

# CAMP BLUE DIAMOND



www.campbluediamond.org ♦ info@campbluediamond.org

December 2024 ♦ (814) 667-2355

Executive Director:	Brian Bert	Facility Director:	Paul Witkovsky
Program Director:	Gabe Imler	Food Service Director:	Shawnee Rupert
Office Administrator:	Amanda Helfrich	Head Cook:	Sarah Rupert

As we proceed through Advent and await the birth of the Messiah, we here at Camp Blue Diamond wanted to take time to reflect on our year and say thank you. Through the generosity of the supporters of Camp Blue Diamond, we were able to welcome 342 campers this past summer. This is an increase of over 5% from 2023. Of these 342 campers, 73 did not claim to be affiliated with a church. For some of these children and youth, the week they spend at Camp Blue Diamond may have been their only opportunity to hear about the life changing good news of Jesus Christ. They were able to witness Christians living with each other in harmony and working through any differences they may have had with the help of our theme: *Linked By Love*.

Through your generosity we were able to provide scholarships to nearly 40 campers that totaled nearly \$6,000. Without your support, many of these campers would not have had the opportunity to attend summer camp.

I am reminded of two sisters that came to Camp Blue Diamond for the first time this past summer. These girls do not have the opportunity to attend church, and their home life is unstable at best. When they first arrived, the girls were unfamiliar with the concepts that many of our campers take for granted. Throughout the week the girls became more comfortable and opened up to the counselors. They were amazed that there is this place where they are loved and cared for unconditionally, and they responded to the life changing news of a God that loves them. By the end of the week, they didn't want to leave and made sure they stayed around for that one last game of gaga ball. It was only through you as supporters that we had this opportunity to share all these things with the girls.

Because of your generous support we are also able to keep our prices as low as possible. Camp Blue Diamond is proud to be the least expensive Church of the Brethren summer camp that is also ACA accredited in the denomination. We have also worked hard over the last few years to increase the pay for our counselors. While we are not paying them anywhere near what they are worth for the ministry they provide, we know how important they are and are grateful for the progress we have made.

As we close out 2024 and look ahead to 2025, we want to ask you to continue to support Camp Blue Diamond. Certainly, the best thing everyone can do is pray for our campers and staff, that we would stay safe and share the love of Jesus. However, if you are able to make a financial gift to Camp Blue Diamond, we would ask you to prayerfully consider that. Through your generosity we will be able to continue providing opportunities to children and youth here at Camp Blue Diamond. Each donation is a blessing and appreciated. You can use the form below to help with your tax-deductible gift. Thank you for your continued support of Camp Blue Diamond!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Choose:  \$50 Gift  \$100 Gift  \$250 Gift  \$500 Gift  \$1000 Gift Other Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Choose One:  Check Enclosed  Paying by card - Complete information below  Website Donation

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

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

If you, or someone you know, loves camp and kids, working at camp would be a wonderful adventure for them! Counselors must be at least 18, committed Christians, enjoy kids, and be able to live in harmony with others. Being a part of the camp staff is a fantastic! Staff members grow in faith, leadership and communication skills, as well as live in community with other like-minded Christians. For those interested in teaching, ministry or social work (or being a parent), it's terrific on-the-job training! Maintenance & Kitchen staff need to be at least



16, and work 8-hour days, with time off in the evenings to join the activities. Pay is \$250 - \$300/week, based on position and experience. Room & board provided. Camp runs June 6 – July 27. Applications are available at [campbluediamond.org](http://campbluediamond.org). Don't wait too long to apply! We are hiring now!

Being a CIT is a great way to experience counseling. CIT's are 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> graders who help a counselor with a boys' or girls' unit. First time CIT's need to attend CIT Camp on June 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>. After completing CIT Camp, they can assist with a Junior, Pioneer or Tenderfoot camp.

Nurses (RN's, PA's and MD's) are needed for summer camp. Nurses are responsible for administering meds and treating injured or sick campers. Nurses are housed in the Ouch House and may bring their spouse and family. For a CIT application, or to volunteer as a nurse, please contact Camp Blue Diamond at (814) 667-2355 or [info@campbluediamond.org](mailto:info@campbluediamond.org).

## Annual Dinner: March 21 & 22

Camp Blue Diamond's Annual Dinner will be held March 21st & 22nd. We are excited to welcome our many friends that make this annual fundraising dinner a priority! This event raises funds each year to help offset the cost of summer camp, keeping it affordable for everyone, along with allocating funds towards a special project.

