

CAMP BLUE DIAMOND



May 2025 ♦ campbluediamond.org ♦ (814)667-2355 ♦ info@campbluediamond.org

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

Camp Blue Diamond 2025 Summer Camp Schedule!

Have you registered for summer camp yet? It's quick and easy—just visit campbluediamond.org to complete the Online Registration process. You'll find details, fees, and photos for each camp right on the site. Printable registration and scholarship forms are also available online and at your local affiliated church. While a few camps are now full (see below), many great options are still open for campers of all ages. To receive a brochure by mail, just contact Camp Blue Diamond. Get ready for a summer filled with Fun, Faith, Friends, Adventures, and the beauty of God's Creation!

Cooking Camp (Closed)	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 Adv.	Grades 7 - 9	June 22-27
Pioneer Camp	Grades 2 - 4	Jun 29-Jul 2
Caving Camp (CLOSED)	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 8 - 12	July 13-18
Jr. High 2	Grades 6 - 8	July 20-25
Junior Adv. (CLOSED)	Grades 4 - 5	July 20-25
Family Camp	Everyone	Aug. 15-17



Upcoming Camp Blue Diamond Events

❖ Senior Adult Day	May 30	❖ Summer Camp	May 31 – July 25
❖ Staff Orientation	June 5 – 11	❖ Golf Tournament	August 12
❖ Family Camp	August 15 – 17	❖ Heritage Fair	September 20



Scan to register!

Why No Cell Phones at Camp Blue Diamond

In a world where smartphones are always within arm's reach, the idea of spending a few days without one might seem unimaginable, especially for kids and teens. At Camp Blue Diamond, we believe that unplugging from technology is one of the most powerful gifts we can give to our campers. That's why we have a no-cell-phone policy. What got me thinking about this was a recent conversation with the mother of a new camper asking if her daughter could bring a cell phone to camp. While we will never deny a camper or parent who insists on speaking to each other that opportunity, we really encourage independence while at camp. We definitely encourage letters and postcards to let your camper know that you are thinking about them and everything at home is good. Here's why we don't allow cell phones:

1. Real Connections Over Screen Time - Camp Blue Diamond is about making friends, building relationships, and being fully present with others. When campers aren't distracted by texts, social media, or games, they naturally engage more with their peers and counselors. Shared experiences like canoeing, roasting marshmallows, or simply playing cards become more meaningful when everyone is fully involved in the moment.

2. A Break from Social Media Pressure - Let's be honest—social media can be a lot, especially for young people. Taking a break from the constant pressure to look perfect, gain likes, or keep up with online drama is often a relief for campers. Without phones, campers get a chance to just *be themselves*, free from comparison or judgment.

3. Building Independence and Confidence - Part of the magic of camp is giving kids a safe space to grow. When campers don't have the option to immediately text home with every challenge or complaint, they learn to problem-solve, communicate, and rely on themselves and the community around them. That's not just character-building, it's empowering.

4. Digital Detox = Mental Reset - Being surrounded by nature, engaging in creative play, and simply slowing down are all incredibly good for mental health. Without screens, campers often sleep better, feel less anxious, and have more energy. Camp becomes a time to recharge emotionally and mentally, something we all need from time to time.

5. Safety and Simplicity - Cell phones can also create safety concerns and logistical headaches—from lost or damaged devices to unwanted photos or videos being taken. Removing phones from the equation helps protect everyone's privacy and keeps the focus on fun, not tech troubleshooting.

We know that leaving a phone behind can be tough, for campers *and* parents. But year after year, we see how transformative this experience can be. When the distractions are gone, the connections grow. And that's what summer camp is all about.

So go ahead, send a letter, write a postcard, and wait for those smiling camp photos. Your child is out there making memories the old-fashioned way, and that's exactly how it should be.

Support Girls' Education in Nepal—One Step at a Time

In 2022, Camp Blue Diamond proudly partnered with the New Community Project's *Give a Girl a Chance* initiative, helping Chepang girls in Nepal stay in school and build safer, brighter futures. Now in 2025, we have a new opportunity to make a difference!

These young students face a grueling 7-hour roundtrip walk through mountainous terrain just to attend school. Along the way, they brave unpredictable monsoon rains and even monkey attacks. To protect their limited school clothes and shoes, most girls make the trek in worn-out clothing and sandals.

This summer, New Community Project is launching a new way to help—by providing **travel kits** designed to ease the girls' journey. Each \$53 donation funds one kit, which includes:

- ◆ 1 pair of locally made shoes ◆ 1 pair of socks ◆ 1 spare school uniform
- ◆ 1 umbrella (for rain *and* monkey defense—seriously!)

