

A banner for the Camp Newaygo Overnight Camp Parent Packet. The background is a blurred image of a camp building. The text "CAMP NEWAYGO OVERNIGHT CAMP" is in a bold, red, sans-serif font. Below it, "Parent Packet" is written in a large, red, cursive font.

# CAMP NEWAYGO OVERNIGHT CAMP Parent Packet

Dear Summer Camp Families,

We are excited you have made the decision to have your camper spend a session with us! Since 1926 Camp Newaygo has built resilience, independence, and growth through our all-girls overnight camp program.

In this handbook, you will find answers to frequently asked questions and other important information. Whether you are new to Camp Newaygo or are returning for another program, we ask that you read this packet completely and carefully.

Youth are spending more time than ever before in front of screens, isolated from their peers, and disengaged from the natural world. We know that now, more than ever, kids need camp.

What makes Camp Newaygo such a special place is that it is a youth-focused, caring community, committed to continuing a tradition of opportunities for girls and women.

Thank you for choosing Camp Newaygo and giving us the awesome privilege and responsibility of looking after your children. We look forward to an unforgettable summer with new and old friends, making memories to carry us through to next summer.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jalisa Danhof".

Jalisa Danhof  
Camp Director

[jalisa@campnewaygo.org](mailto:jalisa@campnewaygo.org)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Lakin".

Scott Lakin  
Associate Director

[scott@campnewaygo.org](mailto:scott@campnewaygo.org)

## Summer at a Glance

Session	Dates	Ages
Session 1	Sunday, June 14th - Saturday, June 20th	Campers Ages 7-16 (going into 1st-11th grades)
Mini Camp 1	Sunday, June 14th - Wednesday, June 17th	Campers Ages 7-12 (going into 1st-7th grades)
Session 2	Sunday, June 21st - Thursday, June 25th	Campers Ages 7-16 (going into 1st-11th grades)
Session 3	Sunday, June 28th - Friday, July 3rd	Campers Ages 7-16 (going into 1st-11th grades)
Session 4ALL	Sunday, July 5th - Saturday, July 18th <i>*You must register for 4A -AND- 4B*</i>	Campers Ages 7-16 (going into 1st-11th grades)
Session 4A	Sunday, July 5th - Saturday, July 11th	Campers Ages 7-16 (going into 1st-11th grades)
Session 4B	Sunday, July 12th - Saturday, July 18th	Campers Ages 7-16 (going into 1st-11th grades)
Session 5ALL	Sunday, July 19th - Saturday, August 1st	Campers Ages 7-16 (going into 1st-11th grades)
Session 5A	Sunday, July 19th - Saturday, July 25th	Campers Ages 7-12 (going into 1st-7th grades)
Session 5B	Sunday, July 26th - Saturday, August 1st	Campers Ages 7-12 (going into 1st-7th grades)

**Holdover Weekends:** Holdovers are for campers staying for multiple sessions.

Holdover	Dates
Holdover 1: Between Session 1 and 2	Saturday, June 20th - Sunday, June 21st
Holdover 2: Between Session 2 and 3	Thursday, June 25th - Sunday, June 28th
Holdover 3: Between Session 3 and 4	Friday, July 3rd - Sunday, July 5th
Holdover 4: Between Session 4ALL/B and 5ALL/A	Saturday, July 18th - Sunday, July 19th

## Camp Newaygo Culture – What Can Your Overnight Camper Expect at Camp Newaygo

**Mission:** Founded in 1926, Camp Newaygo’s mission for overnight camp is to provide the space for girls and young women to get back to nature and to be themselves in a rustic camp setting.

- **Mission Statement:** *Camp Newaygo fosters discovery, creativity, and collaboration within communities, groups, and individuals in natural environments.*
- **Vision:** *Camp Newaygo builds resilient leaders, creative individuals, and a sense of belonging. Our programs bring participants closer to nature and promote the call for stewardship of our environment.*
- **Values:**
  - *Resilience: grit, ability to bounce back from adversity*
  - *Independence: self reliance, creative, decision making*
  - *Growth: new experiences, grow a love of the outdoors*

**Age Ranges:** Campers 7-16 years (entering 1st - 11th Grade); Leaders-in-Training are entering 12th grade.

**Focus:** We take great pride in enthusiastically providing compelling summer camp programming that’s all about girls — their voices, their needs, the unique pressures they face and all that they can achieve. Our programs focus on teaching girls new skills, providing girls with new experiences, encouraging girls to forge strong bonds of friendship, and an increased appreciation for our natural world designed to build grit and resilience.

- Campers will interact with women in positions of authority, who set the tone and establish what is expected of each and every girl at Camp.
- We proudly use the pronouns she/her and many of our songs use girls, she, or her.
- We celebrate female culture, female values, and the unique needs of girls.

**Rustic Camp Newaygo:** Camp Newaygo is all about getting back to nature and while some of our main buildings have been modernized, camper accommodations are basic.

- Camper lodging spaces for 8th graders and older do not include electricity.
- There is no air conditioning in camper lodging.
- We have beautiful, modern bathroom and shower facilities a short walk from cabins and units.
- Units have recently renovated private outhouses for evening and night use.
- Camp Newaygo is a tech-free zone. Campers are not permitted to bring phones or other technology.
- Campers will be spending most of their time outdoors rain or shine.
- Camper swim sessions are in the lake. Access to the lake beach is stairs with 85 steps.

**Meals:** Camp meals are communal, with cabins and units served “family style”. Our kitchen is able to accommodate some dietary restrictions. Please contact us to discuss our ability to support special meal requests. Camp Newaygo is not a peanut-free facility.