Dinner on Friday evening will begin at 6:30pm while Saturday evening's dinner will begin at 5:30pm. We encourage everyone to come out for appetizers and fellowship with other camp supporters a half hour before the meal each night.

## New Registration Software

In 2025 Camp Blue Diamond will be implementing a completely new software system for camp management called CAMPWISE. This integrated registration and database management software will greatly improve camp's overall operation and streamline the registration process for campers and their parents.

Some parents may have already received an email about this new registration software. Once registration is set up the first time, registering for future events at Camp Blue Diamond will become easier as much of the required information being saved on secure servers. Credit card and e-check payments made through this system are PCI Level 1 compliant (a secure standard) and are not stored in the CAMPWISE database.

Although camp has not purchased every component available, future upgrades will allow us to manage almost every aspect of camp, from camper registration to donor management to guest services in one convenient package.

While this new software is customizable to our program, we needed to implement a few changes to our processes to ensure the smoothest transition possible (see the note on church stipends below). If you encounter any problems during this new process, please do not hesitate to reach out to the office for assistance. You can of course still send in a paper copy of the registration just like in the past.

If you regularly attend a church that pays part or all the Camp Blue Diamond Summer Camp fee you will need the code for your church. You can get this code from your church or call our office at (814)667-2355.

# DISTRICT YOUTH RETREAT

## AFTER GOD'S HEART

Join the Middle PA District and Camp Blue Diamond as we gather together for a wonderful weekend of fellowship and conversation with Pastor Mike Benner! Mike is the pastor at the Everett Church of the Brethren and has been involved with the district for several years. Over the weekend we will look at the story of David and the lessons his life can teach us. Come out to enjoy time in nature, fun and games, engaging conversation, and connect with friends old and new!

**Who:** All Youth in Grades 9-12

**When:** January 31- Feb. 2, 2025

Registration begins 7 p.m. Friday

Retreat ends 1 p.m. Sunday

**Where:** Camp Blue Diamond

**What to bring:** sleeping bag and pillow, Bible, flashlight, warm clothing for playing outside (we will sled if there's snow!)

**Cost: \$85**

Early Bird Discount:

Pay only \$75 if you register by  
January 17!

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

Camp Blue Diamond, P.O. Box 240, Petersburg, PA 16669

Make checks payable to: **Camp Blue Diamond** Questions: call (814) 667-2355 or email: [amanda.r.helfrich@gmail.com](mailto:amanda.r.helfrich@gmail.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M / F Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ **Youth Retreat**

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parents:** I give my child permission to attend the **District Youth Retreat at Camp Blue Diamond on Jan 31-Feb. 2, 2025.** 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 District and Camp Blue Diamond brochures & publicity.

Medications: Bring in Original Bottle w/ Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_ Is Child covered by Medical/Hospital Insurance? **Y/N**

Insurance Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_ Insurance Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Check  Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Security # \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

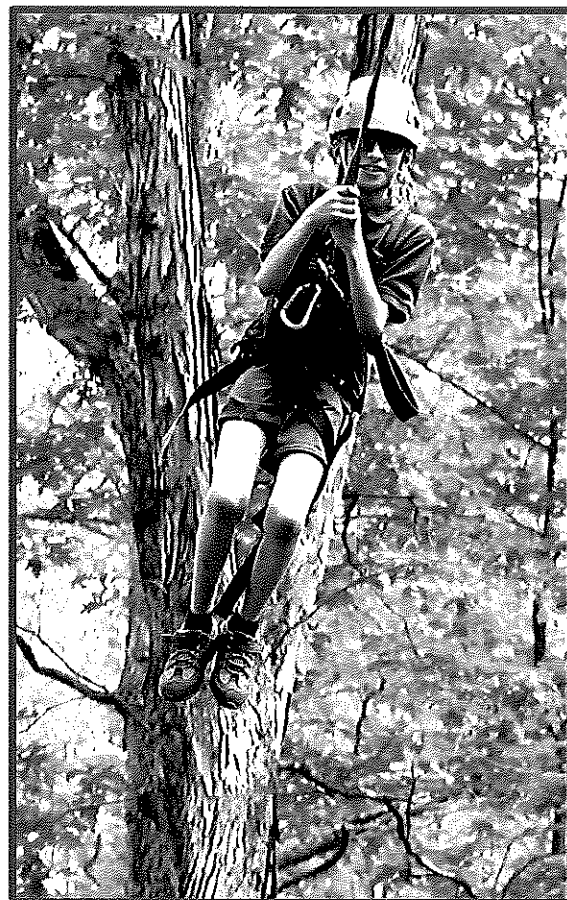
## Summer Camp 2025 is Coming!

