

CAMP BLUE DIAMOND

www.campbluediamond.org ♦ info@campbluediamond.org

August 2024 ♦ (814) 667-2355



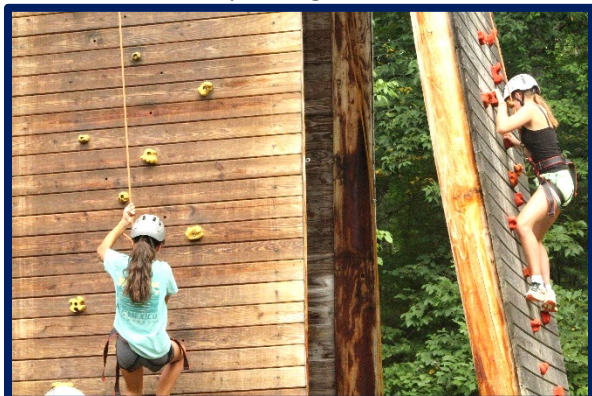
Executive Director: Brian Bert
Program Director: Gabe Imler
Food Service Director: Shawnee Rupert

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

Reflecting on Summer 2024

We might be a little biased, but Camp Blue Diamond has some of the best campers of any summer camp in the world. You would be hard pressed to find a summer camp that brings together a better group of campers than Camp Blue Diamond.

This summer was one of the hotter and dryer summers in recent years. However, there were very few complaints about the weather, and honestly those we did hear mainly came from the kitchen crew. The campers realized that they were only here for one week and wanted to make sure they got to experience everything Camp Blue Diamond has to offer so there's no use complaining about how hot it is, and no rain just means you get to be outside and swim even more.



Our campers hiked over a combined total of 1,000 miles throughout the summer, or about half the length of the Appalachian Trail. They also climbed the tower, rode the zipline, and soared on the giant swing hundreds of times.

The many skits and other talents that were shared during Creative Arts Camp, Youth Camp and all the other camps would surely have won multiple Oscar Awards or America's Got Talent if they had been eligible.

The most important reason why Camp Blue Diamond has the greatest summer campers is because of all the love that they shared for each other this summer. As you are probably aware, the theme for this summer was Linked by Love. This summer everyone that came to camp was invited to think about how God loves each one of us. We explored God's presences in loving relationships, and we were encouraged to build deeper connections with our communities.

Ultimately, we were reminded that love is from God and that God's love is an example of how to love others. We are called to share God's love in all our relationships.

The campers showed this love by encouraging one another, helping and supporting each other, and even made a paper chain with ways they saw others showing love. By the end of the summer this paper chain went all around the carpeted room of the lodge.

We can all take a lesson from our campers and share God's love with those around us. If we came into all our interactions from a place of love what a better world we would build. We are not called to always agree with everyone else, but we are called to love everyone else.

So, let's be more like the amazing campers of Camp Blue Diamond and love each other a little more.



Heritage Fair: Sept. 21st

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 always such 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 call (814) 667-2355. See you at Heritage Fair!

Looking for Volunteers

Camp Blue Diamond and the Middle PA District are looking for volunteers to help during Heritage Fair. There is a wide range of jobs that we need help with. They include parking, auction help, camp booth staffing, children's area and more. If your church doesn't have a booth this is a great opportunity for you to help at Heritage Fair. Contact the camp office if you have any interest or questions.

Friday the 20th – Set-Up

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

Saturday the 21st – 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 22nd – 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 second annual Polar Bear Plunge here at Heritage Fair on September 21st! 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 minimum 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 2024 Polar Bear Token!

Submissions are due by September 13th

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 ☐

Brethren Open - Aug. 13th

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 \$11,000 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 - Hinish & Associates
Cordell Construction
Juniata College
Smith Warehouse

Berts/Flumerfelts/Glennys/Helfrich/Shunks
Cove Lumber
Cove Flooring
Xtreme Painting & Wallpapering

Angle Properties
Bolger Brothers, Inc.
Greg & Kim Stoudnour
Scott & Kyle Stern

Hole Sponsors (\$250):

Martin Oil
Bolger Funeral Home
Brumbaugh Transmission
Everett Marble & Granite Works
Overhead Door of Blair Co
Janet Sell
Mutual Aid Agency
Stuckey Automotive
The Patterson Agency

Prize & Food Sponsors:

Frederick's Meat Market
Teeter Insurance Group
Spring Cove Container
Crystyl Springs Bottled Water
Dale & Sandy Roth

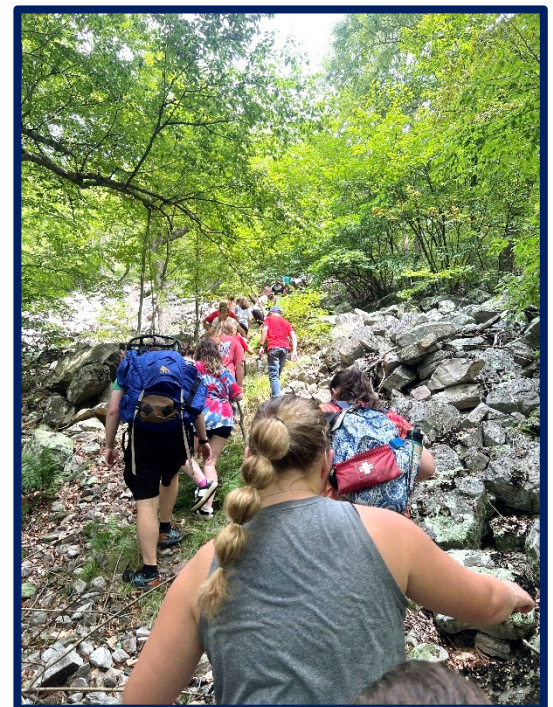


Summer Camp 2025 Schedule

It is time to start planning for next summer! The 2025 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 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	Jun 29 - Jul 2
Caving Camp	Grades 5 - 7	Jun 29 - Jul 2
Youth Camp	Grades 8 - 12	July 6 - 11
Junior 2	Grades 3 - 5	July 13 - 18
OLS	Grades 9 - 12	July 13 - 18
Jr. High 2	Grades 6 - 8	July 20 - 25
Jr. Adventure	Grades 4 - 5	July 20 - 25
Family Camp	All Ages	Aug. 15 - 17



