



Top 10 Things Churches Need to Know about Summer Camp 2021 at DuBois Center

1 Why Church Camp?

Because church camp is joyful fun! It is a sacred place. It is intensely relational, and positive role models abound! Camp is different from Vacation Bible School and Sunday School. Campers and leaders live, work, play and worship together from early morning until late into the evening. They grow together through shared experiences and form an intentional community. They hear our faith stories in new places and new ways, and find opportunities to share their own.

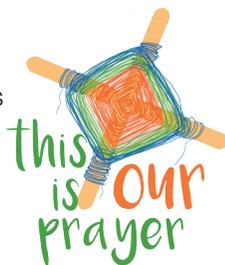
Celebrate Camp this Spring in Your Church!

We invite you to lift up our shared ministry. Select a Sunday this spring for your **Camp Sunday** and have fun celebrating! The summer camp schedule, creative ideas for promotion, bulletin inserts, posters and additional support materials are included in this packet. **Reproducible promotional materials are also available for easy download online at DuBoisCenter.org** (click "About Us" tab, then scroll down for "Info for Churches").

FYI—Summer Camp info is online and was mailed directly to campers from the last three summers.

2 Summer Curriculum

This Is Our Prayer, at its core, is about longings of the human heart. The daily themes explore issues and concerns that all people wrestle with, regardless of their beliefs or background. As people of faith, we look to scripture and the traditions of those who came before us to see how we might face these same issues in our own lives. It doesn't matter if we fold our hands and bow or raise them up and look to heaven, God is longing to connect with us. God is listening for the longings of our heart.



3 Family Share & Church Share

Summer camp at DuBois Center is an important piece of year-round faith formation for many ISC churches. To encourage and support their church families, many congregations pay a portion of the camp fee. We call this the "church share".

To make bookkeeping and end-of-summer billing less complicated, we encourage churches to **determine a set amount of support per camper** versus a percentage of the fee. (For example: \$250 for full-week campers, \$275 for horse campers and \$125 for part-week campers.) In this way church support remains the same, no matter which discounts a family may apply.

Save time! Pay for all your church's campers with one check. We'll bill your church toward the end of the summer camp season. *This will not affect the Early Bird discount for campers.*

4 Online Registration

Families may register and make payments by mail OR online at **DuBoisCenter.org**. They will click REGISTER at the top of the home page and follow the directions on the web site. Online registration requires online payment.

5 Early Bird Discount & More!!

Early Bird Deadline: May 10! Families who register online or postmark their registration and non-refundable deposit by May 10 will SAVE \$30 on full-week sessions and \$15 on part-week sessions.

Spread the Word! Campers save when they **invite their friends** who are new to DuBois Center, or have not attended since 2018. Campers receive \$30 off their camp fee for each of their invited friends who attends a full-week camp and \$15 off for each friend who attends a part-week camp. More friends, more savings!

Family Savings! When two or more children from the same immediate family attend summer camp at DuBois Center, the family may take \$25 off each child's camp fee.

Financial Assistance is available to help enable young people from families that are struggling financially to attend camp. Contact DuBois Center for more details.

Questions?

Registration

Registrar
618.357.1809
register@DuBoisCenter.org

Camp/Program

DuBois Center
618.787.2202
dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org

DuBoisCenter.org

6 COVID-19 Protocols

While our plans are being finalized for each aspect of camp, from check-in, cabin groups, activities, food service, through pick-up, we can say they will closely follow the guidelines set forth in the Field Guide from the American Camping Association. These guidelines suggest that most activities occur outside and physically distanced, with masking when those two components cannot be maintained. For more information, please check out the Greetings letter from Hayley Elliott included in this packet. More specific plan updates will be posted on **DuBoisCenter.org** as they are finalized.

7 Summer of Service for Young Adults

It has been said that serving on camp staff is like being on a mission trip all summer long. Putting faith into action, building Christian community and making a difference in the lives of the young people we serve – it's great for the soul and the resumé. Young adults gain valuable experience for careers in ministry, teaching, recreation, social work and other service-related fields.

**Have young adults to recommend?
Contact DuBois Center.**

8 Be a Hoyleton Buddy

Looking for a close-to-home, overnight mission experience? Consider Buddy to Buddy. Youth from your church (completed grades 8-12), with adult chaperones, get hands-on experience in acceptance and inclusion serving as Hoyleton Buddies. During the day, Buddies are paired with one or two young people from the residential programs of Hoyleton Youth & Family Services. They participate in activities together including crafts, nature hikes, dock swims, canoeing, and more.

After the Hoyleton day campers head for home, Buddies reflect on the day's experience, plan for the next day and complete a physical work project at DuBois Center. There is also time each day just to relax or play. Registration is by church group, not individual. Adult chaperones must accompany youth participants.

SPACE IS LIMITED. Contact DuBois Center for details.

9 DuBois Delivered

Understandably, there are mixed opinions about sending kids back to camp, so we are offering our "DuBois Delivered" option – Can't make it to camp? We'll bring some camp to you! Details can be found on our website at **DuBoisCenter.org** or by calling the camp office at **618.787.2202**.



10 Serving and Growing

Leadership Development is a priority for DuBois Center. Our ability to serve as an extension of your ministry is greatly enhanced through volunteer leaders. Mature, caring **ADULT VOLUNTEERS** significantly impact the lives of young people as their mentors and faith-filled role models. Volunteer chaplains, counselors, barn helpers, nurses and resource people are vital to our ministry. Most are 18 years of age or older and serve for a week, (though one- and two-day spots are available). Help us **spread the word** about these meaningful service opportunities.

VOLUNTEER NURSES, most of whom are RNs, serve as part of our team during the summer at DuBois Center. Many return year after year, citing their time at camp as one of their most rewarding ministry experiences.

Who in your congregation might be able and willing to answer this call?

LEAD (Leadership Experiences And Development)

was developed for young people who have completed grades 10-12 and have a desire to serve in leadership roles. LEAD includes a mix of leadership training, faith discussions, work with younger campers and team building. A limited number of campers can be accepted and they must be referred by local church leaders. **LEAD often fills quickly!**

Applications for LEAD, volunteers and for paid staff are available online at **DuBoisCenter.org**.



618.787.2202
dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org

DuBoisCenter.org

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DuBois Center is the camp and retreat center of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Because we affirm the value of all God's people, the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, ability, national origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or gender identity. To the extent possible, we endeavor to accommodate those with a variety of physical, mental, emotional, medical, or dietary needs.