

WELCOME TO CAMP PRIDE AT PILGRIM LODGE!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who can attend?

LGBTQIA+ youth and allies entering 7th through 12th grade or new graduates are all welcome. Campers do not need to be “out” or claim a specific identity - come explore!

What activities will happen at camp?

Campers can enjoy all that camp has to offer, such as swimming, boating, singing, crafting, playing games, enjoying cookouts, having ice cream, spending time with old and new friends, and so much more! We will also spend time exploring topics which are important to the LGBTQIA+ community, share from our collective history, ponder spirituality from different perspectives, and support one another wholeheartedly.

This camp is intentionally interfaith. What does that look like?

While Pilgrim Lodge (PL) is a United Church of Christ camp with Christian symbolism throughout the facilities, Camp Pride seeks to support all spiritual paths among our campers. We have counselors representing a variety of faith traditions, including Judaism, Wicca, a variety of Christian denominations, and more. We have counselors who are “spiritual but not religious” and others who claim no particular faith of their own. Each of these pathways are honored and celebrated with no one way of believing ever taking priority. Our Sacred Gathering times carve out space to be still, to engage one another’s stories, to sing, and to enjoy the beauty of nature and community.

What if a camper doesn’t claim a particular faith, is agnostic, or an atheist?

They are welcome here! Just as we will ask all campers to respect the faith traditions of others, we will respect their beliefs too. There will be no efforts towards conversion or indoctrination in any faith tradition.

How are campers assigned to cabins?

Since our first season in 2017, we have housed campers based on age, rather than sex or gender. This has been wildly successful! Given that each cabin has a single stall bathroom and a separate, single stall shower, our campers have privacy for using the restroom, taking care of personal hygiene, and changing (with changing being required to take place in one of these private rooms).

Who are the cabin counselors?

Just like our camper assignments, counselors are also not assigned cabins based on sex or gender. Some cabins will even have 2 counselors who embody different colors of the LGBTQIA+ rainbow. If a gender-specific need or question arises, our counseling staff supports each other beautifully and will help one another care for our campers. Our counselors all have significant experience working with LGBTQIA+ youth - and some are former Camp Pride campers themselves!

What about bathrooms outside of the cabins?

The Lodge and Dining Hall at Pilgrim Lodge both have single-stall restrooms available. The multiple stall restrooms are made gender-neutral for those who wish to use them. However, there is always a single-stall restroom within reach!

How will legal vs. chosen names be respected and handled?

Campers can be registered under either a legal name or a chosen name. We take names very seriously and will only use chosen names of our campers as we introduce them and welcome them into the community. Regardless of what name a camper is registered under, everyone will have the opportunity to share the name that they wish to use at camp with the program leaders, who will update the camp roster as necessary. The only people who may have access to a legal name that is different from a chosen name are the deans and nurses - all who are bound by confidentiality and take this information seriously.

What about pronouns?

Just like names, all pronouns will also be respected. Sometimes, a camper may try out different pronouns throughout the week and that's okay! We will support every camper as they see what feels right.

How are medications and other health needs handled?

We are so very fortunate to have incredible nurses that support our camp and take great pride in offering medical care that meets the needs of LGBTQIA+ youth. Camp nurses bring a lot of experience and are prepared to support the health needs of campers. We have medication times built into the schedule around mealtimes, as well as in the morning and at night, so that no one has to miss out on programming to take their meds. There is a private nurse's cabin for campers to get their meds and have other health needs taken care of.

Will middle school and high school campers be together throughout the week for programs and activities?

In many ways, yes! However, special care and consideration will be given to ensure that our younger campers are engaging in age-appropriate conversations while also benefiting from the wisdom of their older peers. Trained facilitators use the "Our Whole Lives" curriculum to engage in discussions together.

Will campers have access to their cell phones?

As we strive to create community together, we try and limit cell phone access so our campers can fully engage in the community. Each cabin has a lock box where cell phones are securely stored. Campers have access to their phone for a short time in the morning, and may have access at "bunk time" or before bed at their counselor/dean's discretion. If a camper needs to be reached urgently, call the Pilgrim Lodge office. Pilgrim Lodge is located in a rural area and cell service can be inconsistent on site.

Will campers be welcomed, affirmed, loved, and safe?

Living out extravagant love is the name of the game at Camp Pride! We value and respect everyone's gender, sexual orientation, gender expression, and all that makes each individual who they are! Our campers are supervised by our trained counseling staff, the Camp Pride deans, and the paid staff of Pilgrim Lodge. Safety and care are always top priority!

What if I have additional questions?

Please contact us at our camp office by emailing info@pilgrimlodge.org or calling **207-724-3200**. We'd love to hear from you!