

Pilgrim Lodge Family Camp Guide



www.pilgrimlodge.org

207-724-3200

103 Pilgrim Lodge Lane,
West Gardiner, ME 04345

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Greetings Parents and Campers!

Thank you for considering sending your child, or yourself, to Pilgrim Lodge this summer. This guide has been developed to help parents prepare for time at Pilgrim Lodge; and to help you and your child know what to expect and prevent miscommunications on policies and procedures when camp time comes. We are always looking to improve our program and communication so if you have any suggestions please do not hesitate to contact us, or any member of the Outdoor Ministry Team.

Pilgrim Lodge Camp Philosophy

Inspiration is infused into lives through the power of love, nature, and God. Along the shores of Lake Umbagog, the Maine Conference United Church of Christ is blessed to nurture this ministry of inclusion. Amidst all the fun of summer camp, we teach stories from the Bible, as well as critical thinking. We find creative and fun new ways to bring meaning and enjoyment to worship. We celebrate and explore the awesome power of metaphor. We set the table for the feast God offers, without the arrogance of assuming we have all the answers, or that everyone's experience of God is identical. We encourage and enable people to listen for God; we do not claim to speak God's voice. Often empowerment comes from recognizing the divine through healthy human connection: Christ is in the eyes and hearts of our brothers and sisters. In seeking, and finding that connection in one another, we recognize it within ourselves. Outdoor ministry has two foundational elements: community and creation. As our culture is increasingly withdrawing from community we believe that intentional periods of living together surrounded by the beauty of the earth, away from the stress and strain of ordinary, technology- centered routines, give our spirits a chance to be open to life in a real and vital manner.

Open Registration Policy

Anyone may attend Pilgrim Lodge. Campers do not need to be a member of the Maine Conference, United Church of Christ. Rules concerning acceptance and participation in all Maine Conference Outdoor Ministry events are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, sexual orientation, gender or national origin.

Accreditation

Pilgrim Lodge is accredited by the American Camp Association. Information on accreditation standards can be found at www.acacamps.org.

Camp Session Leadership - DEANS

Each session at Pilgrim Lodge is organized by volunteer leaders called deans. Most sessions have two deans who are responsible for recruiting their volunteer counselors and organizing the program and schedule. Because the deans and counselors are at PL as volunteers, for your event only, they bring a fresh and exciting feel to each session. Shortly before your session is to begin, you will receive a letter from your deans by email. This letter will describe the theme, outline special events, tell you special things to bring, and let you know of any deviation from information in this guide. Deans' letters are also posted online so if your event is getting close and you haven't received it, check online first, then give us a call. (207-724-3200)

Payment & Refunds

There is no refund for campers sent home for illness, homesickness, injury or discipline. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 for week-long sessions and \$50 for half weeks, and \$25 for weekend events is required with the initial registration. **Please note the balance is due by June 15.** We do not accept payment at camp. If payment is not received on time, campers may forfeit their spot to others on the waiting list.

If a camper withdraws *more than two weeks* before the start of a session the deposit will be forfeited, while any additional payments that have been made will be refunded.

If a camper withdraws *two weeks or less* before the start of a session the parent (or adult camper) will be responsible for the full camp fee; no refunds will be made.

Open Invoices:

Individuals with an unpaid balance from previous years will not be allowed to register until past balances are paid. Payments received will be used to pay open invoices from previous years and not toward registering for new events.

Event Cancellation:

All events are subject to cancellation due to insufficient registration. If an event is cancelled, full refund of payments (including registration deposit) will be made. Confirmation notices will be sent after a registration is received and accepted. Online confirmation is by way of email.

Behavior

Certain behaviors deemed inappropriate may result in a camper being sent home and the camper's minister being notified.

These behaviors include, but are not limited to: fighting; hitting; biting; stealing; destruction of, or intrusion into, another's property; threatening another; defying a counselor or dean; refusal to eat; wandering from established program areas; sexual activity; possession or use of cell phones; possession or use of weapons, alcohol, or illegal drugs; misuse, and distribution or concealing of prescription or non-prescription medication. Any camper sent home will be reaccepted for an Outdoor Ministries event only after consultation with the Outdoor Ministries Team and the Camp Director.

Alcohol and Drugs:

Alcohol and other drugs are not permitted at Pilgrim Lodge or Outdoor Ministries events. Drugs include inhalants such as gas or glue and the misuse of over the counter or prescription medicine. Anyone using or possessing alcohol or illegal drugs or misusing prescription drugs will be sent home immediately and the camper's minister will be notified.