**Noise & Energy:** Campers will sing, yell, and laugh all day making Camp Newaygo a noisy place to be. Similarly, the pace at Camp is energetic and can be especially high energy when something super exciting is going on.

**Wilderness Trips:** Camp Newaygo is committed to wilderness adventure trips with outdoor camping for our all girls’ overnight programs. Trip designs are appropriately challenging for each specific age group.

**A Secular Space:** Camp Newaygo is not affiliated with any church or religious organization. Before meals, we sing a song of gratitude (referencing thank-you’s to Camp, or nature). A few camp songs reference God, which we continue to sing as part of our programs, but focus is not on the religious element of the song, and campers can choose to sing or refrain from singing. We welcome campers of ALL religious backgrounds, including no

religion. There are no religious teachings, religious ceremonies, or religious traditions within our camp programs. We do host a “Christmas in July” day in Session 4B, with no religious themes.


**Friendships & Relationships:** Camp Newaygo encourages girls to form strong bonds of friendship, many lasting a lifetime. Camp does not encourage forming romantic relationships at camp, and does not allow displays of affection of a romantic nature.

**Camper Participation Expectations:** Camp Newaygo expects campers to have sufficiently good physical, mental, and emotional health and maturity to be able to actively participate in camp in a positive and cooperative manner that displays tolerance and respect for self and others and to:

- handle sleeping-away-from-home including taking care of their own personal needs such as eating, dressing, sleeping, showering, and maintaining their hair;
- participate as part of a supportive community in a socially healthy way;
- function in a group setting in a positive and cooperative manner displaying tolerance and respect for self and others;
- interact responsibly in a group and work together as part of a team;
- follow all instructions and refrain from behaviors that pose a risk to self or others; and
- contribute to a safe learning environment, using respectful language and appropriate physical behavior.

### Is Camp Newaygo Right for You?

If you’re wondering whether Camp Newaygo is the right choice for your daughter, we encourage you to reach out. Our experienced staff is happy to answer any questions and help guide you through the process of deciding whether Camp Newaygo aligns with your camper’s needs and goals.

 **Call us at: (231) 652-1184**

 **Email us at: [campbiz@campnewaygo.org](mailto:campbiz@campnewaygo.org)**

### Helping Us Provide the Best Experience for Your Camper

To ensure that we can provide the most supportive and enriching experience for your camper, we encourage you to reach out to Camp Newaygo if your child has experienced *any* significant challenges or changes this year. This could include, but is not limited to:

- Physical, mental, or behavioral disabilities (please contact us before completing registration);
- Physical health concerns such as recent illnesses, injuries, surgeries, or mobility issues;
- Mental health concerns including anxiety, depression, trauma, self-harm, or any care from a mental health professional or school counselor;
- Learning challenges such as dyslexia, ADHD, or others;
- Prescription of medication for mental, emotional, social health, learning, or behavior conditions;
- Academic or social difficulties at school; or
- Changes in living situations or family dynamics, such as marriage, separation, divorce, or the loss of a loved one.

If your camper has faced any of the above or something else you feel we should know about, please don’t hesitate to contact us. Our goal is to work with you to make camp a safe and joyful experience for your child.

## **Anti-Bullying Policy**

Bullying is when one or more people exclude, tease, taunt, gossip, hit, kick, or put down another person with the intent to hurt another. Bullying happens when a person or group of people want to have power over another and use their power to get their way, at the expense of someone else. Bullying can also happen through cyberspace: through the use of emails, text messaging, instant messaging, and other less direct methods. This type of bullying can also lead to persons being hurt during or between camp seasons and be especially hurtful when persons are targeted with meanness and exclusion.

At Camp Newaygo bullying is inexcusable, and we have a firm policy against all types of bullying. Our Camp philosophy is based on our mission statement which ensures that every camper has the opportunity to explore, create, and cooperate among individuals and communities in the natural environment. We work together as a team to ensure that campers gain self-confidence, make new friends, and go home with great memories.

Unfortunately, persons who are bullied may not have the same potential to get the most out of their Camp experience. Our leadership addresses all incidents of bullying seriously and trains staff to promote communication with their staff and their campers so both staff and campers will be comfortable alerting us to any problems during their camp experience and between camp seasons. Every person has the right to expect to have the best possible experience at camp, and by working together as a team to identify and manage bullying, we can help ensure that all campers and staff have a great summer at Camp Newaygo.

## **Cancellation Policy**

We feel our cancellation policy ensures a fair and flexible experience for everyone involved.

Each registration requires a non-refundable \$100.00 deposit per session.

*Cancellation At Least 30 Days Before The Session:* Families can cancel a reservation at least one month (30 days) before a program start date for a full refund, minus the deposit. The \$100.00 deposit is non-refundable.

*Cancellation Within 30 Days Of The Session:* There will be no fee reduction or reimbursement for absences due to illness, family emergencies, vacation, summer school, unexpected visits from relatives or for any other reason. There will be no fee reduction or reimbursement for campers sent home early due to homesickness, injury or behavioral issues. Camp Store funds are refundable during check-out or you may choose to donate to the scholarship fund. At any time, you may transfer to another camp session if availability allows.

## **Camper Dismissal**

There will be no fee reduction or reimbursement for campers sent home early due to homesickness, injury or behavioral issues. Bringing or using prohibited items, including but not limited to sneaking in electronics and phones, could result in immediate dismissal from camp without a refund.

Campers who are dismissed early from camp must be picked up within 24 hours of family notice. If parents/guardians are out of town and unable during their camper's session at camp, an authorized pickup must be available and listed on the camper's account.

