

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Q. What is the GPS address for Camp Christopher?

A. 1930 North Hametown Road, Akron, OH 44333.

## Q. Can I schedule a tour of the facilities at Camp Christopher?

A. We would love to show you about the grounds! Please contact us at [campchristopher@ccdacle.org](mailto:campchristopher@ccdacle.org) and suggest some dates/times for your visit. Someone will reply soon.

## Q. Who can book Camp Christopher?

A. Individuals or groups may book at Camp Christopher. The licensee or group contact must be at least 25 years of age. Catholic Charities licenses Camp Christopher to groups or individuals whose missions align well with the mission of Catholic Charities. The process begins when we receive your completed **Reservation Request Form**.

## Q. How far in advance can I book Camp Christopher?

A. Individuals or groups booking the entire facility may book 24 months in advance. All other groups may book up to 12 months in advance of your stay. Groups that are not booking the entire camp will not be permitted to book both halls at the same time so that multiple groups may access meeting space throughout their stay. The process for booking the facility begins when we receive your completed **Reservation Request Form**.

## Q. We would like to arrange a private booking of Camp Christopher. Can we arrange to have the camp to ourselves?

A. That is an option but you must rent all of the cabins and buildings in order to do this. The rate for this is listed on the **Reservation Request Form**. Camp Christopher is a very busy place and many groups want to access the facility for their events. Nearly 500 people enjoy the facility every day of the summer. With proper notice and planning, we are certain we can offer an excellent experience to everyone sharing the facility.

## Q. When is check in/check out time?

A. Guests may check in at 4:00 pm. Check out time is 12:00 pm on the final day of the group's stay. Special arrangements may be available. Please contact our office to discuss your group's specific needs.

## Q. What does it cost to book Camp Christopher?

A. Rates for facilities and activities can be found on our **Reservation Request Form**. Please complete this and submit it to begin the process of booking your stay!

## Q. When is my payment due?

A. Payments and Deposits:

- Any reservations made 91 days or more in advance of your scheduled arrival requires that 10% of the total charge (or \$100, whichever is greater), be paid at the time of the reservation. The remaining balance will automatically be charged to your credit card in full 90 days prior to your scheduled arrival.
- Any reservations made within 90 days of your scheduled arrival requires 100% of the total charge be applied to your credit card at the time of the reservation.
- Any charges related to excess cleaning, damage to property and/or contents, theft of any property or contents and any charge associated with violating the License Agreement will be charged to licensee's credit card on file within 30 days of departure and an itemized list of charges will be emailed to the address on record.
- We accept Visa, Mastercard and Discover credit cards only. We do not accept American Express, debit cards or personal checks. Certified checks or money orders will be accepted if received more than 90 days in advance of scheduled arrival date; however, a credit card must be provided for possible cleaning charges. (Please call for arrangements).

- Please note: the responsible person making the reservation must provide the credit card used as well as a driver's license or official state identification at the time of check-in.

**Q. What if we need to cancel?**

A. Cancellations received more than 90 days in advance of the scheduled arrival date will receive a full refund, less a \$100 processing fee. Cancellations received within 90 days of the scheduled arrival date will receive no refund unless a new reservation of equal value takes the place of the cancelled dates. Reservations cannot be transferred without express written permission from Catholic Charities Corporation.

**Q. Will my homeowner's policy be adequate to provide insurance coverage for the use of camp?**

A. You would need to review that with your agent and our office. Licensee's must be fully insured with the following coverage forms, limits and policy endorsements:

- Commercial General Liability Insurance with a combined single limit of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.
- Coverage for both bodily injuries including death and property damage throughout the use and occupancy of Camp Christopher and completed operations of the group.
- Insurance must be obtained from a carrier rated at least "A" by A.M. Best Company and approved in Ohio.

If your policy reflects this level and type of coverage, please contact our office for the specific language required in your certificate of insurance.

**Q. How do I purchase supplemental insurance?**

A. You must complete the **Supplemental Insurance Policy Application** and submit this to our office.

**Q. Can we come out early to set up for our stay at Camp Christopher?**

A. We would like to work with every group to make their stay enjoyable. But depending on the very busy camp schedule, we may or may not be able to allow early entrance for set up. You will need to coordinate this with the Camp Director. Early set up may require additional insurance and fees.

