



NovusWay Ministries

Registration Office
2049 Upper Laurel Drive, Arden, NC 28704
828-209-6302 ♦ fax 828-687-1600
aclifton@novusway.com

LUTHERANCH SUMMER CAMP 2021

Summer Camp is here, and we are excited that your child will join us for an exciting camp adventure!

Your child will have fun and

- find common ground with diverse friends
- enjoy the beauty and adventure of the natural world
- grow in independence, discover gifts and talents and practice new skills
- enjoy creative activities like games, songs, skits, and crafts
- explore God's creation, the Living Word, and grow closer to Jesus!

We provide a safe environment where college-age counselors act as big brothers and sisters. They care for children and share their witness to the importance of God in their own lives. Our staff members are carefully screened, selected, and trained. We are VERY proud of them. If you'd like to know more about our staff training or risk management procedures, just ask! NovusWay has been offering youth summer camp programs for nearly 70 years.

Camp & COVID-19

As we have moved through this pandemic, we've learned how to welcome guests on-site in life-giving and healthy ways. The past nine months have changed so much in our daily lives: how we gather, how we worship, and how we do school, among other things. We know what hasn't changed is the importance of gathering together and being out in God's good creation. We at NovusWay are, therefore, all the more excited about Summer Camp 2021. We have missed having you at these sacred spaces.

We know that there will be many questions about what camp will look like for your camper in 2021. Will they need to wear a mask? Will they be able to sing camp songs? Will they be able to do group activities and play games together? In any case, we will continue to follow the latest guidance and safety protocols from the **CDC** and the **American Camp Association**. We will keep

you updated regularly on what that will look like for your camper. You can expect monthly updates leading up to summer camp beginning in January 2021. Look for the most up to date information on our health guidelines and precautions at novusway.org/summer2021.

Addressing Attitude and Concerns

We make the camp experience as happy and worry-free as possible for both parent and camper. If your child is reluctant about coming to camp, keep your conversations with him/her calm and encouraging. Show every confidence that it will be GREAT. (It's true!) Talk over any fears or worries you may have and make a plan. Feel free to call us with concerns and suggestions. Below are some of the typical parent/camper concerns.

Making Friends

Each camper may request only one or two cabin buddies. This way, everyone makes new friends. Counselors use fun and inclusive games and activities that give rise to genuine friendships. We train counselors on bullying issues, so they know how to take preventative action and address inappropriate behavior. Encourage your child to take the lead in including others and reaching out to anyone who may seem shy or quiet.

Homesickness

Many of us miss home when we are away. Help your child see that this is normal but that it doesn't stop camp from being fun. Missing home and learning how to manage those feelings is an essential part of growing up. Camp is a GREAT place to do that. Our top strategies for helping homesick kids are:

1. Keep kids involved in fun and challenging play and in making friends
2. Support and encourage them in sharing their gifts and teaching others.
3. Set short term goals that seem manageable and make the week fly by.
4. Listen and love them ~ LOTS.

Homesickness strategies for parents before camp

Please do not tell your child you will come and get him/her if homesickness strikes! Let your child know that you believe in his/her ability to take this vital step in being away from home and that you trust the camp staff. If your child seems worried, call, and talk with a program director so we can make a plan together. If you get a "missing home" letter from your child, call to ask how he/she is doing. The chances are that by the time you get the letter, things are great. If your child is not eating or sleeping well or is not engaged by Tuesday, a program director will call you.

Unplugging

One of the most significant gifts of outdoor ministry is being away from technology like TV, computers, video games, and, yes, CELL PHONES. Being present to ourselves, each other, and the natural world's beauty is a vital part of the fellowship at camp. The single biggest reason camp experiences are so intense and transformational is that we are away from such distractions. God often speaks through nature and community when we truly pay attention! **Please do not allow or encourage your child to bring a cell phone to camp.** If you would like an update on how your child is doing at camp during the week, please call the program director any time at 404-583-4591. You can also follow the Lutheranch Facebook page for daily updates and pictures of our week at camp.