If the parent or authorized person(s) fails to pick-up the camper within 24 hours of notification, provided that other arrangements for releasing the child to the parent or authorized person(s) have failed, in extreme cases, the camp will call the Department of Health & Human Services 24 hour Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline at 855-444-3911 to seek assistance in caring for the child until an authorized person is able to pick-up the child.

## **Friend Requests**

Summer camp is an amazing opportunity to make new friends outside of your camper's school and neighborhood. We are so grateful that campers recruit their friends to come to Camp with them. We also know having a friendly face in your camper's lodging group can help create a successful experience. We intentionally create lodging groups that honor friend requests and help foster and develop lifelong friendships.

During registration each camper has the opportunity to list ONE friend request. In order for the request to be honored, BOTH campers must request each other, both campers must be at the same age/grade level, and both campers must be attending the same session for the same length of time. We are not always able to honor friend requests that are between one and two week campers. If we are able to accommodate a different age/grade level friend request, the older camper will be moved into a younger age group. No news is good news when it comes to friend requests- if we are able to honor your friend request, you will not hear from us.

Friend requests are only accepted until April 15th. After April 15th, most of our lodging is completed, and we will not consider friend requests as a part of our lodging decisions. So register early, and encourage your friends to register early!

If we are unable to accommodate a friend request you will receive a phone call explaining the situation. Be patient and understanding, lodging assignments are difficult, sometimes we make a mistake, sometimes there is no way of giving you what you request. Be prepared to be gracious if we cannot accommodate your request.

If it is not possible for campers to bunk together, they will still have plenty of time to interact during their session. They will be able to take classes together and interact during free time and free swim.

### **Anti-Request Policy (Please Use Thoughtfully)**

This type of request takes priority and may override a friend request, meaning your camper may not be placed with a requested friend. If you feel it's in your child's best interest not to be placed with a specific peer, we strongly encourage you to have an open and honest conversation with the other family before camp begins. While these conversations can be challenging, addressing the matter now is far easier than navigating it during check-in. We're happy to provide guidance on how to approach this discussion.

Please note: Cabin-mate requests and anti-requests are *not* confidential. While we strive to handle these situations with sensitivity, there may be instances where we need to disclose this information to address cabin placement concerns effectively.

By completing registration, you acknowledge and agree to our friend request policy and procedures as outlined in our friend request agreement form.

### **Check-In Procedures**

Plan for the entire check-in process to last approximately **1.5 hours**



#### **Step 1: Arrival Time**



- **2:30 PM - 3:30 PM EST:** Cabins (Entering Grades 1st-7th, Fall 2026)
- **3:30 PM - 4:30 PM EST:** Units (Entering Grades 8th-11th, Fall 2026)
- *If you're checking in siblings, please arrive at the check-in time of the youngest camper.*




#### **Step 2: Registration**

- Parents/guardians will be directed to parking.
  - Leave luggage in the car (except medications) until check-in is complete.
- Families will proceed to the Main Lodge for outdoor registration, which includes:
  - Confirmation of session length.
  - Verification of updated forms (including insurance cards).
  - Confirmation of camp store balance.
  - Housing assignments shared with campers.
  - Confirmation that camper has not packed a phone or other technology

### Step 3: Health Check

- In the **Main Lodge**, campers will complete a brief health screening:
  -  **Temperature Check**
    - If a camper has a fever of 100.4°F or higher, they will need to go home and may return after being fever-free for 24 hours without medication.
  -  **Head Check:** Staff will check for head lice. If lice or nits are present:
    - Campers must go home for treatment.
    - They can return with a certificate from a Lice Removal Salon or after self-treatment and no live lice or nits are found.
    - Alternatively, we may arrange for them to attend another session (if space allows).
    - Pro Tip: Conduct head checks at home before camp! Remind your camper not to share brushes, combs, or headwear.

### Step 4: Medication Drop-Off

- At the Health Lodge, parents/guardians can hand off any medications to camp staff.
  -  Prepare medications in a labeled ziplock bag with:
    - Camper's name.
    - Prescription details, dose, and delivery time (e.g., breakfast, lunch, dinner, evening).
    - All medications **MUST** be provided in their original containers.
- Families can speak with the Camp Nurse if needed.

### Step 5: Move-In to Housing

- After completing check-in, families will:
  - Retrieve luggage.
  - Accompany their camper to their living space to help unpack and settle in.
  - Meet the Camp Counselors who will be guiding your camper through their camp adventure!

*If a registered camper does not arrive during check-in, the Camp Office will contact the family to confirm the camper's status.*

### Check-Out Procedures

At the end of the session, families will check out their camper directly at their living space with their camp counselor. To ensure safety, campers will only be released to adults listed on their account's Pickup Authorization List.

- What to Bring
  - Photo ID: Required to check out your camper.
- During Check-Out, families are welcome to:
  - Visit the Camp Store.
  - Pick up Arts & Crafts projects.
  - Check the Lost & Found for any missing items.
  - Attend the Optional Closing Ceremony to celebrate the session.

### Optional Closing Ceremony

- Time: 10:15 AM - 11:00 AM EST
- What to Expect:
  - Speeches reflecting on the session.
  - Camp songs.
  - Special traditions that mark the end of camp.

## Check-Out Times

- **General Check-Out:** 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM EST
- **Important:** If families arrive after 10:00 AM, campers must be signed out by an authorized adult after the Closing Ceremony concludes.

### Early Pickups

We kindly ask that you avoid planning to pick up your camper before 9:00 AM on the last day of their session. During this time, our staff are busy assisting over 100 campers with packing and preparing cabins for departure. Early arrivals can disrupt this process and make it challenging for us to ensure a smooth check-out experience for everyone.