Fireworks:

Fireworks are not permitted at Pilgrim Lodge or at Outdoor Ministries sponsored events. Anyone using or possessing fireworks will be sent home and their minister will be notified.

Scholarships

Many local churches have their own camp scholarship program. Please ask your pastor if such a program is available in your church. Additionally, partial scholarships are also available from the Maine Conference UCC for members of United Church of Christ churches. Applications for scholarships are found at the back of this guide.

Applications are due by May 15. Applications received after May 15 will be considered only if funds remain after on-time applications have been disbursed.

Photographs and Publicity

By registering for camp, campers and parents agree that photographs taken of campers may be used for promotion by the Maine Conference, United Church of Christ including, but not limited to: camp brochures, promotional slideshows, video presentations, CD-Roms sold to campers, the Pilgrim Lodge website and other Pilgrim Lodge internet sites.

U.S. Mail to campers

Letters from home are encouraged. Please keep letters upbeat and do not focus on how much you miss your camper. **Do not mail candy or food.** Do not send any mail after Thursday's pickup.

Address letters this way:

Camper's Name
Cabin # (camper's cabin number)
Name of session (ie: "Arts Alive")
Pilgrim Lodge
103 Pilgrim Lodge Lane
West Gardiner, ME 04345

Email to campers

Campers may receive emails. This option is available through UltraCamp, our online registration system. You can sign up for this during the registration process or any time after registering by accessing your existing account.

Phone Calls and Off-Hour Emergencies

Phones are available for use by campers only in case of emergency.

The office phone number is 207-724-3200.

If the office is closed and IN THE EVENT OF EMERGENCY ONLY you may call 207-724-3300.

Please do not call the emergency line for administrative or non-emergency reasons.

Please do not ask to speak to your camper for non-emergency issues. The camp director and staff are happy to check in with deans and counselors and give you a full report on how your camper is doing. Call the office during business hours for a check in.

Insect Repellent and Sunscreen

Lyme Disease and other insect-borne illnesses are a risk in any outdoor activity in the state of Maine. Campers need to bring and apply appropriate, non-aerosol insect repellent. There have been cases of Lyme Disease allegedly contracted at Pilgrim Lodge. Exposure to the sun also carries risk. Campers need to bring and apply sunscreen with an SPF factor of *at least* 30 before outdoor activities. Please send only sunscreens and insect repellents in non-aerosol containers.

Smoking

Events sponsored by the Outdoor Ministries Committee are tobacco-free.

Personal items

Campers are free to bring personal items such as musical instruments, (larger instruments usually are left in the music cabin), music devices (see next page), and sporting equipment, provided their name is written on the item. The Maine Conference, United Church of Christ is not responsible for lost, stolen or broken items. We recommend writing your name on all items, including clothing.

Camp Mission Project

Each summer Pilgrim Lodge has a mission project that is incorporated into each session, typically as an evening program presentation and activity. Through this program, campers learn about the mission project, how those involved with the project work to help others, and what Pilgrim Lodge campers can do to help their organization. As part of the partnership with the mission organization, campers have the opportunity to contribute to the mission project. These contributions generally are funds collected as part of a worship offering, but sometimes the organization asks for physical donations as well (for example: craft supplies, toiletries, basic first aid supplies, etc.) For more information about this summer's Mission Project, visit our website.

Supervision of Children

Family camp events are designed to be time for families to be together, adults are responsible to supervise the children they have brought with them. **Children are not to be allowed to wander the camp without adult supervision.** There may be occasions when the camp staff organizes activities and will be made clear that it's OK for adults to send children without attending themselves. At the conclusion of such events, adults will resume supervision

Waterfront and Boating

Swimming and boating are only allowed when the waterfront is opened by the Pilgrim Lodge lifeguards. Under no circumstance are children or adults to swim anywhere on the lake except on the waterfront with a Pilgrim Lodge lifeguard present. The waterfront is only open during daylight hours.

Health Form Requirements

Health forms are to be mailed to camp at least two weeks prior to arrival. (103 Pilgrim Lodge Lane, West Gardiner, ME 04345). Health forms are available online, or will be mailed by request.

Who needs what form?

Grandparents Camp:

Minors need FORM 1 completed by PARENTS *not grandparents* and FORM 2, including a doctor's signature. Minors are required to have had a physical within 12 months of attending camp. If the child carries an inhaler, epi-pen or other medication *on his or her person* FORM 3 signed by a doctor and parents is needed. Please mail forms two weeks prior to the start of camp.