Camper Health Form

Please use the health form to tell us about particular needs, issues, and delights that will help us know about your child. Examples include divorce or death in the family, if your child loves swimming, is afraid of the dark, etc. The health form is also a place to share information with us about changes your camper is experiencing in their life, for which we can be supportive. We want to provide excellent support for your child to have the best camp week possible.

Thank you for sharing your child with us. Having fun and loving God go hand in hand, and camp is all about experiencing the abundant life that Jesus offers. We weave worship, praise, prayer, scripture—and loving each other—into all that we do. Our goal is that campers leave singing Jesus songs and seeing God in everything and everyone.

Please feel free to call or email if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to welcoming your child to summer camp!

Peace and blessings

Gretchen Ahrens
Lutheranch Program Director
404-583-4591
gahrens@novusway.org



PARENT & CAMPER INFORMATION TO GET YOU READY FOR CAMP

Health Form

Camper health forms and waivers are due by May 15th, 2021.

If you registered online

- You may complete your health form online by logging back into your account and filling out the health form through our registration portal.
- You will then need to upload a copy of a signed physical from your child's doctor. A signed copy is currently mandatory.
- Once you have submitted your online health form, **you cannot make corrections to it.** Please call our office when medical information changes for your camper.

If you registered over the phone or don't want to use the registration portal

- Visit lutheranch.org/camper-documents, download the Summer Camp Health Form. If you are reading this PDF online, [click here](#) to go straight to the form.
- To submit the form:
 - Scan and email to camperhealth@novusway.org
 - Fax to **828-687-1600**
 - Or mail to NovusWay Registration, 2049 Upper laurel Drive, Arden, NC 28704

Helpful Notes for Submitting Health Forms:

- A new health form is required for each year your child registers for camp.
- A physical exam within the last **12-18 months** must be validated on the health form with a physician's signature or a physician-signed copy of the exam. **A copy of a well-check visit is not acceptable unless electronically signed by a physician.**
- If you completed an online health form last summer, your information will prefill for this summer. You only need to update it and submit a new doctor's physical.
- Please include immunization dates.
- Please keep a copy of the health form and any program waivers for your files.
- Per the American Camp Association guidelines, this form will be reviewed by our health care staff before your child arrives at camp.

- We are unable to access physical exams from previous years readily. However, you may attach a copy of last year's physical dated within **12-18 months** of this year's camp week.
- We cannot admit campers on opening day without a completed and signed health form.

If registering after May 15th, 2020, please submit your child's health form & waivers ASAP - at least two weeks before his/her camper week.

General Camp Information

SUNDAY CHECK-IN: 4:00 - 5:30 pm

Upon arrival at Lutheranch, please check-in with our Program Staff after you arrive at McKanna-Sandrock Retreat Center.

If campers must arrive later than 5:30 pm, please call or text the program director at Lutheridge 404-583-4591

FRIDAY CHECK-OUT & CAMP CLOSING FESTIVITIES WITH DINNER: 4:00 – 6:30 pm

We encourage all camper parents/guardians to join us on Friday evening for dinner and experience some camp fun!

- 4 - 5 pm: Parents arrive, Lutheranch Open House and Site Tours, Camper Arts & Crafts Exhibit, meet staff, take pictures, visit our camp store
- 5 - 6:00 pm: Dinner and Show! Campers will share songs and skits they learned throughout the week
- 6:00 pm: Pack up and say goodbye to summer camp until next year

Mail & Communication

Campers LOVE getting mail!

Our camp mailing addresses are at the top of the first page. Please include the camper's full name on the envelope. Post mail to your child *before* their week begins or early in the week (Tuesday at the latest) to ensure its possible delivery. The best mail is cheerful and newsy. Please don't send gum, candy, or food.

Lutheranch Summer Camp Mailing Address

342 McGinnis Rd
Tallapoosa, GA 30176

Email Messages

Send to gahrens@novusway.org. Please put your camper's name in the subject line. Emails will be printed and distributed to campers daily.

Phone Calls

Please understand that your camper will NOT be calling you. Calls home can be disruptive for a camper group and can take away from the authentic camp experience. ***Cell phones are not allowed.*** If you have questions about this policy, the program director will be happy to talk with you and make a communication plan to ensure that you are comfortable with your camper's health and well being during their week at Lutheranch. This conversation should occur before the start of your camper's week at Lutheranch. Gretchen Ahrens, Lutheranch Program Director, can be reached at 404-583-4591.