**Q. How are the Meeting Spaces arranged?**

A. There are two large halls, four pavilions and several outdoor gathering spaces on the grounds of Camp Christopher:

**St. Francis Hall** is attached to our fully functioning commercial kitchen and has accessible restrooms located within the hall. This space can host 250 guests, seated 10 persons to a table. The hall can be divided into two sections allowing your group to separate when necessary. A working fireplace makes this hall useful for both dining and social activities.

**McDowell Hall** is perfect for religious ceremonies, seminars, presentations and group work. The building has a small chapel attached, as well as a stage and restrooms. Twelve 8-person round tables are available for use as well as a large conference room table. If using the hall in assembly style, there is seating for up to 200 individuals. The hall has a working fireplace and a porch overlooking Lake Marion.

The **McDowell Hall Pavilion** is connected to McDowell Hall. This small pavilion can seat 60 people at picnic tables. This is a great space to spread out from the Hall when doing break out groups.

The **Day Camp Pavilion** is located closest to the parking lot and is the host to our summer program for our youngest campers. The pavilion is very large and may seat up to 100 individuals. There are swings and a playground very nearby, making it a perfect place for a family party. A built in fireplace at the end of the pavilion makes this a warm and inviting place to gather. Although restrooms are not nearby, portable commodes may be arranged for a fee with advance planning. Electricity is available at the pavilion.

The **Happiness Pavilion** can hold 60 individuals at picnic tables and is very close to the bath house, making it a convenient and comfortable location for meetings, parties or break-out sessions. With Lake Marion on one side and the athletic fields on the other, this facility is in the heart of the camp. A fire ring is conveniently located near the pavilion for evening campfires. Electricity is available at the pavilion.

Our **Faith Pavilion** was built in 2015 and can hold 80 individuals at picnic tables. This pavilion is nestled into the woods near our low ropes challenge course and overlooks Black Willow Lake. A bath house is located within a short walk. The built in brick fireplace with hearth makes for a warm and inviting gathering place. Electricity is available at the pavilion.

The **Trip Site Amphitheater** is a beautiful meeting space for any group. With a fire pit at its base and seating for 300, this makes a perfect spot for opening or closing ceremonies or for presentations to large groups. Despite being out in nature, this location is surprisingly private.

**Indian Village** makes for a great location for large group campfires and ceremonies. Located in the grassy field near the entrance of the camp, this space is bounded by split rail fences and features a totem pole donated by a nearby carver.

Our **Outdoor Chapel** offers a peaceful location for prayer and worship. This space has seating for approximately 50 people and is located on the other side of Lake Marion near the Statue of Mary.

Halls and meeting spaces are set for ongoing activities at the camp. Groups may move and re-arrange the hall furniture (within the space), but must restore the arrangement prior to leaving. Groups may not move furniture or equipment from one meeting space to another without permission from the Camp Director.

To get a better understanding of the camp's layout, view our [Camp Christopher Map](#).

**Q. Do you have cable television/telephones/internet available?**

A. There is no cable television available on the grounds. There is a telephone available for business purposes or emergencies at the back of the dining hall or in the camp office (Lodge). Wireless internet is not available. A landline computer may be made available in the camp office for the group leader if necessary.

**Q. Can we decorate the halls?**

A. You may decorate within the limits outlined in your group's License Agreement as long as all decorations are removed at the end of the time you are using the building. If there is damage from decorations (for example if paint is removed by tape from hanging decorations) the licensee will be charged the cost of repair.

**Q. Can we decorate the grounds of the camp?**

A. At no time are signs/paint to be used to mark directions/distances on trees, paths, signs, posts or buildings. This can be distracting and confusing to other visitors, and are easy for groups to overlook when cleaning up after an event.

