

Holmes Camp & Retreat Center

2024 Spring Confirmation Retreat

April 26 - 27

Discovering Our Story



April 16th, 2024

Welcome

We're excited to welcome you for the Spring Confirmation Retreat. Allow us to introduce ourselves.

The retreat is being led by Rev. Casey Carbone. Casey (he/him) is the Director for Congregational Connection in Hudson River Presbytery. As a preacher, musician, and consultant, he believes in the power of listening to stories told by individuals and groups and encouraging people to feel confident in telling the story of their own life and faith.

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 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 at or shortly after 6 pm to receive your room assignment and settle in. Dinner is at 7 pm and the program begins in earnest immediately after.
- *If you use Waze as your GPS, you can search for The Nunemaker Center*

Theme and Preparation

Our theme for the retreat is "*Discovering Our Story*". There is nothing like a good story or listening to a good storyteller. But what about our story? And what about the story only you can tell? During this confirmation retreat we will examine the power of the narratives we tell about ourselves, our communities, and God. Finally, we will see how you can tell your story to educate, advocate, and witness.

As you prepare for your retreat we encourage you reflect and contemplate.

- Confirmation is a big decision, and can mean something different for each individual. Considering your decision to be confirmed, **what questions might you still have?**
- What are some stories that have been important to you? What narratives have influenced your faith?

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 on which 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 by Wednesday, April 24th 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 sit 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.
- It is okay to bring your phone to this event, but during program times when we ask that you turn your phone off and set it aside so we can all focus. If phones begin to hinder our program or our community we will ask that they are turned off and left in rooms, or left with your adult leaders.
- Adult volunteers and chaperones are here to help you and others succeed, even if they are not from the group you come to Holmes with. Please be respectful.
- Prescription drugs (except emergency medications, such as epi-pens and inhalers) should be turned over to your adult chaperones, in their original packaging. Holmes Camp will work with them and provide locked storage as needed. 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.

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.