

# CAMP BLUE DIAMOND

[www.campbluediamond.org](http://www.campbluediamond.org) ♦ [info@campbluediamond.org](mailto:info@campbluediamond.org)

August 2023 ♦ (814) 667-2355

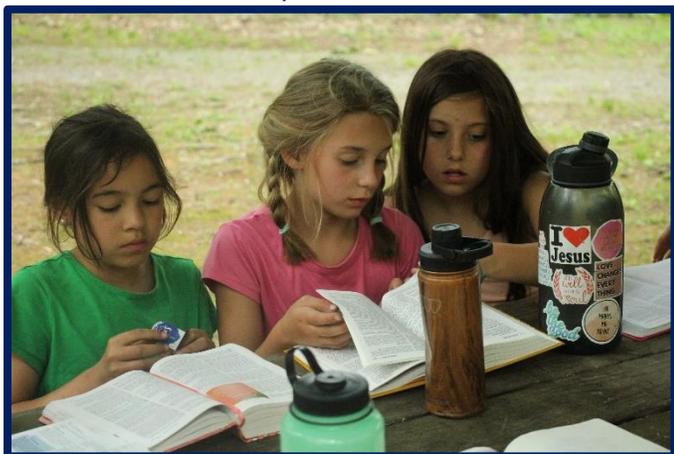


**Executive Director:** Brian Bert  
**Program Director:** Gabe Imler  
**Food Service Director:** Shawnee Rupert

**Facility Director:** Paul Witkovsky  
**Office Administrator:** Amanda Helfrich  
**Head Cook:** Sarah Rupert

## Reflecting on Summer 2023

What an amazing summer we had at Camp Blue Diamond in 2023. We always say that Camp Blue Diamond is a place where campers come to experience God, and have their lives impacted in ways that can only come through knowing God's son Jesus, and sharing in a community of other believers. This summer was certainly another amazing example of this, and the community that forms each week here at Camp Blue Diamond.



In 2023, over 325 children, youth, and adults joined together to study our theme, Fruitful Faith. Through this amazing curriculum, campers were able to recognize the Fruit of the Spirit that come from God and can be found all around us. Campers were reminded that as they returned home that life can still be complicated, but we are called as followers of God to let this fruit flow freely from us and walk in the Spirit.

The social impact of a week at Camp Blue Diamond is another amazing benefit of summer camp. Each camper makes many new friends during their week at camp. Campers learn valuable skills such as empathy, problem solving, decision

making and much more. The social and emotional learning that takes place in a week of summer camp cannot be overstated and has a profound impact.

Most importantly to the campers perhaps, is the fun! Spending a week of their summer at Camp Blue Diamond is probably the most fun our campers will have all year. Where else can someone go swimming, climb the tower and ride the zipline, play gaga ball, learn to cook, learn to start fires without matches (safely of course), work on some amazing crafts, go white water rafting, sing songs that range from silly to worshipful, eat amazing food (including ice cream for breakfast some weeks), learn about God's amazing creation, ride a giant swing in the trees, go on amazing hikes, play in a band and more. Camp Blue Diamond provided opportunities for all of these amazing adventures throughout our various 16 camps.



We want to thank you for supporting Camp Blue Diamond in the ways you have been lead. Whether it is through prayer, financial gifts, attending camp functions, encouraging children to attend camp or any combination of these, please know that you truly have had an impact on the campers that came in 2023 and those that will continue to come for many years to come.

## Heritage Fair: Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>

Heritage Fair is quickly approaching! We are excited to welcome everyone and your churches to Camp to join together to raise funds for Camp Blue Diamond and the Middle PA District. It is such always a joy and blessing to reconnect with family and friends, eat amazing food, have loads of fun and enjoy the beauty of camp!

There will be a special area just for kids with scarecrow making, a bounce house, sawdust pile, and lots of games and activities. Adults and youth can enjoy musicians, food and craft booths, displays, the Dunker Dunk Tank and of course the auction. The Heritage Fair Team hopes your church is talking up Heritage Fair and making plans on how to participate with a booth and to donate auction items.

Overnight lodging is available in the Lodge, summer camp cabins and the campground. If you have questions about Heritage Fair, or wish to reserve a room, cabin or site, contact us at [info@campbluediamond.org](mailto:info@campbluediamond.org) call (814) 667-2355. See you at Heritage Fair!

### Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> – Set-Up

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

### Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> – 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

### Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> – Wrap-Up

9:30 a.m.              Free Continental Breakfast  
10:00 a.m.             Sunday Worship in the tent



## Heritage Fair Polar Plunge

There is a new way to help raise money for Camp Blue Diamond and the Middle PA District this year at Heritage Fair. You can take the plunge yourself or congregations can sponsor someone from their church to take the plunge. See details and complete the registration form below. Please return completed forms to Camp Blue Diamond.