Adults complete a single-page FORM 4. No doctor's signature is needed. You can fill this out prior to camp or when you arrive at camp. Mail it or bring it with you.

Family Camp and Expedition Everyone

No forms needed **unless** you are bringing a *minor that is NOT accompanied by a parent or legal guardian*. If you are bringing a minor that is not accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, that child needs FORMS 1, and 2, (and 3 if he or she has carries an inhaler or epi-pen) with appropriate parent and doctor's signatures.

Cell Phones

Disconnecting from the world of electronics is a necessary part of camp community building.

- Children and Youth:

Youth campers are not allowed to possess cell phones or other forms of electronic communication at camp and may be sent home if found possessing a cell phone. Please don't give your child permission to break this rule: it is a confusing message and a precedent about how other rules apply to them.

- Adults:

We recognize that adults may have family and business requirements that require them to make contact. Please do not use your cell phones in the company of others. Please set your phone to vibrate or silent if you must carry it with you. If you must carry your phone with you, please let voicemail answer the phone and retreat to an isolated place to check the message and return the call. The best option is to leave the phone at home. The next best option is to turn it off, leave it in your belongings at camp and check it occasionally or use it only if need be. Third, if you must carry the phone with you at camp, please honor the above guidelines.

Camp Store

The camp store sells postcards and stamps, Pilgrim Lodge T-shirts, hats, and flashlights, memorabilia, and necessary toiletry items. All Pilgrim Lodge wear is certified sweat-shop and child labor free! All proceeds from the Pilgrim Lodge store go directly to support the ministry of Pilgrim Lodge. At family camp events the store will accept cash whenever it is open during your session. Store accounts are not necessary during family camps. During the session the store will open once a day for ice-cream sales (\$1.25 per cone) and once a day for other items.

Photos

(Not available for Day at Camp) Every camper will receive a photo of all the people in their camp session. CD-ROMS of digital photos from your session can be purchased at the camp store. If you pre-order a CD on arrival you will save the cost of postage. Individual photos are also available for purchase through our online registration system.

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR CAMP!

A Quick Review for Children and Youth Sessions

WHAT TO BRING:

- Casual relaxing clothes
- Warm clothes for cold days and nights
- Warm sleeping clothes
- Rain gear
- Shorts
- Jeans/pants
- Sweatshirts
- Bible
- Notebook or stationery and pen
- Bathing suit
- Beach towel
- Shower shoes/beach shoes
- Musical instruments
- 1 nice outfit (not too formal)
- Bathroom items (towels, washcloth, soap, toothbrush, floss, comb/brush etc.)
- Sleeping bag or bedding
- Pillow
- Comfortable sneakers/hikers
- Flashlight
- Laundry bag
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen (SPF 30 or more)
- Water bottle with camper's name written on it
- Items listed in your Deans' letter
- Money for store/mission

The Camp Store

Upon arrival there will be a table where you can set up an account for the store. Campers are not allowed to have cash in their cabins. Cash is only accepted at the store during drop off and pick up. *Ice cream happens every afternoon, and is \$1.25 per day.*

Please do not Bring:

- Alcohol or illegal drugs
- weapons (including pocket knives)
- Pets
- Valuables
- Jewelry
- Computers
- Fireworks
- SCUBA equipment
- "healies" skate boards or in-line skates

Mail: *(Please do not send food or candy)*

Camper's Name

Camper's cabin #

Pilgrim Lodge

103 Pilgrim Lodge Lane

West Gardiner, ME 04345

Personal items policy:

Campers are free to bring personal items such as musical instruments, (larger instruments usually are left in the lodge), compact discs, and sporting equipment provided their name is written on the item. The Maine Conference, United Church of Christ is not responsible for lost, stolen or broken items.

Photo CD's:

You can order a CD-Rom of photos of your campers week at the store for \$15 and it will be ready for you when your camper leaves. Photo CD's may be ordered after camp but a shipping charge is added. Individual photos are available for purchase in our online photo gallery offered through our registration system.

Health Forms:

Please review the health form section above.

If you are confused, please call 207-724-3200

Pilgrim Lodge Scholarship Application



Due: May 15

Of the year for which you are applying

Send this completed form to:

Pilgrim Lodge Scholarship Request
103 Pilgrim Lodge Lane
West Gardiner, ME 04345

Please check with your local church pastor to see if a Pilgrim Lodge scholarship is available from the church.