### Late Pickups

Check-out ends promptly at 11:00 AM EST. Campers who are not picked up by 12:00 PM EST will be supervised while we contact the authorized adults listed on their account.

If a camper is not picked up within 24 hours of notification and all efforts to arrange pick-up have been exhausted, the camp may need to contact the Department of Health & Human Services 24-Hour Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline (855-444-3911) for assistance in caring for the child until an authorized adult is available to pick them up.

We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring timely pick-ups to help us provide the best possible experience for all campers and their families.

### Arriving Late, Departing Early, or Missing Part of a Camp Session

We ask families to choose sessions their camper can attend in full, since our program is designed around consistent participation and building a strong group community. Adjustments to arrival or departure times are not part of our standard practice, and partial attendance can impact your camper's experience as well as the cabin group.

If you know of a scheduling conflict, please connect with us to see whether we can accommodate your request prior to registering for camp. Although we wouldn't want a conflict to prevent your child from attending camp, we are thoughtful and selective about what we approve so we can protect the experience for your camper and their peers. If approved, we will ask you to arrange your late arrival or early pick up around a time that works best in the camp day.

If an unexpected situation comes up, such as a travel delay or family emergency, please reach out as soon as possible. We review these situations individually and will do our best to support your camper whenever possible.

### Packing List

You can find a comprehensive Overnight Camp Packing List [HERE](#)

### General Packing Tips

- **Wear What Works:** Choose clothing appropriate for the activities you'll be doing (e.g., skirts might not work well for ziplining).
- **Keep it Youth-Friendly:** Clothing should be free of derogatory, profane, or otherwise inappropriate content.
- **Swimwear Guidelines:** Swimsuits should adequately cover private areas and allow for comfort while tubing, boating, swimming, or jumping into the lake.
- **Durability Matters:** Camp is active, messy, and adventurous. Avoid bringing your favorite or most delicate items—they might not survive the summer.
- **Comfort is Key:** Pack clothes that let you move freely and play hard.

- Camp provides full meals, a daily snack, and additional snacks for purchase at the cantina. Please leave food, snacks, gum and water additives at home. Anything that a camper needs medically should be checked into the Health Office.

### Bedding

- **Camp Beds:** All beds are twin size. A typical setup includes:
  - Twin fitted sheet
  - Top sheet
  - Blanket or sleeping bag
  - Pillow
- **Sleeping Bag:** Choose a sleeping bag that's easy to pack and carry—it'll be essential for overnight campouts and trips.

### Insider Tips

- **Shower Caddy:** A shower caddy, bag, or container is helpful for organizing and transporting your bath supplies to the bathhouse.
- **Towels:** Bring two towels—one for the waterfront and one for showers.
- **Hydration is Essential:** A water bottle is a must-have. You can purchase one at the Camp Store or borrow one if needed.
- **Forgot Something? No worries! Call us, and we'll help:**
  - Forgotten items may be available for purchase at the Camp Store.
  - If needed, a volunteer can pick up items from Meijer or Walmart, with the cost charged to your camper's Camp Store Account.

### Laundry

- **Holdover Campers:** If your camper is staying for a holdover between two sessions, laundry service is included in the holdover fee.
- **Two-Week Sessions:** Laundry is not provided during two-week sessions. If your camper is registered for Session 4ALL, 4A & 4B, 5A & 5B, or Session 5ALL, please pack enough clothing and essentials for the full two weeks.
- **Soiled Bedding:** If a camper's bedding becomes soiled during their stay, we will launder it as needed. Otherwise, laundry is not offered for routine items during the session.

### Lost and Found

To help us keep track of your camper's belongings, please ensure all items are clearly labeled with your camper's full name. Only labeled items will be kept in the lost and found.

- **Labeled items:** Held at Camp for up to one week after your camper's session ends.
- **Unclaimed items:** After one week, any remaining items will be donated to charity.
- **Returning items:** items still at Camp can either be picked up or mailed at the family's expense.

Please note that Camp Newaygo is not responsible for lost or stolen items. To avoid disappointment, we strongly recommend leaving valuables at home.

## Daily Schedule

7:00	Rise and Shine
7:30	Morning Clubs- Optional
8:30	Breakfast
10:00	1st Activity Period
11:15	2nd Activity Period
12:30	Lunch
1:30	Cantina & Camp Store
2:00	Rest Hour
3:15	3rd Activity Period
4:30	DIP
6:00	Dinner
7:15	Evening Program
8:30	Evening Routine
10:00	Lights Out

### Camp Programming

Since 1926 campers have enjoyed a variety of activities that develop resilience, independence, and growth. Our programming model allows campers to experience new activities, develop skills, and build lifelong friendships. No two weeks are the same at Camp Newaygo which is why many campers choose to spend multiple weeks of their summer at camp.

- **Morning Clubs** are optional and give campers unique and energizing ways to start their day. Common options include:
  - Polar Bear Swim
  - Dance Party
  - Morning Run
  - Yoga

Campers will have time to return to their cabin to get ready for the day before breakfast.

- **Classes** are one of the highlights of Camp Newaygo with a wide variety of activities available. With over 30 classes to choose from, campers can follow their passions while learning new skills.
  - Class Selection: Campers sign up for three classes per week on their first evening at camp. This structure allows them to build their skill level in three specific areas over the week.
  - Class Balance: We work hard to ensure each camper gets into their preferred classes while maintaining small class sizes.
  - Activities Offered vary session to session but can include the following:
    - Waterfront: Canoeing, kayaking, sailing, paddleboarding, synchronized swimming, and windsurfing.

