



**CREATION
SPEAKS**
*Special
Curriculum*

Silver Lake

2021 SUMMER CAMP

EXPERIENCE

*Community • Leadership
Lifelong Friends • Deepening Faith*



WWW.SILVERLAKECT.ORG

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*Silver Lake Is the Year-Round Outdoor Ministry Site
of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ*

A NEW SILVER LAKE EXPERIENCE

Come be a part of this life-changing ministry!

I love Camp. I am a camp kid. I grew up at our United Church of Christ camp in Indiana. I love the community, the fun, the friends, the welcome and inclusion, the experience of being received for who I am, the worship created by and led by youth, finding God in a new setting, and knowing I am loved just as I am.

Last summer was really hard for those of us who love camp. But it gave us time to plan and prepare to bring you a new program and new protocols that will allow us to be together in 2021. I am excited to share with you our new, two-week summer camp program. Double camp for everyone!

There can be no doubt, in 2021, about the need for all that camp offers. It is vital that we get outside and move. It is important that we connect with others, that we see their smiling faces, that we listen to each other and grow.

Camp develops all kinds of skills in young

people, and two qualities that seem more important than ever are adaptation and resilience. At camp, the camper gets to make choices. They get to decide how they will engage and where they will stretch past their comfort zone. This is one of the beautiful aspects of camp that parents don't get to see firsthand but will experience when their camper comes home.

At Silver Lake we are committed to welcoming our campers just as they are, encouraging them to be their full and authentic self and know they are loved. In 2021, we at Silver Lake will be even more intentional about offering a space where campers are welcomed, safe, and feel at home, so that they can be a part of this beloved community.

We look forward to seeing you at Silver Lake this summer!

Rev. Ryan Gackenheimer

Executive Director • ryang@silverlakeect.org

OUR MISSION

Silver Lake Conference Center, a year-round outdoor ministry of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ, is called to covenant with God and with the churches and people of the conference in the work of forming life-sustaining leaders for the church and the world. We seek to provide a safe environment of acceptance regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, reflecting our unity in Christ and respecting the faith journeys of all of God's children.



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus





Silver Lake is a great camp to meet lifelong friends, push yourself to do new things, and to strengthen your relationship with God.

— Seventh Grader

2021 SUMMER SESSIONS

Tiered Pricing • \$1,900 • \$1,750 • \$1,600
Actual Cost • First Discount • Second Discount

SESSION 1 • JUNE 27–JULY 9

Down & Dirty

Join us as we dig deep into God's Creation! This session, we will focus on the Earth and our impact on it. We'll explore how to be good stewards and have fun playing in the dirt.



5th-6th graders
**SPEAK FOR
THE TREES**

Can you speak for the trees? Spend time outside learning and exploring while you make new friends and try out all the camp activities, from swimming to arts & crafts to climbing the ropes course.

7th-9th graders
**EXPLORING
GOD'S CREATION**

We will get outside and get active! From the bottom of the lake to the tops of the trees, we will explore our world and our place in it.

7th-9th graders
**EARTH
AVENGERS**

Learn how you can be an Earth Avenger: Advocate for our home, the Earth! We'll learn what we can do to make the world a better place while we play, pray, and connect with new friends.

**10th-12th graders,
& 2021 Graduates**
**MY ROOTS
GO DOWN**

Explore environmental issues of the past and present while strengthening your faith roots and growing in your advocacy. Along the way we'll spend lots of time enjoying the outdoors and building community.

SESSION 2 • JULY 11-23

Water World

Our world is more than 70% water, and this session we will delight in God's special creation! We will swim, boat, paddle, splash, learn, and advocate. Jump in and cool down!



5th-6th graders
WET & WILD

Ducks, fish, and frogs: Look out! We're about to dive into your world! We'll spend the week swimming in the lake, learning to paddle a canoe, and exploring Silver Lake's ecosystem.

7th-9th graders
BON VOYAGE

Paddle like an explorer! Sailboats, canoes, and kayaks are waiting for you! Find God on the water and explore your faith through teamwork.

7th-9th graders
WE COME FROM THE WATER

Learn about the important role water has played for humans from biblical times to the present. We'll explore this important natural resource while we have fun and make new friends.

**10th-12th graders,
& 2021 Graduates**
RIVER OF DREAMS

What are your dreams for the future and the world? We'll learn from water protectors and hear how courage can have a ripple effect. This conference is for young leaders who want to let "justice roll down like waters."





