!

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Make checks payable to: **Camp Blue Diamond**

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Name: _____ Gender: M / F Grade: _____

Jr. Hi. Retreat

Street: _____ Phone: _____ Congregation: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Email: _____

Parents: I give my child permission to attend the **Jr. High Retreat at Camp Blue Diamond on February 13 – 15, 2026**. I authorize the leaders to act in any emergency and give permission to the physician selected to hospitalize or secure treatment as needed. Should it become necessary for my child to return home for any reason prior to closing, I will abide by the decision and provide transportation. I give permission to use pictures of my child in Camp Blue Diamond brochures & publicity.

Medications: Bring in Original Bottle w/ Instructions: _____

Allergies or dietary restrictions: _____ Child covered by Medical/Hospital Insurance: Y / N

Insurance Carrier: _____ Policy #: _____ Insurance Phone #: _____

☐ Check ☐ Card Number ____ / ____ / ____ / ____ Exp. Date: ____ / ____ Security # ____ Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____

Summer Staff, CITs (Counselor In Training) & Vol. Nurses Are Needed

If you, or someone you know, loves camp and has a heart for kids, working at Camp Blue Diamond could be the perfect adventure! We're looking for counselors who are at least 18, committed Christians, enjoy working with children, and can live and serve well in a close-knit community. Being on camp staff is an incredible experience! Team members grow in faith, leadership, communication, and community life. It's also excellent hands-on training for anyone considering teaching, ministry, social work, or even future parenting.

Maintenance and kitchen staff positions are also available for those 16 and older. These staff work 8-hour days and have evenings free to join camp activities. Compensation ranges from \$250–\$300 per week, depending on position and experience. Room and board are included. The camp season runs June 11–August 1, and applications can be found at campbluediamond.org. Don't delay, hiring is underway now!

For youth interested in learning what counseling is like, our Counselor-in-Training (CIT) program is a great opportunity. CITs are 9th–11th graders who support a counselor with a boys' or girls' unit. First-time CITs need to attend CIT Camp on June 6–7. After completing training, they may assist with Junior, Pioneer, or Tenderfoot camps.

We are also seeking Nurses (RN, PA, or MD) to serve during summer camp. Nurses administer medications and care for campers who are sick or injured. Housing is provided in the Ouch House, and nurses may bring their spouse and family.

For an application or to volunteer as a nurse, please contact Camp Blue Diamond at (814) 667-2355 or info@campbluediamond.org.



Annual Dinner: March 20 & 21

Camp Blue Diamond's Annual Dinner will be held on March 20th and 21st, and we're delighted to welcome the many friends who make this fundraiser a yearly priority. Each year, this special event helps keep summer camp affordable for all by supporting the overall program costs and contributing to a designated project.

Friday's dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday's dinner will start at 5:30 p.m. We invite everyone to arrive about 30 minutes early each evening to enjoy appetizers and fellowship with other camp supporters before the meal.

Registration Reminders

Registration Software

In 2025, Camp Blue Diamond began using a new camp management system called **CAMPWISE**. This all-in-one registration and database program has helped us streamline our operations and makes registering for camp smoother than ever. You can also still register using the paper forms as always.

If you registered through CAMPWISE in 2025 or attended any program last year: Some of your information is already saved. You'll just need to review and update it. Please use the **same username and password** you created last year. If you don't remember your login, **please do not create a new account**—contact our office and we'll help you access your profile.

If you are registering for the first time: You will need to set up a new CAMPWISE profile with a username and password. Once created, your information will be saved for future registrations, making the process easier.

Discounts

Discounts can automatically be selected when registering online. If you are using the paper form the following discounts are available:

- **Early Bird** – If you register before March 1, you can take \$10 off a two-day camp, \$15 off a half-week camp and \$20 off a full week camp for each camper
- **Sibling** – If you are registering more than 1 camper from the same family you make take \$25 off the second and each subsequent camper.
- **CIT Camp** – If you register for another Sr. High aged camp you can receive 50% off CIT Camp.

Youth in grades 9-12 are invited to...

The Youth Retreat

February 27-March 1 at Camp Blue Diamond

Join Camp Blue Diamond as we welcome **Ryan Braught**! Ryan is the Pastor/Church Planter of the Veritas Church in Lancaster, PA. More theme details will be shared soon, but you can rest assured knowing it'll be a fantastic weekend full of friends, fun, and singing! We hope to see you there!

Cost \$95

Special Discount:

Pay only \$90 if you register by Feb. 13th

Who: All 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th Graders

When: February 27th - March 1st

Registration Begins 7 pm Fri.

Retreat Ends 1:30 pm Sun.

Where: Camp Blue Diamond

What to bring: Sleeping Bag & Pillow, Bible, Flashlight and Warm Clothing for Playing Outside



Get ready for this awesome weekend at Camp Blue Diamond! We will be having tons of fun with some of your favorite counselors and Camp favorites. There will be games, singing, crafts, night game and a Coffee House with karaoke. If the weather is right we will be sled riding!