- Arts and Crafts: Ceramics, darkroom photography, fashion design, fiber arts, painting, and watercolor.
  - Performance: Cheerleading, dance, drumming, guitar, improv, music, and ukulele.
  - Landsports: Basketball, fencing, gymnastics, tennis, wilderness skills, wacky sports, and yoga.
  - Adventure: Archery, high ropes course, low ropes course, outdoor cooking, outdoor skills, and ziplining.
- **Rest Hour.** Camp is active and fast-paced, and Rest Hour provides a much-needed quiet time. During this cabin-based break, campers can choose to:
    - Nap.
    - Enjoy a quiet solo activity such as reading, journaling, writing letters, or making bracelets.

We encourage campers to bring supplies for these activities to make the most of their downtime.

- **DIP (Daily Interest Period)** takes place every afternoon, giving campers the freedom to choose an activity that suits their mood. Options often include:
  - Free Swim at the Waterfront.
  - Arts and Crafts.
  - Zipline (assigned groups).

Campers can switch activities daily or stick with the same one all week.

- **Waterfront** Camp Newaygo boasts a mile of waterfront on Pickerel Lake, which is part of a chain of four interconnected lakes. Campers also have access to Turtle Island on nearby Sylvan Lake.
  - Supervision: Whenever the waterfront is open, it is staffed with a Waterfront Director and certified lifeguards.
  - Safety:
    - Buddy System: Campers must pair with a buddy for all swim activities.
    - Buddy Board System: Tracks where campers are swimming or boating.
    - Body Checks: In-water checks every 5 minutes and out-of-water checks every 15 minutes.
  - Swim Checks: On the first day of camp, each camper completes a swim check:
    - 10-minute tread (chin and ears above water).
    - 50-yard swim.
    - Results determine the waterfront areas and boating activities campers can safely participate in.
    -

## Special Programs

Cabins and units are scheduled for special programs as a group. These include:

- Tie Dye
- Camp Store Visits
- Dedicated, extended Shower Time
- Wilderness Trips
- Speedboat Tubing
- Zipline Canopy Tour

### **Zipline Canopy Tour**

Camp Newaygo's Zipline Canopy Tour includes three ziplines through the forest canopy, totaling 1,000 feet. Campers can reach speeds of over 20 mph at heights of 90 feet!

- Eligibility: Campers weighing 50–250 pounds.
- Cost: \$35 per session (free for scholarship campers).
- Registration: Sign up during camper registration.

### **Speedboat Tubing**

For campers who complete the swim check as a 10-Minute Swimmer, tubing offers a thrilling ride across Pickerel Lake.

- Cost: \$15 (charged to the camper's store account; free for scholarship campers).
- Details: A one-time experience during the session.

### **Tie Dye**

Campers can create a custom tie-dye shirt featuring an annual Camp Newaygo design.

- **Cost:** \$10 (includes laundry for shirts made within 48 hours of departure; free for scholarship campers).
- **Process:** Campers are guided by a tie-dye expert to make their creation

### **Evening Program**

Each evening after dinner, campers will enjoy a unique and engaging Evening Program. Designed to surprise and delight, these programs bring fresh, fun, and exciting experiences every year.

Evening Programs often include:

- Costumes and Themes: Adding a playful and imaginative twist.
- Group Participation: Encouraging teamwork, camaraderie, and creative problem-solving.
- Exciting Challenges: Providing opportunities for strategy and collaboration.

Campers can look forward to something new and memorable each night!

### **Day Camp**

In addition to Girls' Overnight Camp, Camp Newaygo also offers a co-ed Day Camp for children in kindergarten through 7th grade. This program is separate from Girls' Overnight Camp. Day campers have their own counselors and follow a schedule that uses camp spaces at different times than the overnight program. On Wednesdays, day campers join the larger camp community for dinner and the evening program. They sit together at their own table and participate as their own team, while still remaining a separate program.

### **Overnights and Wilderness Trips**

Overnights and wilderness trips have been a cherished part of Camp Newaygo's program for decades, creating unforgettable experiences and fostering deep bonds among campers and staff. These adventures offer unique opportunities for teamwork, independence, and connection with nature.

### **Tripping Leadership and Logistics**

- Each summer, a dedicated **Tripping Coordinator** oversees the planning and execution of all trips, including:

- Coordinating logistics.
- Planning meals.
- Collaborating with volunteers for camper transportation using our fleet of vans.
- **Staff Training:** All counseling staff receive training on overnight and wilderness trips. Designated **Trip Leads** receive additional training to lead off-site trips safely and effectively.
- **All-Inclusive Fees:** Tripping fees are included in camper registration.

## Cabin Campers

Cabin campers stay on Camp Newaygo's property, exploring our scenic on-site campsites.

- **Younger Campers:** May camp at the waterfront or other designated areas on-site.
- **Activities:**
  - Setting up tents.
  - Gathering firewood.
  - Cooking dinner and breakfast over the fire.

## Unit Campers

Unit campers embark on off-site wilderness trips, immersing themselves in exciting outdoor adventures.

- **Activities:**
  - Hiking, canoeing, kayaking, or tubing to a remote campsite.
  - Setting up tents.
  - Gathering firewood.
  - Cooking dinner and breakfast over the fire.
- **Common Destinations:**
  - Muskegon River
  - Pere Marquette River
  - Manistee National Forest

**Specialized Off-Site Trips** Certain sessions include specialized wilderness trips for older campers

- Sessions 1 and 2:
  - Extended, Expedition Trips option (change annually).
- Leader-in-Training:
  - Pictured Rocks (4-day backpacking trip).
- Pioneers Session 4B:
  - Pine River (3-day canoe trip).
- Pioneers Session 5:
  - Beaver Island (4-day backpacking trip).
- Wakonda Session 5:
  - South Manitou Island (4-day backpacking trip). *\*Subject to change, based on 2026 Ferry Company Operation Plan\**

These overnights and wilderness trips are some of the most memorable experiences campers will have at Camp Newaygo, fostering adventure, resilience, and lifelong friendships.

