

CAMP BLUE DIAMOND



www.campbluediamond.org ♦ info@campbluediamond.org

December 2023 ♦ (814) 667-2355

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Facility Director: **Paul Witkovsky**
Head Cook: **Sarah Rupert**

Now that we just celebrated Thanksgiving and are approaching Christmas, all of us at Camp Blue Diamond wanted to say thank you to all of you that have supported Camp Blue Diamond over the past year. Camp Blue Diamond is truly blessed by some of the greatest supporters in the world. There are many people that support camp in a variety of ways.

This has been a busy year for Camp Blue Diamond. We welcomed back some churches and rental groups that had not come since before the pandemic. We also welcomed some first-time rental groups that loved the beauty of Camp Blue Diamond and can't wait to return in the future.

Through our partnership with Penn State University, and Shaver's Creek, over 950 children and adults got to experience Camp Blue Diamond through Outdoor School. This program allows students to spend time in creation learning all about the created world and our call to care for it.



Many other accomplishments happened at Camp Blue Diamond this year. Camp Blue Diamond once again completed a successful American Camp Association visit. The bathroom in the Ouch House was updated thanks to the 28th St. CoB. The campground bathhouse was completed and opened. The ovens in the main lodge are being replaced and there are many more wonderful things that happened as well.

While the 325 summer campers were almost exactly the same as 2022, we had some new campers that got to experience Camp Blue Diamond for the first time. Each one of those 325 campers got to meet Jesus, some for the first time, and hear the powerful call that we are left with through the Fruit of the Spirit.



We were also blessed to return 11 of 13 staff members from 2022. We welcomed 2 outstanding new staff members to go along with these 11. These 13 young adults were amazing Christ like role models for our campers. They showed them what it means to live out your faith.

God is truly at work at Camp Blue Diamond. Each person that comes to Camp Blue Diamond gets to experience the beauty of creation and receives the radical hospitality that Jesus calls us to provide to our neighbors. Each person that supports Camp

Blue Diamond in whatever way, plays an important part in this endeavor. For whatever ways you support Camp Blue Diamond, from the bottom of our hearts, we say thank you!

District Youth Retreat

THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD

Join the Middle PA District and Camp Blue Diamond as we gather together for a wonderful weekend of fellowship and conversation with Brittney Saltsman! Brittney is a former staff member at Camp, and is now on staff in children's ministry at North Way Christian Community north of Pittsburgh. Come out to enjoy time in nature, fun and games, engaging conversation and reconnect with friends old and new!

We're going to take a deep dive into God's Word to understand the overall story of Scripture. Join me as we explore the Bible's big main ideas – creation, fall, redemption, and restoration – in order to meet God and see how we fit into His plan. Our story is His story - the Greatest Story Ever Told!

Who: All Youth in Grades 9-12

When: January 26-28, 2024

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 12!

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

Name: _____ Gender: M / F Grade: _____
Street: _____ Phone: _____ Congregation: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Email: _____

Youth Retreat

Parents: I give my child permission to attend the **District Youth Retreat at CBD on January 26-28**. 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 CBD brochures & publicity.

Date: _____

Signed by Parent/Legal Guardian

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 _____

Summer Camp 2024 is Coming!

- ❖ Online Summer Camp registration begins January 1. Brochures will be mailed out by early January. Camp Reps. and Churches will have brochures starting January 21st!
- ❖ 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 2023 photos!

CBD 2024 Summer Camp Schedule!

Now is the time to pick your camp! Your week at CBD will be filled with faith, fun, adventure and friends! Early Bird Registration takes place in Jan & Feb. Online reg. starts Jan. 1, and brochures will be sent to past campers in early January. Camp dates, fees, photos, forms and online registrations are available at campbluediamond.org.

Cooking Camp	Grades 5 – 6	May 17 - 19
Kiddie Weekend	Ages 5 - 7, Adult	June 1 - 2
CIT Training	Grades 9 - 11	June 1 - 2
Kiddie Camp	Ages 5 - 7, Adult	June 13 - 14
Tenderfoot Camp	Grades 1 - 2	June 13 - 14
Junior 1	Grades 3 - 5	June 16 - 21
Jr. High 1	Grades 6 - 8	June 16 - 21
Creative Arts	Grades 5 - 8	June 23 - 28
Yough Adventure	Grades 7 - 9	June 23 - 28
Pioneer Camp	Grades 2 - 4	June 30-July 3
Caving Camp	Grades 5 - 7	June 30-July 3
Youth Camp	Grades 8 - 12	July 7 - 12
Junior 2	Grades 3 - 5	July 14 - 19
Outdoor Living Skills	Grades 9 - 12	July 14 - 19
Jr. High 2	Grades 6 - 8	July 21 - 26
Jr. Adventure 2	Grades 4 – 5	July 21 - 26
Family Camp	Everyone	Aug. 16 - 18



Camp Rep Training – Jan 21st

Camp Reps are invited to attend the Training Event on **Sunday, January 21st**! This is important to the ministry of CBD, as we strive to invite children, youth & adults to be a part of the CBD 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 2023 video and loads of other handouts. We will learn about camp sessions, discounts, scholarships, staffing needs, the **Linked By Love** theme, and the new pricing structure. Mark your calendars now for this important event!

Upcoming CBD Events

❖ Camp Rep. Training	Jan. 21	❖ Youth Retreat	Jan. 26 – 28
❖ Jr. High Retreat	Feb. 23 – 25	❖ Junior Retreat	March 1 – 3
❖ Annual Dinner	March 15 & 16	❖ Quilt & Craft Camp	April 19 – 21

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

Jr. High Retreat

February 23rd – 25th at Camp Blue Diamond

Join us for Winter Time Fun!