All applications must be **signed by a United Church of Christ minister** (unsigned or incomplete applications will be returned without being processed. If the application is re-submitted and received after May 15 it will be considered a late application.) Scholarships received after May 15 will be considered only if any funds remain after all on-time applications have been processed.

There are a limited amount of funds for distribution. Please apply only if you are truly in need in order to attend camp. The amount of scholarship offered will be dependent on the number of applications received by May 15. Scholarships do not exceed one third of the camp fee.

Camper Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Church (include town name) _____

Session and Date of session _____

Signature of United Church of Christ Pastor (required) _____

Parent/Guardian, or Adult camper, signature (required) _____

Number of household members: _____

Annual Household income: _____

Other scholarships applied for: (Summer camps, local church etc.) _____

Church of program _____

Amount requested (or granted) from above _____

Amount Requested from Maine Conference _____



Request for a Pilgrim Lodge Counselorship

Thank you! Our program would not exist if not for the incredible gift of time offered by our counselors. Thank you for valuing the ministry at Pilgrim Lodge enough to offer your time.

About Counseling: If you would like to counsel but are not sure how to begin, start by contacting us at camp (karen@pilgrimlodge.org or 207-724-3200) We'll ask you if you have particular weeks in mind. Your information will then go to the deans of those camps who will contact you about whether or not they are in need of counselors. You'll be asked to read a short book on counseling and take an on-line exam and print out the certification of completion (only the first time you counsel.) You'll also need reference forms and a background check authorization, available online or from your dean. You will be asked to attend a few meetings before camp and to arrive a day before where you will receive training more specific to Pilgrim Lodge.

Counseling when your child is at PL: Some parents hope to counsel when their child is at camp. You know your child, and whether or not this is a good idea for them. We find that for some younger children it works out fine. Middler and Senior High campers usually tend to do better given their own time and space at PL. Unless there are extraordinary circumstances, we will not place your child in your cabin. It is difficult to step out of the role of parent and trying to be a camp counselor to your own child.

Counselorships: If you have an immediate family member attending camp this summer, you can receive a \$75 Counsellorship (\$37 for the half-week long session) toward his or her camp fee. Please, immediate family only. Counsellorships are not offered to CIT's and are not to be used for oneself. Counsellorships must be applied in the same year that you counsel.

Date: _____

Counselor Name: _____

Phone _____

I am counseling for this session: _____

Please apply my Counsellorship to (camper's name) _____

Attending this session: _____

This camper is my: (son, sister etc.) _____

Counselor's signature: _____

You can mail this form (103 Pilgrim Lodge Lane, West Gardiner, ME 04102) or bring it with you to camp. If you're counseling after your camper's session, it is helpful to us to have this form before the camper's session begins.

Directions to Pilgrim Lodge

Office Phone: 207-724-3200

Traveling North on I-295:

Take exit 51, turn Left on Route 126. Follow Route 126 about 2.5 miles.

At the blinking light turn RIGHT onto Spears Corner Road

Continue straight for 4.3 miles (through 2 stop signs) to a third stop sign

Careful: cross traffic does NOT stop at any of the three stop signs

At that third stop sign turn LEFT onto Neck Road

Pilgrim Lodge will be one mile ahead on your RIGHT

Traveling North on I-95:

Take exit 86 and turn LEFT onto Route 9

Drive a mile and half and turn RIGHT on route 126

In 10.8 miles at the blinking light with "Litchfield Country Store" on your right, Turn LEFT at Batchelder's Corner (the post office should now be on your right)

In 2 miles bear LEFT on Neck Road

Pilgrim Lodge is 2 miles ahead on the LEFT

Traveling South on I-95:

From I-95, take exit 109 B onto Route 202 west.

See below for remaining directions.

Traveling West:

Travel through Augusta on Route 202, cross over I-95

See below for remaining directions.

South and West continued:

After 2.5 miles, (by the Manchester Citgo), at the stoplight where route 17 turns right (don't turn right) and 202 goes straight (don't go straight) turn LEFT onto Pond Road

Proceed South for about 6.5 miles

Pilgrim Lodge will be on your RIGHT

Traveling East:

Take 126 from Lewiston to Litchfield.

At the blinking light with "Litchfield Country Store" on your right, Turn LEFT at Batchelder's Corner (The post office should now be on your right)

Drive 2 miles and turn LEFT onto Neck road

Pilgrim Lodge will be in 2 miles ahead on your LEFT