## Expedition Trips

The expedition trips during Sessions 1 and 2 take place primarily off-site. Campers do not register for classes and spend the majority of their session on a trail or river. Elective activities (zipline, tubing, and tie dye) take place when they return to camp. Additional information will be sent out to participants before their arrival to camp.

## Camper Holdovers

For some campers, one week of Camp Newaygo is just not enough!

If your camper is attending multiple consecutive sessions, such as Sessions 1 and 2, Sessions 3 and 4, or Sessions 4B and 5A the holdover option allows them to stay at camp over the weekend without needing to travel home.

Holdover weekends are available only to campers enrolled in back-to-back sessions (Sessions 1 and 2, Sessions 2 and 3, Sessions 3 and 4, or Sessions 4B and 5A). Campers registered for Sessions 4A and 4B or 5A and 5B are required to stay for weekend programming, referred to as “stayover.”

**Family visits are not permitted** during holdover weekends, as campers remain engaged in the camp environment.

Holdover weekends provide a relaxing and enjoyable transition between sessions. Campers experience camp in a smaller, more intimate setting, enjoy special meals, and have time to connect with friends in a laid-back environment. Programming often includes exciting field trips to destinations such as Michigan's Adventure, Fremont Cinemas, or open-air dune rides along Lake Michigan.

Camp Newaygo ensures all staffing, supervision, and program logistics are fully managed for these outings. Please note that destinations vary each year and are subject to change. Specific trips are not guaranteed.

If your camper is staying for two consecutive weeks but not registered for holdover there are special considerations, **please contact camp directly to make alternative arrangements**. In general, if your camper will not be staying for holdover and plans to go home between sessions, they must be picked up during the normal pickup time. To return, they will need to go through the full check-in process at the designated check-in time, including health and lice checks. Again, this is a special circumstance and may require additional consideration, please email [campbiz@campnewaygo.org](mailto:campbiz@campnewaygo.org) if this applies to you.

## Camper Birthdays at Camp Newaygo

Birthdays at Camp Newaygo are truly special! If your camper celebrates their birthday while at camp, we'll make sure it's a day to remember.

- **Camp Tradition:** The birthday camper will wear the **Birthday Hat** and be serenaded with a special “Happy Birthday” song sung by the entire camp during lunch.
- **Special Surprises:** Throughout the day, your camper is sure to receive plenty of birthday wishes and maybe even a friendship bracelet from new friends.

If you'd like to send a **cake or gift**, we recommend something that can be shared with the whole cabin to make the celebration even more fun. Please email [campbiz@campnewaygo.org](mailto:campbiz@campnewaygo.org) or call **231-652-1184** to get your package approved.

We look forward to celebrating your camper's big day!

## Camp Store and Cantina

Your camper will have the opportunity to visit the Camp Store at least once a week and the Cantina at least four times a week.

The Camp Store has a variety of items including t-shirts, sweatshirts, stickers, hats, water bottles, journals, stuffed animals, and so much more. There are new designs added every summer.

The Cantina has candy and snacks that range in price from \$.50 to \$3.00. Campers are allowed to buy two items per day. On Wednesdays there is pop available for purchase at the Cantina.

Families add a wide range of money to their camper's accounts. It is up to families to discuss with their camper how much money is in their account and how they are allowed to spend their money. Keep in mind that if your camper completes the swim check as a 10-Minute Swimmer, they'll be offered the opportunity to go tubing once per session and the \$15 fee will be taken out of their store account.

You can add money to your campers store account & view what your camper is purchasing throughout the week. Please note, we do not allow campers to keep cash in their lodging spaces as things may get misplaced.

- Log into your account [HERE](#)
- Go To: Additional Options
- Select: Camp Store
- Select: Add money to the camp store/ Manage store accounts
- You can add money here
- Select "View Purchase History" to view how your camper is spending their money

## Meals

- Our Chef Team and Culinary Interns pride themselves on feeding campers well balanced meals that fuel their bodies for the active lifestyle of camp. Our meals are kid friendly and nutritious. Campers share each meal family style with their cabinmates and counselors. There is a salad bar available at lunch and dinner.
- Sample Menu
  - Breakfast: Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Hash Browns, Fruit, Yogurt, Cereal
  - Lunch: Chicken Tacos, Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Cheese, Spanish Rice, Refried Beans, Juice, Brownie
  - Dinner: Chicken Parmesan, Spaghetti, Salad Bar, Breadsticks, Juice, Oreo Bar
  - Evening Snack: Goldfish
- We accommodate a variety of common dietary restrictions, as long as they are listed on the camper's form two weeks in advance. Common dietary restrictions include; dairy free, vegetarian, and gluten free. If your camper has a different dietary restriction please call us so we can prepare for them. We may work as a team for you to provide appropriate snacks or meal equivalents.
- Our facility is not peanut free. If your camper has a severe allergy to peanuts, please call us so we can determine if we are a good fit with your camper's allergy.

