

# Holmes Camp & Retreat Center

2023 Spring Confirmation Retreat

April 28 - 29

## Beyond Sunday Morning



April 14th, 2023

Dear Confirmand,

**Welcome.** We're excited to welcome you for the Spring Confirmation Retreat. The retreat is being led by Rev. Dorinda Violante. Dorinda is the pastor at Denton Presbyterian Church in New Hampton and is the moderator for the Hudson River Presbytery. Dorinda is a longtime friend of Holmes and has worked with youth, adults, and families at Holmes Camp & Retreat Center. Dorinda is a New York native and has served at churches throughout the Hudson Valley.

The retreat is hosted by Holmes Camp & Retreat Center, a 550 acre refuge a short drive north of New York City. Holmes Camp & Retreat Center is a ministry of the Presbyterian Conference Association and is associated with the Presbyteries of Long Island, Hudson River, and New York City.

**Arrival:** You and your adult church representative should plan to **arrive at Holmes Camp by 6:00 PM** on Friday.

**Directions:** You can come directly to the Nunemaker Center, which will be our home base for the weekend. You should **program your GPS app to:**

### **43 Presbyterian Way, Holmes, NY 12531**

- When Presbyterian Way forks, take a left onto the dirt road. It will quickly turn into a circular driveway, continue straight to drive to use the circle in a counter-clockwise direction.
- You may stop at the end of the sidewalk to unload. After unloading please drive back around the circle and park in the wide areas on your right.
- Please enter through the left-hand door, where you will be welcomed and checked-in.
- If you need more detailed directions or get lost please call Kyle, the Holmes Director, at 845-743-4472
- Please do your best to arrive promptly at 6 pm to receive your room assignment, settle in, and take part in some ice breakers. Dinner is at 7 pm and the program begins in earnest immediately after.

**Preparation:** We would like you to reflect and prepare before arrival. Our theme for the retreat is "*Beyond Sunday Morning*"

- Confirmation is a big decision and can mean something different for each individual. Considering your upcoming decision to be confirmed, **what questions might you still have?**
- Reflecting on your time in Confirmation, ask yourself some questions we may ponder during this retreat: **Who is God? Who am I? How can my relationship with god extend beyond the walls of the church?**

### **Things to bring:**

- Bedding-Either a sleeping bag or twin-size sheets and blankets.
- A pillow.
- A change of clothes, modest pajamas, and a warm jacket or hoodie. If the forecast for the weekend includes rain you may want a rain jacket or poncho as well.
- Comfortable, closed toe shoes.
- Toiletries (including a towel if you plan to shower at Holmes)

- A flashlight, headlamp, or lantern – double check your batteries as you pack!
- Something to write on and something to write with.
- Your Bible (if you have one, no stress if you don't, we have some.)
- Simple snacks to share (if you want). No peanuts or tree nuts please.
- Please email Kyle at [kyle@holmescamp.org](mailto:kyle@holmescamp.org) by Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> if you are unable to bring any of the items listed above, and Holmes will have them available for you.

**Things to know:**

- At some point, you should thank the adults that accompany you.
- Be prepared to meet and get to know people outside your own group.
- Be respectful. If someone else's questions or reflections don't set right with you, remember we are aiming for enlightening discussion, not argument, or even agreement. Everyone has a right to their opinion and beliefs and it is okay if they are not the same as yours.
- Cell phones. It is okay to bring your phone to this event, but there will be program times when we will instruct you to turn your phone off or set it aside so we can all focus. If phones become a distraction, we may ask that they are turned off and left in rooms or left with your adult leaders.
- All the adults have authority, so if an adult outside your group offers you direction, please be respectful.
- Prescription drugs (except emergency medications, such as epi-pens and inhalers) should be turned over to your adult companion, in their original packaging. Holmes Camp will work with them and provide locked storage. It is your responsibility to work with your adult leader or Holmes staff to take your medication at its prescribed time. (Adults take note).
- Please do not wander. We need to know where you are at all times.
- Holmes Camp does not currently require masking at events, but you are more than welcome to wear a mask at any time if you would feel more comfortable.

There is no dinner served on Saturday, but we encourage the group to stay together through the end of the program. If your group would like to stop for dinner on the way home, we are happy to tell you about some of our local favorites!

**Thank you for joining us at Holmes. We can't wait to see you.**