You can make a difference! Please consider donating during summer camp registration or pickup. Together, we can help these girls walk safely and confidently toward a brighter future.

Brethren Open Tournament - Aug. 12th

Mark your calendars! The annual Brethren Open Golf Tournament is set for Tuesday, August 12 at Iron Masters in Roaring Spring. This exciting event is a joint fundraiser for Camp Blue Diamond and the Middle PA District, supporting ministry training, district outreach, and summer camp programs.

For a \$90 donation, participants enjoy a full round of golf with cart, snacks, free gifts, dinner, and the chance to win fantastic prizes—including a \$20,000 hole-in-one, team awards, skill competitions, and door prizes. Registration opens at 11:30 AM, with a 1:00 PM shotgun start. Sign up today at campbluediamond.org or pick up a form from your camp representative.

The golf committee is also seeking additional sponsors and prize donations. We're especially in need of swag items or gift cards from businesses and organizations to reward our players. If you—or someone you know—would like to sponsor, donate, or contribute prizes, please contact the camp or district office.



Camp Blue Diamond's 2025 Hoss Event - Sunday, June 8th!



Camp Blue Diamond is inviting you to participate in our annual Hoss's Day fundraising event. Below is your ticket for this year's Camp Blue Diamond Hoss's Event on June 8th. Participating Hoss's are: Duncansville, Huntingdon, Bedford and Lewistown. The Hoss Event is simple! Please encourage all of your friends, family and your congregation to attend. Please be sure to do the following:

1. **Cut out and copy the Hoss's ticket below and distribute to those who are going. Please ensure they are distributed before-hand.**
2. **Take the ticket to Hoss's anytime on Sun., June 8th and present it when ordering.**
3. **Enjoy a great meal with your family and friends, knowing that 20-25% of your bill goes to camp!**

Dear Friend of Camp Blue Diamond:

We are excited to team up with Hoss's Steak and Sea House to raise money for a very worthy cause. Please consider visiting the Hoss's location(s) listed below on 6/8/2025 to aid us in raising money to benefit Camp Blue Diamond.

Print this email and present it on **6/8/2025** at Hoss's in **Bedford, Duncansville, Huntingdon, Lewistown**
Hoss's will then donate 20%* or 25%** of your total check paid to **Camp Blue Diamond**

*To qualify for the 20% payout, our group must have a minimum of \$300.00 in total pre-tax food and beverage sales.

**To qualify for the 25% payout, our group must have a minimum of \$1,200.00 in total pre-tax food and beverage sales. This applies to a one-day, single location, pre-scheduled event. The purchase of gift cards is not included as part of your organization's community fundraising totals.

DISTRIBUTING INVITATIONS ON HOSS'S PROPERTY IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED AND WILL DISQUALIFY OUR ORGANIZATION! Thank you for your cooperation!

Group #131899



Please print and present this paper when ordering.



Save the Date: Heritage Fair Saturday, September 20th

Get ready for a day of **Food, Fun, Friends, and Family** at the *Middle PA District Heritage Fair*, happening this fall at Camp Blue Diamond! Join us on **Saturday, September 20th** for our beloved annual gathering—a celebration filled with delicious food, exciting children's activities, live demonstrations, crafts, an auction, and crowd favorites like the Dunk the Dunker Tank. It's a day that feels like a big family reunion—come connect with friends from camp and church and enjoy the fun together.

Is Your Church Involved? Now's the time to start planning how your church will participate in the 2025 Heritage Fair! A representative from the Camp or District will be reaching out soon to hear your ideas. Traditional food and craft booths are always welcome, but you can also lead a game, help in the children's area, or offer a demonstration. There's a role for everyone!

Schedule Highlights:

- ◆ **6:30AM** – Breakfast begins in the Lodge ◆ **7:00AM** – Polar Plunge ◆ **8:30AM** – Booths open
- ◆ **10:00AM – 12:00 PM** – Roving Entertainment ◆ **10:00AM – 2:00 PM** – Children's Activities
- ◆ **11:00AM – 1:00 PM** – Ministry Support Auction ◆ **2:00 PM** – Pumpkin Fest

Need a Place to Stay? Overnight lodging is available in summer camp cabins, the Lodge, or the RV Campground. To reserve your spot, email info@campbluediamond.org or call **(814) 667-2355**.

We can't wait to see you at Heritage Fair 2025—it's going to be another amazing year!

Volunteers Make Heritage Fair Happen

Heritage Fair is a wonderful celebration—but it takes a lot of hands to make it all come together! While we're thankful for the incredible volunteers already signed up, we still need more help to ensure everything runs smoothly.