**Q. Can we prepare our own meals in the kitchen at Camp Christopher?**

A. Our kitchen is licensed by the Health Department and used for professional food service throughout the entire year. We do not allow guests to enter or use the kitchen at Camp Christopher. Our [Menu Options](#) provide a variety of selections that are available to groups, but special requests may also be met with adequate planning. Camp Christopher is able to accommodate most special dietary requests. Groups are permitted to cook over campfires on the grounds. If you prefer, we can assist you in finding local food delivery or catering services nearby.

**Q. Is there a daily schedule at Camp Christopher?**

A. We will do our best to work around your group’s wishes with scheduling of activities and meals. At times, when the facility is being shared, meal times may not be adjusted. But we will work with you to try to accommodate your needs to the best of our ability. Activities are scheduled during daylight hours, generally anytime between 9:00 am and 6:00 pm. Although volume of sound should be kept at a reasonable level at all times so that it is not objectionable to other visitors, official Quiet Hours begin each evening at 11:00 pm and last until 7:00 am.

**Q. What are the cabins and sleeping accommodations like?**

A. Camp Christopher is a summer camp for children. Our cabins are intentionally rustic and simple. Cabins provide a bunk with a mattress and some shelves, but you will need to bring your own bedding. Most cabins do have heat, but you can look to the **Reservation Request Form** to verify the cabins you are licensing are heated. You will need your own toiletries and towels if you plan to shower. The cabins have limited electric access, so blow-dryers and curling irons must be used in the bathhouses, not the cabins. Your personal preferences, the time of year you are staying and the activities your group is planning on doing should determine what to bring. If you would like help creating a list, we would be happy to customize something that you can send to your group. To see how the interior of each cabin is designed, view our **Cabin Layout Guide**.

**Q. May I bring my RV or Camper?**

A. No. Camp Christopher does not permit recreational vehicles on the premises.

**Q. Do you have minimum supervision ratios for children at the camp?**

A. YES. The licensee is responsible for provision of adult supervision to children at the following ratio:

Age of minors	Number of Adults Required	Number of Minors/Adult (Overnight Supervision)	Number of Minors/Adult (Daytime Supervision)
Under 4	1	1	1
4-5	1	5	6
6-8	1	6	8
9-14	1	8	10
15-18	1	10	12

**Q. How can we make arrangements to use the Ropes Courses?**

A. Our **Ropes Challenge Course and Teambuilding Activities** are designed to help your group grow closer together, achieve their goals, discover new interpersonal strengths and develop resilience. Rates for the Ropes Challenge Course Activities and Teambuilding Activities are available on our **Reservation Request Form**.

Our leaders are certified, caring adults committed to helping your group succeed in meeting its goals. Although guests may not use the courses without certified trained staff present, we are able to tailor our program to your group, even taking portable activities into the deep woods or open fields of our 160 acre facility. Our activities are designed to challenge participants to step outside of their comfort zone and normal daily routines and experience an exciting adventure. There are three levels of adventure from which to choose:

**Level I: Teambuilding Activities** are typically at ground level and focus on highlighting each individual’s unique qualities and abilities and the process of folding these into effective decision making as a team to achieve a common goal. Upon completion, participants reflect on their experience and what they have learned about trust, communication and leadership. These challenges typically focus on:

**Cooperative Game, Socialization Activity, Ice-Breaker:** in these fun activities, participants are encouraged to try new things that take them outside of their comfort zone.

**Group Initiative:** participants are given obstacles that challenge the group to combine its resources and work together to find solutions.

**Trust Activity:** through a series of actions, participants are challenged to demonstrate their trust in the group.

**Level II: Low Ropes Course Activities** are similar in the goal, but raise the level of challenge by taking the participants off the ground. These activities involve a series of cables, ropes and obstacles strung between trees or poles, 12 to 18 inches above the ground, that test physical strength, stamina, agility, balance and flexibility. Although participants may feel this is more physically demanding, success continues to depend on the team as everyone plays a role in each succeeding at the elements.

**Level III: High Ropes Course Challenges, Zip Line and Rock Wall** offer both individual and partner challenges. These are built on telephone poles and use climbing ropes, steel cables and wood platforms to test participant's resolve as they are raised 30-45 feet above the ground to complete their challenge. Participants experience an overall greater sense of well-being and accomplishment through their progress in this course, especially when they reflect on their success at doing what they thought was impossible. Group reflection on how their new knowledge and self awareness can be applied to other situations completes the program and helps participants process what they have discovered through the experience.