# HERITAGE FAIR POLAR BEAR PLUNGE!

Join us for the first ever Polar Bear Plunge here at Heritage Fair on September 16<sup>th</sup>! The Plunge will take place at 7 AM down at the beach. How can you participate? Just sign up below! Churches can sponsor a Polar Bear by raising money to cover the Entry Fee of \$50. If you’d rather take the Plunge on your own, you can cover the Entry Fee yourself! Participants will receive a Certificate and a Limited Edition 2023 Polar Bear Token!

Submissions are due by September 8<sup>th</sup>

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

I am paying my own Entry Fee of \$50

My Congregation is sponsoring my Polar Bear Plunge

# Brethren Open - Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>

We extend our gratitude to all of the sponsors, golfers and volunteers who helped make the annual Brethren Open at Iron Masters a success. The event raised over \$12,000 to be split between Camp and the Middle PA District. Golfers and volunteers enjoyed a delicious meal sponsored by Frederick's Meat Market following the tournament. We are looking forward to continuing this tradition again next year, and hope to see you there!

**Tournament Sponsor (\$1000):**

The Huntsman Family Foundation  
Dr. Ramon Burket

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

Ameriprise - Hinich & Associates  
Cordell Construction  
Juniata College  
Smith Warehouse

Banazaks/Berts/Flumerfelts/Glennys/Helfrich/Shunks  
Cove Lumber  
Cove Flooring  
Charis Realty Group

Angle Properties  
Mingle Contracting Inc.  
Greg & Kim Stoudnour

**Hole Sponsors (\$250):**

Blair Mill Carpet Outlet  
Bolger Funeral Home  
Brumbaugh Transmission  
DBB – Technology Solutions  
Everett Marble & Granite Works  
Overhead Door of Blair Co  
Janet Sell  
Mutual Aid Agency  
Stuckey Automotive  
Bolger Brothers Inc.

**Prize & Food Sponsors:**

Frederick's Meat Market  
Teeter Insurance Group  
Spring Cove Container



# Summer Camp 2024 Schedule

It is time to start planning for next summer! The 2024 Summer Schedule is out, and many campers have completed their pre-registration. Early Bird Registration opens in January and runs through February.

<b>Cooking Camp</b>	<b>Grades 5 - 6</b>	<b>May 17-19</b>
<b>Kiddie Weekend</b>	<b>Ages 5 - 7 +Adult</b>	<b>June 1 - 2</b>
<b>CIT Training</b>	<b>Grades 9 - 11</b>	<b>June 1 - 2</b>
<b>Kiddie Camp</b>	<b>Ages 5 - 7 +Adult</b>	<b>June 13 - 14</b>
<b>Tenderfoot Camp</b>	<b>Grades 1 - 2</b>	<b>June 13 - 14</b>
<b>Junior 1</b>	<b>Grades 3 - 5</b>	<b>June 16 - 21</b>
<b>Jr. High 1</b>	<b>Grades 6 - 8</b>	<b>June 16 - 21</b>
<b>Creative Arts</b>	<b>Grades 5 - 8</b>	<b>June 23 - 28</b>
<b>Yough Adventure</b>	<b>Grades 7 - 9</b>	<b>June 23 - 28</b>
<b>Pioneer Camp</b>	<b>Grades 2 - 4</b>	<b>June 30 - 3</b>
<b>Caving Camp</b>	<b>Grades 5 - 7</b>	<b>June 30 - 3</b>
<b>Youth Camp</b>	<b>Grades 8 - 12</b>	<b>July 7 - 12</b>
<b>Junior 2</b>	<b>Grades 3 - 5</b>	<b>July 14 - 19</b>
<b>OLS</b>	<b>Grades 9 - 12</b>	<b>July 14 - 19</b>
<b>Jr. High 2</b>	<b>Grades 6 - 8</b>	<b>July 21 - 26</b>
<b>Jr. Adventure</b>	<b>Grades 4 - 5</b>	<b>July 21 - 26</b>
<b>Family Camp</b>	<b>All Ages</b>	<b>Aug. 16 - 18</b>



## Summer Staff

It is hard to explain to someone that has never been a summer camp counselor before exactly what the job is like. One minute you could be playing Gaga Ball and the next you could be helping a child deal with the frustrations of getting out of the game. One minute you could be sleeping soundly and the next you could be woken up to accompany a camper to the bathroom to keep the bears away. One minute you could be walking quietly to crafts and the next you could spontaneously break into a verse of Boom-Chika-Boom. While you truly never know what to expect on the job, that is just another aspect that makes the job so amazing.