Summer Bible Study Reflection

Exodus 18: 5-24 tells a story about Moses and his father-in-law, Jethro. Jethro sees Moses, worn out from being the Israelite's sole representative to God, and offers him some friendly advice: no one person can carry the weight of the physical world on their shoulders, no matter how hard they try. While Jethro's comments apply to serving as a judge for the Israelites' grievances, they can be applied to all tasks. Big or small, trivial or otherwise, we can only carry so much responsibility by ourselves. You may be thinking, what does this have to do with Summer Camp? Well, quite a lot when you think about it. Each camper that enters these woods carries with them plenty of baggage, and not just their sleeping bags and clothes for the week. So too do their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and guardians. Even the summer staff are not exempt from the outside world bleeding into daily life at camp. And yet, for one week out of 52 in a year there is a place where none of that weight feels quite so heavy. A week spent in a place so full of God's creation and blessings! A week spent in a place full of new friends that are here to walk a mile and bear the load.

We spent this summer talking about how we are Linked in Love, highlighting the ways we find ourselves connected to one another. Recognizing the common experiences of life reminds us that, as Christians, it's important for us to share the love we receive with all those around us. Sometimes that means accepting others as they are, other times it means being open to change and hearing (or speaking) the truth. As Jethro reminds us, linking together in love is a task better performed in community with one another. What better place to put this into practice than Camp Blue Diamond?! So, we did. We spent an incredible 7 weeks in this beautiful space caring for one another - laughing and crying, sharing/making amazing stories and memories, and focusing on the things that link us together instead of those things that divide us. Jethro closed his speech to Moses by saying: "If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied." I think we can safely say that everyone left camp this year satisfied and looking forward to another great summer!

We give thanks to all of you. To all of you who attended, who worked/volunteered, who stood with us in prayer for another incredible summer, we thank you for being linked in love with us this summer. Blessings in this offseason, and we'll see you in summer 2025! -Gabe Imler, PD.



2024 Summer Staff

front row, left to right:
Ryen Deterline, Rachel
Sage Evans, Sarah
Rupert, Hope Gandy,
Shawnee Rupert, Julie
Witkovsky, Ebbie Berry

middle row, left to
right: Amanda Helfrich,
Abby Garber, Kyle
Duvall, Nora Roth, Alec
Madden, Brian Bert,
Rachel Mickle, Lauren
Duvall

back row left to right:
Elena Yoder, Landon
Meadows, Gabe Imler,
Devon O'Neal, Noah
Hinkle, Paul Witkovsky

Campers and Parents Willingly Supported the EDF

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 The Brethren Disaster Ministries Emergency Disaster Fund. The Brethren Disaster Ministry is a vital outreach ministry of the Church of the Brethren, providing much needed support to individuals reeling from the effects of Natural Disasters, War, Illness, and Poverty. Brethren Disaster Ministry is responsible for finding volunteers to aid in building projects and other disaster response projects across the globe. The Disaster Ministry is funded by the Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF), which in turn is fueled by individual, church, and fundraiser donations. Presently, EDF is preparing to help those displaced by the unrest in Haiti and will need monetary donations to ensure the many programs in Brethren Disaster Ministry can function to their fullest and reach all those in need. EDF is a prime example of how we are all Linked by Love, everyone's donations will be used to help our brothers and sisters from the Haitian Churches of the Brethren to rebuild and reconnect with one another. Thank you to everyone that helped us raise almost \$900 for the Emergency Disaster Fund.



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, Chelsey Dick, Lindsey Suter, Tiffany Tomlinson

CITs: Haven Makarikas, Sophia Keith, Bailey Wilt, Adreonna Miller, Allison Trigona, Leah Carswell, Ben Smith, Maya Morgan, Daniel Longwell, Lia Barahona, Willow Miller, Daniel Galbraith

Counselors: John Foster, Jack Myers, Jacey Myers, Abby Mickle, Emily Maslowski

Chaplains: Travis Mills, Beckie Zeek, Debbie Eisenbise, Lindsey Frye, Tammy Frye-Carter, Brittney Saltsman, Marlys Hershberger, David Radcliffe

Program Help/Others: Abby Zeek, Brad Knepp, Tyson Daniels, Joe Hinish, Kenny Ott, Amber Weaver



Summer Camp By The Numbers

342 Total Campers	209 Middle PA Dist. Campers	14 Campers from other affiliated Churches
15 Other CoB Campers	31 Campers of other Denominations	73 Campers with no Church Affiliation
28 Middle PA Dist. Churches Sent Campers	36 Scholarships Given Out	Totaling \$5,823.50

342 Campers Linked by Love

Upcoming Camp Blue Diamond Events

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| ❖ Heritage Fair | September 21 | ❖ Outdoor School | Sept. 30 – Nov. 8 |
| ❖ District Conference | October 12 | ❖ Youth Retreat | Jan. 31 – Feb. 2 |
| ❖ Jr. High Retreat | February 14 – 16 | ❖ Junior Retreat | Feb. 28 – Mar. 2 |



**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 2025

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/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 donate page of Camp's website.