**Q. If we have people in our group who have strong outdoor skills, can they guide us on hikes in the woods?**

A. There are trails that are open to all visitors which your group may access (adults must supervise children at all times). Individuals are not permitted to hike alone—please stay in a minimum group of two while hiking in the event of an emergency. Maps are provided at the base of the kiosk behind the low ropes course. This is an excellent place to begin a hike. You may hike without a guide on the marked trails. No guests may hike on unmarked trails.

**Q. How can we book horseback riding?**

A. Camp Christopher works with a local stable to bring horses in for groups interested in this activity. No previous riding experience is necessary. Youth with little to no experience may enjoy a Corral ride, while older and more experienced riders may be able to ride out on the trails. Rates for horseback riding are available on our

**Reservation Request Form.**

All guests riding horses at Camp Christopher will be required to complete the **Horseback Skills Riding Disclosure** Form prior to riding.

**Q. May we hold bonfires at Camp Christopher?**

A. Outdoor campfires are permitted at designated areas (in fire rings). Per Ohio EPA burning regulations, campfires may have wood stacked no larger than 2 feet high by 3 feet wide, and must use clean, seasoned firewood or the equivalent. Ceremonial fires are not permitted at Camp Christopher.

Fireplaces in pavilions and halls must be used with great care. The fireplaces at camp are not designed to heat buildings; please keep fires to a reasonable size (no more than 3 to 4 logs at a time). Small amounts of additional firewood for fireplaces can be purchased.

No fires are permitted in the relic known as 'Old Man's Cabin'.

An adult must be present at all times a fire is burning, and must completely extinguish all fires prior to leaving the area.

**Q. May we bring firewood into the camp?**

A. YES. You may bring firewood or have it delivered. Please contact our office if you plan to have wood delivered prior to your visit.

**Q. May we drink alcohol at the camp?**

A. NO. Camp Christopher is a family environment and is frequently a shared facility. In order to maintain the safest environment possible, no Licensee or visitor may possess, consume, serve or sell alcohol or drugs on the grounds of the camp.

**Q. Is smoking permitted on the grounds?**

A. Smoking is not permitted in any building or on the grounds except under the veranda at the St. Francis Dining Hall.

**Q. Can I bring my pets to Camp Christopher?**

A. NO. Pets are not allowed on the grounds unless they are official service animals and prior arrangements have been made with the Camp Director.

**Q. What is the wildlife like at Camp Christopher?**

A. Camp is full of active wildlife! It is not unusual to see deer, raccoon, eagles, wild turkeys, foxes, turtles or other species on the grounds. Please respect the animals and keep your distance from them. Please do not feed the animals. We recommend keeping limited amounts of well preserved food in the cabins to avoid uninvited visitors! You may not capture any wildlife at Camp Christopher.

**Q. May we hunt on the grounds?**

A. NO. Hunting is strictly prohibited under all circumstances at Camp Christopher.

**Q. May we fish on the grounds?**

A. YES. Catch-and-release fishing is permitted with the permission of the Camp Director. You may bring your own poles or we can supply poles, bait and instruction (see **Reservation Request Form**).

**Q. How many vehicles can park at Camp Christopher?**

A. Camp Christopher was built many years ago and the single lane road functions as a fire lane for emergency vehicles as well as a maintenance road. Groups are permitted to park two cars in assigned spaces within the camp during their stay, but all other vehicles must be parked in the lot at the camp's entrance. Recreational vehicles are not permitted on the grounds at all, even in the parking lot. For large groups, arrangements may be made for assistance with movement of luggage and other gear into the camp.

**Q. What else do I need to know to plan my event at Camp Christopher?**

A. Group leaders are encouraged to submit the **Reservation Request Form** indicating the dates and activities they are looking to schedule, and our staff will reply soon after. We look forward to serving you!

**Do you have other questions that have not been answered here? Please email us at [campchristopher@ccdacle.org](mailto:campchristopher@ccdacle.org).**