## Health Information

- **Camp Newaygo Health Lodge**
  - The Camp Newaygo Health Lodge is staffed by a Registered Nurse and a seasonal Health Officer. Both individuals live on-site and provide physical, mental, and emotional support to our camp community.
  - All other staff are first aid, CPR, and AED certified and many of our staff hold American Red Cross Waterfront Lifeguard Certifications. They also undergo epi-pen administration training.
  - There is a treatment room and four private recovery rooms in the Camp Newaygo Health Lodge.
  - The Nurse's Station is stocked with necessary over-the-counter medications and first aid supplies.
- **Health History Information and Check-In**
  - During check-in every child will undergo a mandatory lice check, as required by the American Camp Association.
  - Please be as forthcoming as possible with your camper's health information. We want to set your camper up for success for their time at Camp Newaygo. If your camper has a special need Camp Newaygo cannot accommodate, we will be happy to recommend you a summer camp that may be a better fit for your family.
- **Emergency Contact Information**
  - Please make sure all the information for the primary account holder on your registration account is accurate and up to date. This is the first individual we will call should a need arise at camp.
- **Medication**

- Medications need to be in the original container. Please place all medications in a zip-lock bag labeled with the camper's name.
- These medications will be turned in during check-in to our Registered Nurse.
- The Camp Nurse will distribute medications around breakfast, lunch, dinner, and before bed. Medications will be distributed based on the information you provided on your camper's health history and during check-in and the information provided on the medication container.
- We strongly encourage you to include all the medications your camper regularly takes at home. This consistency will help your camper be successful at camp.
- **Fever Policy**
  - If a camper develops a fever while at camp, guardians will be notified, and the camper will remain in the Health & Leadership Lodge. All campers presenting with a fever will need to be picked up by a parent or guardian if the fever does not dissipate within 24 hours of care at the Health Lodge. They may return to camp once they are 24 hours fever-free (without fever-reducing medication).
- **Off-Site Medical Care**
  - Should your camper require X-rays, lab work, orthodontia or other care beyond the scope of our Camp Health Lodge, we will seek treatment at Corewell Health Gerber Hospital or Spectrum Health Walk-in Clinic. We will make every effort to contact you before your child arrives at off-site care, although we will not delay care if we cannot reach you.
  - If additional medical care is required, resulting prescriptions, doctor, or hospital bills will be charged to you. Camp will contact you to discuss payment. You will be responsible for filing medical bills with your insurance company for reimbursement.
- **Insurance Card**
  - Please remember to upload a copy of your insurance card to your camper's account in our registration system. To do so, complete the following steps
    - Log into your account
    - Click the three line menu button
    - Click Document Center
    - Click Upload Document
    - Click Insurance Card

If you need assistance please contact [campbiz@campnewaygo.org](mailto:campbiz@campnewaygo.org). We will not be able to check in your camper without a copy of your updated insurance information.

### Communication with Parents

- At Camp Newaygo, we are committed to extraordinary parent communication. Our Camp Staff will contact you if any of the following happens:
  - Your camper spends the night in the Health Lodge for any reason.
  - Your camper is restricted from significant amounts of activity due to an illness, injury, or behavior
  - Your camper requires off-site care (e.g., stitches, X-ray, dental care).
  - Your camper repeatedly visits the Camp Nurse with the same complaint.
- Please also understand that our Camp Staff cannot call every parent of every camper who comes to the Health Lodge for minor care. Scrapes, ice packs, and insect bites are routine. We often let tired campers rest and re-hydrate in the Health Lodge.

### Homesickness

No other experience is as fun and formative, but did you know that 95% of campers report feeling homesick at overnight camp? Our staff is trained in recognizing and validating homesickness in campers but not letting it consume their camp experience.

Part of your camper's success at Camp will depend on the preparations made before they ever leave home. Whether it's working through pre-departure jitters or knowing what to pack, following a few simple guidelines will ensure that your camper starts her experience on the right foot.

- Be positive.
  - Encourage and engage your camper in positive conversations about camp. Review the information in this packet with them to get them excited about the schedule and daily activities.
- Address it.
  - If your camper brings up homesickness, confront it directly. Let them know that it is normal but not to dwell on it. Remind them that they can miss home and still have an awesome time at camp.
- Don't make a "pick-up deal."
  - Promising "If you feel homesick, I'll come and get you" undermines children's confidence and dramatically intensifies homesickness. Instead, normalize their anxiety, talk positively about camp, and make sure they know an early pick-up is not an option.
- Double-check the packing list.
  - Pack with your camper so they take ownership in what they are bringing with them. Let them choose a favorite book or quiet activity for Rest Hour.
- Label everything.
  - It's easy to lose things at camp, but if you want it back, it's got to have your name on it. Label everything from your t-shirts to your toothbrush. And leave really expensive gear at home. Many children lose something at camp, so check the lost-and-found during check out.
- Spend practice time away from home.
  - Nothing builds confidence and teaches a child how to cope with time away from home better than...(you guessed it)...time away from home. That weekend at grandma and grandpa's will do wonders for their adjustment. Remember: No phone calls. This is the time to practice writing letters!
- Double-check the starting time for check-in and check-out.
  - Start camp off on a smooth note by arriving on time and on the right day. Use a wall calendar in the months prior to opening day to make an exciting count-down to the big day.

While your camper is at camp you can send them positive communication from home. Please see the Staying in Touch with Your Camper section for more information.