Youth in grades 6th-8th grade are invited to join us here at Camp Blue Diamond for a weekend of fun and fellowship! The Jr. High Retreat will be full of classic camp activities, outdoor exploration, hopefully some snow, and more! We hope to see you there!

Cost \$75

Special Discount

Pay only \$70 if you register by Feb. 9th

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

When: February 23rd - 25th; 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!

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✂-----✂
☑ to receive early registration discount, mail must be postmarked by February 9th ☑

Name _____ Phone _____

Street _____ City _____ Zip _____

Congregation _____ Grade _____ Gender: M F Jr. High Retreat

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 #: _____

Parent/Guardian: I give my child permission to participate in the Camp Blue Diamond Jr. High Retreat on Feb.23 – 25. 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. Also, I give permission to use pictures of my child in brochures and other publicity used by Camp Blue Diamond.

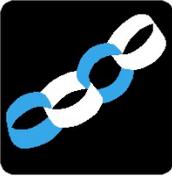
Signed _____ Date _____ Parent's E-mail _____

2024 Summer Camp Theme

Linked By Love

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.



	DAY 1 Linked in Love Colossians 3: 12-14 Put on the New Self		DAY 2 Linked through Acceptance Luke 10: 38-42 Mary & Martha
	DAY 3 Linked and Present Job 2: 11-13 Job's Friends		DAY 4 Linked by Grace Luke 15: 11-32 The Prodigal Son
	DAY 5 Linked in Truth Exodus 18: 5-24 Jethro Visits Moses		DAY 6 Linked to Change Philemon 1: 8-17 Paul's Plea for Onesimus
	DAY 7 Linked to Love 1 John 4: 7-9; 19 God's Love and Ours		

Heritage Fair

Thank you to all the volunteers who made the Middle PA District & Camp Blue Diamond's annual Heritage Fair on Sept. 16th 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 20th. 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 2024!

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

Junior Retreat

March 1-3

The Missing Link!

Summer 2023 taught campers at Blue Diamond a lot about sharing the Fruit of the Spirit, and Summer 2024 aims to show us how we are Linked in Love. Both of these summer themes are connected, and we'll be searching for those connections with this Junior Retreat! Didn't attend camp in Summer 2023? That's okay, we'll catch you up! Plus, we'll have your favorite camp activities and some fun winter ones as well. Hope to see you there!

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

WHERE: Camp Blue Diamond

WHEN: March 1st, 2nd, & 3rd
7:00pm Friday
to 1:30pm Sunday

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

★ We will be staying in winterized cabins ★

Cost: \$70.00
 ≧Special Discount≦
 Pay only \$65 if you register by February 16th!



There will be singing, games, outdoor activities, arts and crafts, and a campfire! Come see your favorite camp counselors and make a new friend or two! See you there!

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Make checks payable to: **Camp Blue Diamond** Questions: call (814)667-2355 or email info@campbluediamond.org

✂ **★ to receive early registration discount, mail must be postmarked by February 16th ★** ✂

Name _____ Phone _____

Street _____ City _____ Zip _____

Congregation _____ Grade _____ Gender: M F Junior

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 #: _____

Parent/Guardian: I give my child permission to participate in the Junior Retreat at CBD on Mar. 1-3. 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. Also, I give permission to use pictures of my child in brochures and other publicity used by Camp Blue Diamond.

Signed _____ Date _____ Parent's E-mail _____

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

If you, or someone you know, love camp and enjoy kids, working at camp is the greatest! Counselors must be at least 18, committed Christians, enjoy kids, and be able to live in harmony with others. Being a part of camp staff is a great experience. 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 evening to join activities. Pay is \$250 - \$300/week, based on position and experience. Room & board provided. Camp runs June 6 – July 27. Get an application at campbluediamond.org. Don't wait too long to apply! We are hiring now!

CIT's are 9th, 10th & 11th graders who help a counselor with a boys' or girls' unit. Being a CIT is a great way to experience counseling. First time CIT's need to attend CIT Camp on June 2 & 3. After completing CIT Camp, you can help with a Junior, Pioneer or Tenderfoot camp. If you attend a youth camp (Youth Camp, Adv. OLS, Yough or Bike Camp) CIT Camp is discounted 50%!

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 or Nurse Application contact CBD at (814) 667-2355 or info@campbluediamond.org.

Annual Dinner: March 15 & 16

Camp Blue Diamond's Annual Dinner will be held March 15 & 16. We are excited to see 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 putting money towards a special project.

Dinner on Friday evening will begin at 6:00pm while Saturday evening's dinner will begin at 5:00pm. We encourage everyone to come out for appetizers and fellowship with other camp supporters a half hour before the meal each night.

Facilities Update

The new bathhouse in Camp Blue Diamond's Family Campground is now open. This bathhouse replaces the two aging campground bathhouses. This beautiful new facility will make life easier for those folks in the family campground. As part of this project, a new well was drilled and is now connected to the campground water system, taking the campground off the lodge water system.

The kitchen in the main lodge is getting a much needed and overdue upgrade to the ovens. The ovens and griddle are original to the lodge when it was built in 1966. While this equipment has served camp well, it has been requiring more and more maintenance in recent years making cooking more of a challenge.

Through money raised from Annual Dinner the last two years and a bequest from the Joe Hinich Sr. estate, camp was able to purchase brand new equipment. The old equipment has been removed and we will be installing a double stack convection oven, a range with a stovetop with 6 burners and a large griddle. These upgrades will make the **21,912** (estimate) meals that we served in 2023 easier and more efficient!





**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.

**Winter Retreat Programs Successful Kitchen Update Staff Recruiting Efforts
Guidance in Plans for the Multipurpose Building Full Time Staff Planning for 2024**

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!

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