Camp jobs offer invaluable skill-building, leadership, training, and enrichment opportunities that can't be found anywhere else! Regardless of your path in life, camp experiences allow you to learn and develop skills that will enhance your job marketability. The benefits go far beyond a paycheck, too. Business executives often note that experience as a camp counselor translates into excellent management and personnel skills. People know if someone can handle the responsibilities of being a summer camp counselor, there is not too much that they can't handle.

Over the years, Camp Blue Diamond has been blessed by some amazing summer staff members. These young adults have been some of the finest Christ-like role models for our campers to look up to. The examples they have shown have led countless campers to live lives that honor God by following the example that Jesus set for all of us.

This year's staff was a true example of what it means to be a community of believers. Each staff member brought their own unique talents and gifts to the summer. These gifts worked together to give each camper an amazing experience during their week at camp. The staff also formed meaningful friendships that will truly last a lifetime.

It's never too early to start thinking about next summer. If you are a young adult, or know someone who is, who loves God and enjoys working with children, please consider spending your summer as a counselor at Camp Blue Diamond. We guarantee that not only will you change the lives of the campers, but your life will be changed as well.

It can best be summed up by one of our own summer staff members, Rachel Mickle when she said,

*"Camp is my home, and so are the people. Two months is never enough – I would stay sleeping in a cabin, soaking up the sun, walking those trails, singing silly campfire songs, ready for our next adventure with the campers...enjoying each moment. Camp is its own separate part of the world, and the joy and peace I've found there is like nothing else!"*



## 2023 Summer Staff

front row, left to right:  
Ryen Deterline, Rachel Mickle, Laura House, Abby Zeek, Eliana Eicher, Tiana Eicher, Julie Witkovsky

middle row, left to right:  
Sarah Rupert, Shawnee Rupert, Abby Garber, Sage Evans, Abby Mickle, Alec Madden, Brian Bert, Amanda Helfrich

back row left to right:  
Kyle Duvall, Devon O'Neal, Tess Koontz, Gabe Imler, John Foster, Paul Witkovsky

## Feeding America

Every summer the Program Committee chooses a Summer Project for campers, parents, staff and board members to support through financial donations. It's a reminder to all of us that our community reaches beyond our friends at camp and home.

This year, our camp project was to raise money for Feeding America. Feeding America is a nationwide network of food banks, pantries, and community organizations seeking to end hunger in America. Did you know, 119 billion pounds of food is wasted each year in America? This food waste occurs at all stages of production, from manufacturing and transportation, to the food we simply don't eat in our own homes.

Feeding America works to obtain food that would otherwise be thrown away due to poor sales, slight manufacturing defects, etc. and distributes it to their food banks and pantries across the country. Since donating a single dollar helps provide 10 meals to folks who would otherwise go without Camp Blue Diamond supporters were able to help provide 9,000 meals. Thank you to everyone that donated.



## 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, Angela Ebersole, Jeannie Strunk, Jill Stull, Lindsey Suter

**CITs:** Ebbie Berry, Adreonna Miller, Nadia Ebersole, Austin Emig, Ben Smith, Harper House, Maya Morgan, Ava Rapp, Daniel Longwell, Bailey Wilt, Adam Berry, Lia Barahona, Willow Miller

**Counselors:** Tyson Daniels, Jacey Myers, Kendrick Imler

**Chaplains:** Beckie Zeek, Debbie Eisenbise, Lindsey Frye, Tammy Frye-Carter, Brittney Saltsman, David Fehr

**Program Help:** Joe Hinish, Kenny Ott, Aaron Specht, Colton Specht, Josh Helke, Tyson Daniels, Chris House



## Summer Camp By The Numbers

325 Total Campers

225 Middle PA Dist. Campers

3 American Baptist Campers

11 Other CoB Campers

27 Campers of other Denominations

59 Campers with no Church Affiliation

28 Middle PA Dist. Churches Sent Campers

34 Scholarships Given Out Totaling \$5,528.05

## 325 Lives Reached For Christ

### Upcoming CBD Events

- |                       |                  |                  |                   |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| ❖ Heritage Fair       | September 16     | ❖ Outdoor School | Sept. 25 – Nov. 3 |
| ❖ District Conference | October 14       | ❖ Youth Retreat  | January 26 – 28   |
| ❖ Jr. High Retreat    | February 23 – 25 | ❖ Junior Retreat | March 1 – 3       |



**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. We will update the list in each newsletter with needs that go along with the seasons of camp. Thank you again for your faithful prayers.

**Staff and Campers as they Return to School/Work**

**Successful Heritage Fair**

**Guidance in Plans for the Multipurpose Building**

**Full Time Staff Planning for 2024**

**Annual Camp Meeting and District Conference**

**Fall Outdoor School Season**

## 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/2A0626u>. 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 donate page of Camp's website.



**Current Need:** Camp is always in need of **Paper Towels**. Any brand is appreciated.