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Make checks payable to: **Camp Blue Diamond**

Questions: call (814) 667-2355 or email: info@campbluediamond.org

Name: _____ Gender: M / F Grade: _____

Youth Retreat

Street: _____ Phone: _____ Congregation: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Email: _____

Parents: I give my child permission to attend the **Youth Retreat at Camp Blue Diamond on Feb. 27 – Mar. 1, 2026**. I authorize the leaders to act in any emergency and give permission to the physician selected to hospitalize or secure treatment as needed. Should it become necessary for my child to return home for any reason prior to closing, I will abide by the decision and provide transportation. I give permission to use pictures of my child in Camp Blue Diamond brochures & publicity.

Medications: Bring in Original Bottle w/ Instructions: _____

Allergies or dietary restrictions: _____ Child covered by Medical/Hospital Insurance: Y/ N

Insurance Carrier: _____ Policy #: _____ Insurance Phone #: _____

☐ Check ☐ Card Number ____/____/____/____ Exp. Date: ____/____ Security # ____ Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____

2026 Summer Camp Theme

In the Wilderness

Wilderness is a time or place where we encounter what is new, strange, scary, lonely, unknown or mysterious. The wilderness is a wild and beautiful time and place where we can discover the sacred within each person and all creation. The wilderness can inspire us and guide us, assuring us of God's constant presence. As the Spirit guides us through the wilderness, we find what we need to face our fears and the very real challenges that impact our world. The wilderness teaches us the importance of community and the ways we navigate challenges together. The wilderness reveals our strengths, growing edges, and potential as God equips us for the unknown still to come. The wilderness awaits us all, and God meets us there.



Hometown Favorite

Camp Blue Diamond is honored and excited to announce that we have been selected as the 2025 Altoona Mirror Hometown Favorites Summer Camp! We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who took a moment to vote for us and support us in this endeavor. Although this is a regional recognition, it clearly demonstrates the love, appreciation, and trust our community places in Camp Blue Diamond.



What makes this award especially meaningful is that we were chosen alongside, and ultimately ahead of, several much larger summer camp programs. That achievement is only possible because of the unwavering dedication of our friends, families, churches, and supporters who believe deeply in the mission of Camp Blue Diamond. Your encouragement continues to make a real difference in the life and ministry of camp.

This recognition also shines a well-deserved spotlight on the counselors and staff whose hard work, creativity, and commitment create a safe, joyful, and spiritually enriching environment for every camper. Their passion is the heartbeat of Camp Blue Diamond, and we are grateful that this award affirms the impact they make each summer.

We are also hopeful that this honor will help introduce Camp Blue Diamond to individuals and families who may be hearing about us for the first time. As more people discover our community, they'll find a place that is not only fun and adventurous, but also grounded in care, respect, and Christian hospitality.

If you weren't able to cast your vote this year, there's always next time! With the continued dedication of our staff and the faithful support of our wider camp family, we look forward to the opportunity to celebrate this achievement again in the future.

Thank you for helping make Camp Blue Diamond a place worth recognizing, and a place worth returning to year after year.

Heritage Fair

A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the Middle PA District & Camp Blue Diamond's annual Heritage Fair on September 20th such a tremendous success! Over 35 churches participated with booths, activities, or auction items, raising more than \$25,000 to support camp and district ministries. This event wouldn't be possible without the efforts of the 100+ volunteers who parked cars, assisted with the auction, cooked and served at food booths, ran children's activities, worked in the bank, braved the dunk tank, and tackled countless other important tasks.



We also want to thank everyone who attended and made purchases at the Heritage Fair. It was a fantastic day filled with delicious food, fun activities, and the joy of supporting amazing causes, all at the same time!

Mark your calendars for next year's Heritage Fair on September 19th. If your church wasn't able to participate this year with a booth, basket, or fundraiser, don't miss the opportunity in 2026. And as always, we welcome volunteers to help make the day a success!



**Camp Blue Diamond Inc.
Church of the Brethren
PO Box 240
Petersburg, PA 16669**

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Huntingdon, PA 16652
Permit No. 141

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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.

Winter Retreat Programs

Summer Staff Recruiting Efforts

Planning for 2026

Wish List

Immediate Needs: **Hot Cocoa Powder** (not packets) **Paper Towels**

Our Amazon Wish List has been updated with the most current needs from every area of camp—maintenance, kitchen, office, and programing. There's something for every budget, with items ranging from under \$10 to over \$500.

Scan the QR code to go directly to the Wish List or visit <https://a.co/2AO626u>.

This list includes items that help support the ministry and day-to-day operations of Camp. Check back often, as needs will be updated regularly. You can also find a link to the list anytime on the Ways To Give page of Camp's website.



Thank You Volunteers

Thank you to the many generous supporters who supplied us with peanut butter and jelly, paper towels, and zip-lock bags for the summer! These simple items make a big difference in our daily operations and help camp run smoothly in countless ways. We're grateful for your thoughtful contributions!

Mike Campbell, Brian Stern, Ken Ott, Randy Singo, Jeff Browell, Shawn Shirk, Yalena Harris & PSU ServeState – Cut & Split Wood & Raking; **Ryan Welsh, Ken Ott & Ryann Welsh** – 4-wheeler work; **Ken Ott, Randy & Jeffie Singo, Karen Biddle, Tammy Frye-Carter, Levi Carter** – Office Help