- ❖ Online Summer Camp registration begins January 1. Brochures will be mailed out in early January. Camp Reps. and Churches will have brochures starting January 26<sup>th</sup>!
- ❖ 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](http://campbluediamond.org) for summer camp and retreat dates, rates, forms, online registration and lots of 2024 photos!

## Camp Blue Diamond 2025 Summer Camp Schedule!

Now is the time to pick your camp! Your week at Camp Blue Diamond will be filled with faith, fun, adventure and friends! Early Bird Registration takes place in Jan & Feb. Online reg. starts Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, and brochures will be sent to past campers in early January. Camp dates, fees, photos, forms and online registrations are available at [campbluediamond.org](http://campbluediamond.org).

Cooking Camp	Grades 5 – 6	May 16 - 18
Kiddie Weekend	Ages 5 - 7, Adult	May 31 - Jun. 1
CIT Training	Grades 9 - 11	May 31 - Jun. 1
Kiddie Camp	Ages 5 - 7, Adult	June 12 - 13
Tenderfoot Camp	Grades 1 - 2	June 12 - 13
Junior 1	Grades 3 - 5	June 15 - 20
Jr. High 1	Grades 6 - 8	June 15 - 20
Creative Arts	Grades 5 - 8	June 22 - 27
Yough Adventure	Grades 7 - 9	June 22 - 27
Pioneer Camp	Grades 2 - 4	June 29-July 2
Caving Camp	Grades 5 - 7	June 29-July 2
Youth Camp	Grades 8 - 12	July 6 - 11
Junior 2	Grades 3 - 5	July 13 - 18
Outdoor Living Skills	Grades 9 - 12	July 13 - 18
Jr. High 2	Grades 6 - 8	July 20 - 25
Jr. Adventure 2	Grades 4 – 5	July 20 - 25
Family Camp	Everyone	Aug. 15 - 17



## Camp Rep Training – Jan 26<sup>th</sup>

Camp Reps are invited to attend the Training Event on **Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>**! 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 2024 video and loads of other handouts. We will learn about camp sessions, discounts, scholarships, staffing needs, the *Another Way* theme, and the new registration Software. Mark your calendars now for this event!

### Upcoming Camp Blue Diamond Events

❖ Camp Rep. Training	Jan. 26	❖ Youth Retreat	Jan 31 – Feb 2
❖ Jr. High Retreat	Feb. 14 – 16	❖ Junior Retreat	Feb 28 – Mar 2
❖ Annual Dinner	March 21 & 22	❖ Quilt & Craft Camp	April 25 – 27

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

# Jr. High Retreat

## February 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> at Camp Blue Diamond Salvation for the World!

Join us as we welcome special guest Pastor and Director of the American Rescue Workers in Hollidaysburg, Chris Fuska! "Christ understood we are not all the same, from the way we look to our different talents, we are diverse as human beings, but that doesn't mean we can't all be accepted by Jesus Christ. Our focus will be on Christ's teachings on how His salvation is for the world, not just certain people, towns, churches, states or countries." We look forward to hearing Chris's message and seeing you there!

Cost \$75

Special Discount:

Pay only \$70 if you register by Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>

Who: All 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

When: February 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>; 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



Please 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](mailto:info@campbluediamond.org)

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 14-16, 2025**. 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 District and 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2025 Summer Camp Theme

# Another Way

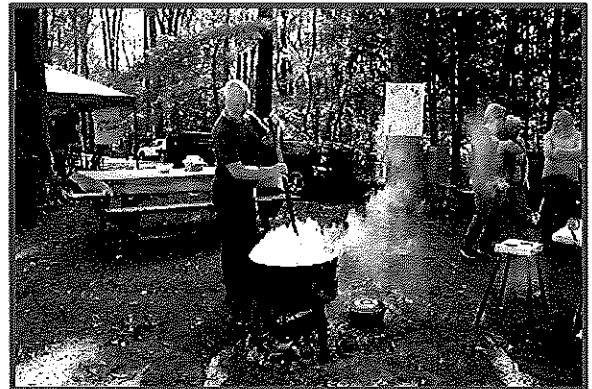


We know that love comes from God, and sometimes we experience it directly. More often, God's love is manifested in relationships of all kinds that weave in and out of our lives. We see God's love through close friends and family – those we are born into and those we chose along the way. We see God in quiet moments where we are present with each other and in acts of profound grace when we have been far apart. We hear God in life guiding and life changing words of truth from those who know and love us. We know that such love links our lives, teaching us about commitment, intimacy, grace, and faith. As we seek to create and strengthen life giving relationships, we remember that such love flows from God, links us all together, and for this, we give thanks.