Many people already serve by helping with their church's booth, but there are so many other ways to get involved. Camp Blue Diamond and the Middle PA District need volunteers throughout the day in a variety of roles—including food booths, the auction, camp store, parking, the children's area, and more.

If you can spare a little time, we'd be grateful. Volunteer shifts can be as short as **15 minutes**, and every bit of help truly makes a difference. It's a meaningful way to be part of the Heritage Fair in a new way.

Interested in helping? Contact Camp Blue Diamond today and join the team that makes this event such a special day!

We're Hiring Female Counselors & Seeking Volunteer Nurses

Camp Blue Diamond is excited to have filled most of our summer camp positions, but we are still in need of **female counselors** to complete our team. We're looking for individuals who are at least 18 years old, committed Christians, enjoy working with kids, and can live and work harmoniously in a close-knit camp community. Counselors receive pay ranging from \$250 to \$300 per week, and room and board are provided. Camp runs from June 6 to July 27. Those interested can find application details at campbluediamond.org.

We are also in need of **volunteer nurses (RNs, MDs, or PAs)** to serve during specific weeks of camp. Nurses are responsible for administering medications and caring for campers who are sick or injured. Volunteers stay in the on-site "Ouch House" and are welcome to bring their families. We currently have openings for the weeks of **June 22–27, July 14–19 and July 20–25**. Whether you're available for an entire week or just a single day, your help would be greatly appreciated. To volunteer, please contact Camp Blue Diamond today.



SENIOR ADULT DAY

Friday, May 30

Camp Blue Diamond

All Ages Welcome!

You are invited to join us for a day of fellowship, inspiration, adventure & fun as we gather to see and hear about some amazing local history from Byron Smail.



While Byron's day job may be running his landscaping business, his passion rests in sharing local history. Byron has written two books on the area's unique history in the Iron industry. His books *Iron Furnaces of the Cove* and *Blair County Iron* explore many of the iron furnaces that were so common in the 1800s.

Byron will share not only the history of these iron furnaces, but also about the influence the furnaces had on the area and the impact that the workers made in America.

Any fan of local history will be fascinated to hear about this area's rich history in the iron industry.

- 9:00 Registration/Coffee/Tea/Gathering
- 9:30 Get acquainted/Worship/Hymn Sing
- 10:00 Time with Byron
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:45 Breakout session options: craft, camp tour, tower climbing, relax, hike to a nearby (possible) ore mine
- 3:00 Closing Worship
- 3:30 Our day together concludes

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17



Cost for day is \$20

Includes a morning snack, programming & lunch

To register visit our website or complete the form below and send, along with \$20 per person to:
Camp Blue Diamond, PO Box 240, Petersburg, PA 16669 Make check payable to: Camp Blue Diamond

✂-----✂-----✂

Yes! I/we are coming to Senior Adult Day on May 30th. Please list any special needs on the back of this form.

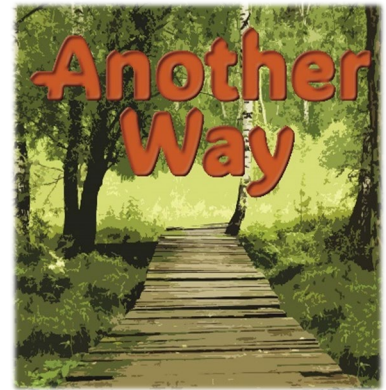
Name(s) _____ Phone _____







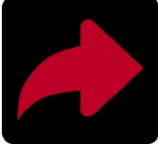
Address _____

Congregation _____ Email (optional) _____

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

A Special Thank You to All Volunteers & Donors!

Annual Dinner Servers, Volunteers and Workers: Clay Angle, Troy Barnhart, David & Mindy Bishop, Sue Brubaker, Mike Campbell, Rebekah Carswell, Lorraine Copenhaver, Scott Criswell, Kristin & Chris Cromwell, Tyson Daniels, Tim Dunmire, Rick Esh, Hope Gandy, Mary Garvey, Emma Goodyear, Jeff Howard, Ron & Theresa Keith, Heather Koontz, Jeannie Lashlee, Beth & Paul Longwell, David Meadows, Ken Ott, Thekla & Rod Park, Eric & Nehemiah Poteat, Janet Putt, Duane Rhodes, Rosella Ross, Milt Sellers, Terri & Addie Shaffer, Brian Stern, Jonathan Whitsel, Julie Witkovsky, Leah (Yingling)Antolin, Rich Zeek, Abby Zeek

