



What are the themes for each session?

This summer Holmes Camp will have the theme **Rest, Reconnect, & Restore** for all four sessions of our traditional overnight camp.

Why have you chosen this theme, and what does it mean?

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Matthew 11:28-19

Holmes Camp is by its nature a place of rest, reconnection, and restoration—a place where campers can rest from their regular daily routines, reconnect to each other and to creation, and restore their spiritual reserves—and **right now that is more important than ever**.

Campers will have just finished their third COVID impacted school year. It will have been over 24 months filled with remote learning, social distancing, and heavily modified routines and activities. Even for those who will have been able to attend the full 2021/22 year in-person, they will have done so with significant changes.

Additionally, since the last time we hosted summer camp our youth have seen and experienced the beginnings of an American reckoning with race, a contentious election culminating in violence, increasing impacts of climate change, and severe economic fluctuations and uncertainty; especially in ways that impacted individuals and families.

Meanwhile, youth are as busy as they’ve ever been. They have demands on their attention from school, sports, church, family, and more. And despite all of this, studies show that the current generation of young people has taken it upon themselves to be more aware of, and involved in, issues of social justice than any that has come before—and from a younger age.

As camp is a natural place for youth to **Rest, Reconnect, & Restore**, we will live out our theme by focusing on all the things that make camp such a unique and memorable experience for youth; the things that are at the heart of summer camp. There are the activities—swimming, nature, ropes course, campfires, and so much more! There is the chance for daily worship and reflection. There are friends old and new. There is the chance to experience the divinity of creation as we explore nature. There is an enthusiastic and caring staff. And there is the real secret to camp: the vibrant community we build together through sharing these experiences.

You could even say the theme of summer camp this year is just that: summer camp!

What happened to Camp Q?

Camp Q is back with a new name: Queer Virtue.

What about CIT?

We are trying something different this year! For 2022 we are refocusing our teen programs towards experiences for teens to have together, apart from our regular summer camp, and we are excited to introduce two teen trips: Be The Change and LEAD: Leadership Expedition and Development. Each of these trips will begin and end at Holmes Camp, but much of the week in between will be spent away.

Be The Change will spend the week in New York City, where they will learn about food insecurity, poverty, and homelessness. Participants will develop a theologically backed approach to ministering to those in need, *for the sake of those in need*. Through activities, education, and hands-on ministry they will learn from people and organizations doing amazing work in this space, and directly from those we seek to serve.

LEAD focuses on teaching transferable, real-world leadership skills, and provides a lab for us to practice. Teens will spend the beginning of the session at Holmes, where they live and study leadership and group dynamics through unique games, engaging lessons, and a wide variety of other activities, all under the watchful eye of established leadership professionals from the outdoors, business, and academic worlds. Once they have built a solid foundation, participants will have the chance to put their leadership into action as they tackle a three day journey on the Appalachian Trail.

What happened to tiered pricing?

Prior to 2022 the base price for summer camp at Holmes has remained largely unchanged for over a decade, despite the rising cost to operate camp. By the time voluntary tiered pricing was introduced in 2019 the base rate represented a significantly subsidized camp experience, with the highest tier more closely representing the actual cost to Holmes for a camper to attend.

Our camp rate for 2022 reflects this top tier; it covers Holmes' costs for a camper to attend. If Holmes is to be able to continue serving campers for years to come, the price must reflect the actual cost of camp.

Is there financial aid available?

Yes! ***We never want the cost of camp to be the reason a child is unable to attend.*** Through the generosity of a number of several wonderful donors Holmes Camp & Retreat Center is blessed with the ability to offer significant financial aid.

Applications for financial aid will be available beginning January 3rd. Need-based aid will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis until exhausted. Many churches also have aid available; please speak with your pastor.

When will more details be available?

Details will continue to be announced through social media, and in our newsletter from now until registration opens on January 12th. Additionally, keep your eyes open for our brochure at church or in your mailbox in January.