SESSION 3 • JULY 25–AUGUST 6

Just Camp

Looking for an experience of faith that's more relevant to what's happening in the world? Through fun adventures, service, and exploration, we'll discover the biblical call to co-creating a more loving and just world.



5th-6th graders
CAUSING A
COMMOTION

Run, jump, spin, swim, play, laugh, learn, raise your voice – cause a commotion! Join new friends for a high energy week of sports, games, community, and belonging.

7th-9th graders
STEPPING
STONES

God's people come in many colors, but the world doesn't treat all of them equally. Together we can take steps to make our world more fair and just, while creating art, playing outside, and making new connections with new friends.

7th-9th graders
POWER UP

Silver Lake is a great place to power up! Recharge yourself with fun and new friends. Power your life from your TRUE self. Power your spirit with connections to God.

10th-12th graders,
& 2021 Graduates
LIVE YOUR
MISSION

Feeling the pressure to figure out what you want to do with your life? Join us to build the leadership skills we look for in summer staff, hear from others leading mission-driven lives, and give back.

JOIN US AT SILVER LAKE

Be your true self at summer camp!

Life at Silver Lake

IT'S MY FIRST TIME AT CAMP!

Welcome! We're glad you're here! And you will not be the only one here for the first time (even if you're in high school). Our conferees (campers) tell us they make new friends on the very first day of camp, every year. You're in for two weeks of outdoor fun with a whole conference (your camp group) full of new friends.

Each conference will live, play, learn, and pray together. There will be four conferences each session, a 5th-6th grade group, two 7th-9th grade groups, and a 10th-12th grade (and 2021 graduates) group. Each conference will have its own daily schedule and themed activities. Everyone will have time for swimming, boating, challenges on the ropes course, basketball, volleyball, digging in the garden, exploring nature, campfires, night hikes, and worship.

OUR SUMMER STAFF

Each conference will have four dedicated counselors who are also trained in program specialty areas like lifeguarding, ropes course facilitation, arts & crafts, music, and ceramics. There are also several other staff to help out with activities. Two Counselor Coordinators oversee the counseling staff.

The Waterfront Coordinator and A-Team Coordinator oversee the specialty program areas, ensuring that staff are trained in proper safety protocol. A Kitchen staff and a Maintenance and Housekeeping staff round out the team. Two nurses will be on site for the duration of the session.

A TYPICAL DAY

A day at camp is very busy, full of games, crafts, swimming, singing, and campfires. And you'll have quiet time after lunch to read, write letters home, or even take a nap. You will have the chance to meet God in a very unique setting. Your conference will lead worship. You and your new friends will pick the songs, stories, poems, prayers, dances, and sometimes silliness that add up to a truly engaging worship service.

On Saturday, we'll all stay up a little bit later for a special evening program, and then enjoy sleeping in on Sunday morning before a special, staff-led worship mid-morning. Then it's on to another week of fun activities.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about our changes this year and what to expect at camp, visit our website at www.silverlakect.org/summercamp.





It is a magic place close to nature,
full of love, energy, friendship, and peace.
It is a wonderful way to make friends.

— Chinese Exchange Camper

2021 SUMMER REGISTRATION

Don't miss out on the magic of Silver Lake!

REGISTRATION INFO

Registration opens December 15, 2020, for 2020 families and generally January 15, 2021, at www.silverlakect.org. If you are not able to get online, please call the office at 860-364-5526.

A non-refundable \$150 deposit is required to process your registration. An additional payment of half your remaining total is due by April 1. The balance is due by June 1. For full registration policies, visit www.silverlakect.org.

A few weeks before your session, you will receive a letter in the mail with details about your conference. A packing list is available in the Parent Guide, online at www.silverlakect.org/summercamp.

SCHOLARSHIP

Our tiered pricing structure allows you to choose the cost your family can afford and helps keep Silver Lake accessible to all.

Silver Lake's Scholarship Fund (from special donations) provides financial assistance to families who need it. Scholarship support for youth of color is available through a special program. Email slcc@silverlakect.org or call 860-364-5526 for information. Additionally, many local churches sponsor scholarships for their youth. Ask your local pastor if such support is available.



Join Us!

**OPEN
HOUSE**

May 16, 2021

More information to follow
at www.silverlakect.org