Bunk Bed Building: Bill Dougherty, Bruce & Tod Fink, David Harclerode, Corey Harper, Joe Hinish, Rex & Morgan Knepp, Howard McMinn, Ken Ott, Rodney Park, Milt Sellers, Cameron Shaw, Randy Singo

Raking, Brush Cleanup, Wood Cutting, Splitting & Stacking: Jeff Browell, Mike & Lori Campbell, Joe Hinish, Tim & John Michael Knepp, Ken Ott, Shawn Shirk, Randy Singo, Brian & David Stern, Ryan & Ryann Welsh, UBBC Youth & Adults and Penn State University's ServeState Organization

4-Wheeler Repairs: Ken Ott, Ryan & Ryann Welsh

Thank you to everyone that attended Annual Dinner, 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!

2025 Summer Staff

Rachel Mickle – Rachel is returning for her fourth summer, this time as our Arts and Crafts Director. Rachel attends the Faith United Methodist Church in Woodbury, PA. In the offseason, Rachel works as an Instructional Aide at Northern Bedford Elementary and is attending Western Governor's University majoring in Elementary Education.

Kyle Duvall – Kyle is returning for his fourth summer, this time as our Naturalist. Kyle attends the Snake Spring Valley Church of the Brethren and is studying at Millersville University as a Mathematics Major.

Sage Evans – Sage is returning for her fourth summer, serving once again as our Lifeguard. Sage attends the Roaring Spring First Church of the Brethren. Sage graduates this year from Seton Hill University with a degree in Dance Choreography and Pedagogy and a minor in Finance.

Landon Meadows – Landon is graduating from Juniata College where he majored in Early and Special Education. Landon is returning for his second summer, this time as our Tower Director. He attends the Stone Church of the Brethren.

Ebbie Berry – Ebbie joins us for her second summer as a counselor. Ebbie attends Duquesne University where she studies Business Management and Analytics. Ebbie attends the Koontz Church of the Brethren.

Lauren Duvall – Lauren is returning to us for her second summer as a counselor. She attends the Snake Spring Valley Church of the Brethren. Lauren attends Millersville University studying Early Childhood Education.

John Foster – John is returning for his second summer here at camp as a counselor. John works as a Paraeducator in the offseason through the Huntingdon Area School District. He attends the Petersburg Church of the Nazarene.

Noah Hinkle – Noah is returning for his second summer as a counselor. Noah attends Penn State Altoona pursuing a degree in Visual Arts. He attends the Clear Creek Brethren in Christ church.

Jack Myers – Jack is a lifelong camper and joins us for his first summer as a counselor. Jack attends the Roaring Spring First Church of the Brethren.

Ben Smith – Ben joins us for his first summer as a counselor. Ben has been a lifelong camper and a former CIT. He attends the Roaring Spring First Church of Brethren.

Daniel Longwell – Daniel will be a first-time counselor this summer. Daniel attends the Redefined Community Church in Martinsburg, PA. Daniel has previously served as a CIT and lifelong camper. He'll attend Penn State Main Campus this fall majoring in Physics and minoring in Spanish.

Yalena Harris – Yalena attends the Leamersville Church of the Brethren. She has been a lifelong camper and is excited to join us as a counselor. She attends Mount Aloysius College, majoring in Early Level Education and minoring in Special Education.

Brynn Flatt – Brynn comes to us from Cranberry Township and will be a first-time counselor. Brynn will be graduating from Seneca Valley High School this spring and attending Ohio University in the Fall. Brynn is another lifelong camper.

Hope Gandy – Hope attends the Spring Run Church of the Brethren. This will be Hope's second summer serving in the kitchen. Hope attends Harrisburg Area Community College where she is majoring in photography.

Bailey Wilt – Bailey attends the Carson Valley Church of the brethren. He has been a life long camp at Blue Diamond and also serves as a counselor in training. This summer Bailey will be working on maintenance.



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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Help Support Camp This Summer!

As we gear up for another unforgettable summer, the Camp kitchen is in need of a few key items to help make the experience amazing for everyone. We're currently seeking donations of:

❖ **Peanut Butter & Jelly**

❖ **Ziplock Bags (all sizes)**

We've also updated our **Amazon Wish List** with the latest needs across all areas of camp—kitchen, maintenance, office, and programming. There's something for every budget, with items ranging from under \$10 to over \$1,000.

To view the list, simply scan the QR code or visit:

<https://a.co/2AO626u>

The list is updated regularly as our needs change, so be sure to check back often!

You can always find a link to the Amazon Wish List on the **Ways To Give** page of our website.

Thank you for helping make our ministry a success!