Lost & Found

Lutheranch is not responsible for a camper's lost or damaged personal items. (Please read the guidelines in the Packing List. Do not bring clothing or items that are expensive or irreplaceable.) Our counselors give proper care to all camper belongings; however, clothing or other items can find their way into the wrong suitcase. If you see something missing, please call **828-606-5684 at Lutheridge** and give any details to locate the missing items. If we find your item, we will ship it to you via USPS. We will donate to local charities any useful items unclaimed by September 1st.

What to Pack

- Water shoes for swimming in the lake (required)
- A small bag for transporting swim gear to the lake (required)
- Refillable water bottle (required)
- Sleeping bag & pillow
- 2-3 towels & washcloths
- Soap, shampoo (Tea Tree prevents lice!), brush, comb
- Toothpaste & toothbrush
- Light jacket/sweatshirt
- Raincoat or poncho & headcover

- Shoes—2 pairs: sneakers with treads or closed-toe. Shoes that can get wet are best. Shoes will likely get dirty! Closed-toed shoes are a safety requirement for walking around camp and hiking on the trail.
- Shower shoes or flip flops
- Sturdy clothes that can get dirty or wet
- Long pants (1 pair)
- Swimsuits (2)
- Cards, books, etc. for rest times
- Bible, notebook, pen or pencil
- Flashlight
- Water bottle (refillable)
- Insect repellent
- Sunblock
- Hand sanitizer
- Plastic trash bag (for wet/damp clothing)
- Camera (optional)
- Prescription medication in original containers

Packing Tips

Please do not over-pack! Storage space in camper housing is limited.

Write your child's name on each article of clothing, towels, hats, etc.

Please make certain clothes are in good taste. Shorts should not be too short, and T-shirts should not contain inappropriate language or symbols. Swimsuits must be modest. We will ask that campers change or cover up if clothing is inappropriate.

What not to bring

Alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and drugs that are not prescribed by a physician are not allowed on camp in possession of campers. Violation of this policy results in immediate dismissal.

Transportation home will be at the expense of the parent/guardian. Do not bring CELL PHONES, food (snacks, gum, candy, or drinks), knives, firecrackers, or similar items to camp. Leave at home hair dryers, curling irons, radios, iPods, MP3 players, Tablets, or other electronic items. Weapons of any kind are not allowed.

Directions to Lutheranch

GPS Address for Lutheranch Front Gate: 440 Salem Church Rd, Tallapoosa, GA 30176

Do not enter Lutheranch into a navigation app.

From Atlanta, GA (Approximately 1 hr from I-285 W):

- Take I-20 West to GA-100 N in Haralson County (approx. 46 miles from I-285).
- Take Exit 5 on GA-100 and turn Right to continue to the town of Tallapoosa (4.7 miles).
- In downtown Tallapoosa, carefully follow signs to continue on GA-100 N.
- Just before railroad tracks, turn Left on W. Alabama St. Take immediate Right on Head Ave to cross railroad tracks. Take immediate Left on E. Atlanta St. Take Right on Robertson Ave/GA-100.
- Continue on GA-100 N for 3.4 miles.
- Turn slight Left onto Salem Church Rd.
- Go 0.8 miles and turn Left on St. James Way by the Lutheranch sign.
- Continue on the gravel driveway. The McKanna-Sandrock Retreat Center will be on your left past the lake.

From Birmingham, AL (Approximately 1 hr 40 min from city center):

- Take I-20 East to GA-100 N in Haralson County (approx. 93 miles from downtown Birmingham).
- Take Exit 5 on GA-100 and turn Left to continue to the town of Tallapoosa (4.7 miles).
- In downtown Tallapoosa, carefully follow signs to continue on GA-100 N.
- Just before railroad tracks, turn Left on W. Alabama St. Take immediate Right on Head Ave to cross railroad tracks. Take immediate Left on E. Atlanta St. Take Right on Robertson Ave/GA-100.
- Continue on GA-100 N for 3.4 miles.
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