 <p><b>DAY 1</b> <b>Be Still</b> Psalm 46: 1-3; 10 Be still &amp; know that I am God</p>	 <p><b>DAY 2</b> <b>Get Real</b> Luke 18: 9-14 Pharisee &amp; Tax Collector</p>
 <p><b>DAY 3</b> <b>Know and Grow</b> Acts 9: 1-22 Saul &amp; Ananias</p>	 <p><b>DAY 4</b> <b>Wild Ideas</b> Matthew 3: 1-6 John the Baptist</p>
 <p><b>DAY 5</b> <b>Change the Rules</b> Numbers 27: 1-8; 11b Daughters of Zelophehad</p>	 <p><b>DAY 6</b> <b>All In</b> Acts 10: 1-36 Peter &amp; Cornelius' Dreams</p>
 <p><b>DAY 7</b> <b>Go!</b> Isaiah 43: 19-21 A New Thing</p>	

## Heritage Fair

Thank you to all the volunteers who made the Middle PA District & Camp Blue Diamond's annual Heritage Fair on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> a big success. Over 35 churches participated with booths, activities or items for the auction. Over \$25,000 was raised for camp and district ministries. This event could not happen without the hundred plus volunteers who: parked cars, helped with the auction, served and cooked at food booths, ran children's activities, worked in the bank, took a turn in the dunk tank, and did one of a myriad of other jobs!



Of course, a big thank you as well to all who simply came out and bought something at Heritage Fair. What a great day when you can eat some of the tastiest food around and call it a donation to some amazing causes!

Mark your calendars for next year's Heritage Fair on September 20<sup>th</sup>. If your church wasn't able to participate this year with a booth, baskets or other fundraiser, make sure you don't miss out again in 2025. Plus, we always need volunteers to help out the day of the Fair!

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

# Junior Retreat

## February 28-March 2 Finding Another Way!

Join us for another exciting Winter Retreat here at Camp Blue Diamond! We'll take a sneak peek at our new summer theme, "Another Way" to see how Jesus encourages us to reframe and refocus when we find ourselves facing conflict. Psalm 46 reminds us that God is always there for us if we are still and open to the guidance He's sending our way. Come along with us as we explore other ways of facing conflict!

**WHO:** YOU! (3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders)

**WHERE:** Camp Blue Diamond

**WHEN:** Feb 28<sup>th</sup> - March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
7:00pm Friday  
to 1:30pm Sunday

Cost: \$70.00  
Special Discount  
Pay only \$65 if you register by  
February 14<sup>th</sup>

**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 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](mailto: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 Jr. High Retreat at Camp Blue Diamond on Feb. 28 - March 2, 2025. 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 District and 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: \_\_\_\_\_



Camp Blue Diamond Inc.  
Church of the Brethren  
1113 Mount Vernon Ave.  
Huntingdon, PA 16652

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

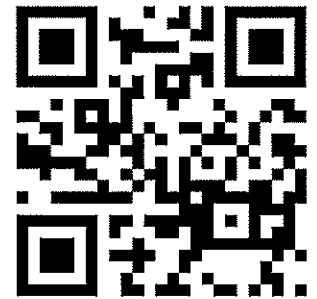
## Staff Recruiting Efforts

## Planning for 2025

## Wish List

Our Amazon Wish List had been updated with all the latest camp needs. There are items for every facet of camp including maintenance, kitchen, office and of course programming. There is also something for every budget. Items range from less than \$10 to over \$500.

By scanning the QR code you will be directed to our Amazon Wish List. You can also visit the following web address to view the list, <https://a.co/2AO626u>. This list is full of items Camp needs to help make our ministry a success. Be sure to check back often as the list will constantly be changing as our needs change. You can always find a link to the list on the donation page of Camp's website.



If you're struggling to figure out that perfect gift for someone this year you can always buy something off the wish list in honor or memory of someone. We know that many families make donations rather than giving gifts so please check out the wish list this Christmas season!

## Thank You Volunteers

Ken Ott, Randy & Rick Singo, Jeff Browell, Ryan, Lucas & Ryann Welsh – Cut & Split Wood  
PSU ServeState – Raking, Brush Cleanup, Wood Splitting & Stacking