## Staying in Touch with Your Camper

- **Photos**
  - Photos will be uploaded to our password protected gallery on: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays by 6PM.
  - You can view the photos [HERE](#), using the password 'Summer2026'
  - Our media specialist will do their best to capture photos of every child. Please be aware that our primary goal as a program is to provide a safe, fun experience for your camper (and NOT to capture every moment of their camp experience in photos).
  - Find out more about our approach to posting photos [HERE](#)
- **Emailing Campers**
  - You can email your camper through your registration account. You must purchase emails in blocks. Please remember that your camper cannot email you back, but they really love getting emails from you.
  - Emails received by 8:00AM will be delivered at lunch mail call.
  - To purchase emails:
    - Log into your account [HERE](#)
    - Click the three bars next to "Reservations"
    - Go to: Message Center
    - Select: Email a Camper
    - Select: Purchase Email Credits
  - To allow family or friends (that are not on your account) to email your camper
    - Click the three bars next to "Reservations"
    - Go to: Message Center

- Select: Friend Accounts
  - Follow directions to invite Friends/Family to email your camper
- **Sending Letters**
  - You can send handwritten letters through USPS to camp. Letters will be delivered at lunch mail call the day after they arrive. Please allow 2-3 business days for your letter to get to camp. Some family members choose to send mail the Friday before their camper is dropped off at camp to ensure it arrives on time. Letters that arrive after a session is over will be returned to the sender.
  - Physical Address: Camp Newaygo, Camper's First and Last Name and Cabin, 5333 South Centerline Road, Newaygo, MI 49337
- **Package Policy**
  - In efforts to celebrate the unique, simplistic lifestyle that Camp allows and to promote unity within the camp family, Camp Newaygo is package-free. We encourage you to use our email platform or handwritten letters to communicate with your camper.
  - We understand that essential items may be forgotten at home or in the car. If this happens, please email [campbiz@campnewaygo.org](mailto:campbiz@campnewaygo.org) or call 231-652-1184 to get your package approved. We will provide you with next steps to ensure your camper gets their essential item(s). We also have essential items available for purchase at camp and the ability to get essential items from a local store, which may be quicker than mailing a package.
  - Any other packages will be opened and discarded. Please be sure to share this information with family and friends who may be planning to send packages! Packages are any items received in the mail other than a regular flat envelope (Up to the size of a flat "6 X 9" envelope).

## **Camp Staff**

Our top priority is for staff to be positive role models for our campers and to provide campers with an incredible camp experience. Camp Newaygo's dynamic staff of young adults go that extra mile by bringing an impressive variety of talents and experiences in the arts, sports, science, counseling, and leadership. What stands out most about our staff is the level of commitment and care they put into everything that they do. Staff members play many different roles in the day. From leading songs after meals, planning and facilitating activities, lifeguarding during swim times, to supervising campers at night, our staff are the heartbeat of Camp Newaygo and approach their roles with confidence and enthusiasm.

- **Background Checks**
  - If a candidate is offered and accepts a position at camp, we then conduct a series of background checks. We complete a nationwide Criminal History Background check, and a search of the National Sex Offender Registry for every candidate. For individuals over 21 years of age, we also complete a Central Registry search, which is a database for child abuse and neglect. All staff members (new and returning, and year-round staff) and volunteers are required to do these background checks every year, prior to the start of our summer programs.
- **Staff Team**
  - We hire staff from all over the United States and all over the world. In a typical year, roughly half the staff is made up of returning counselors, and half are new to Camp Newaygo. We want to uphold the traditions and things that make Camp Newaygo special to our campers and alumni, but we also want to bring in new ideas and perspectives to keep our programs fresh and relevant. It is important to note camp has a variety of positions in the summer, including co-ed noncounseling leadership roles, day camp staff, and support positions.
- **Pre-Camp Training**
  - The key to a successful summer is a well-prepared staff. Prior to the start of the summer, camp staff spend two full weeks participating in training workshops. This helps to familiarize them with camp policies, fine-tune skills, and foster a positive group dynamic. By the time campers arrive, our staff are fully prepared to make the summer ahead the best yet.

**Directions to Camp**

Please note that Google Maps might direct you past the entrance of camp and onto a dirt road. Camp Newaygo is off of Centerline Road and has two large signs at the bottom of the hill.

**Physical Address:**

Camp Newaygo  
5333 South Centerline Road  
Newaygo, MI 49337

**From Grand Rapids** (roughly 1 hour)

- Take M-37 North and follow signs for Newaygo
- At the roundabout take the 1st exit towards Bailey/Grant/Newaygo
- Turn left on Curve Street
- Turn right on Centerline Road
- Proceed 2.5 miles, cross over a channel, signs for Camp Newaygo will be on your left, go up the hill

**From Traverse City** (roughly 2 hours)

- Take M-37 South and follow signs for Newaygo
- Turn right on East 56th Street
- Turn Right on Centerline Road
- Proceed .5 miles, cross over a channel, signs for Camp Newaygo will be on your left, go up the hill

**From Detroit/Lansing** (roughly 3 hours/2 hours)

- Take I-96 West towards Grand Rapids
- Take M-37 North and follow signs for Newaygo
- At the roundabout take the 1st exit towards Bailey/Grant/Newaygo
- Turn left on Curve Street
- Turn right on Centerline Road
- Proceed 2.5 miles, cross over a channel, signs for Camp Newaygo will be on your left, go up the hill

**From Chicago** (roughly 3 ½ hours)

- Take I-94 towards Michigan
- Take I-196 and follow signs for Holland/Grand Rapids
- Merge onto 131-N toward Cadillac
- Take M-37 North and follow signs for Newaygo
- At the roundabout take the 1st exit towards Bailey/Grant/Newaygo
- Turn left on Curve Street
- Turn right on Centerline Road
- Proceed 2.5 miles, cross over a channel, signs for Camp Newaygo will be on your left, go up the hill

**Places to Stay Near Camp Newaygo**

If you are looking for accommodations nearby so that you can visit the area, we are familiar with the following places

[The Gerber Guest House](#)

[Muskegon River Inn](#)

[Little Switzerland Resort & Campground](#)

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**THANK YOU!** Counting down the days until camp!