



Campership Program Guidelines

Thank you for reviewing these guidelines about the Forest Home Campership Program.

At Forest Home, we do our best to make camp affordable. However, we know that life circumstances can sometimes create a financial need. For that reason, Forest Home has a Campership Program to provide financial assistance to those who would not otherwise be able to attend Forest Home camp programs.

The Forest Home Campership funds are provided by individuals and foundations who recognize the impact a camp experience can have on a person's life. Because these are "donor dollars," we have a responsibility to use the funds wisely.

To determine your eligibility for assistance and ensure as many people as possible can benefit from this program, we ask you to complete the application process described below.

Camperships are not generally awarded to guest groups (e.g. Churches, Schools, or other organizations) who use Forest Home facilities for their own retreats or conferences.

If you have any question or you feel these requirements would prevent you from applying, email campership@foresthomes.org. Someone from our Campership Team will contact you.

A Few Facts You Should Know

Funding:

- No registration fees are used to cover the cost of Camperships.
- A special group of donors contribute directly to the Campership fund. This includes monthly givers, annual donations, and foundations.
- We must give them feedback on how their stewardship is used, in order to replenish the funds each year.
- Also, Forest Home is audited by a CPA firm each year and we must do “due diligence” on the awarding of each Campership with a paper trail.
- Our Campership Team prays and evaluates each request, as well as meets with the organizations for follow-up.

Our philosophy:

- All Camperships are awarded as a portion of the Forest Home registration fee. Camperships are not awarded to cover the cost of transportation, counselors, or any other additional costs that your church may pass on to the campers.
- We do not grant 100% Camperships.
- Child/Family must “have skin in the game” – that may be monetary, or they may have “earned” their way to camp by attendance, grades, activities and work projects during the year.
- The Church/Organization must also make some investment in their campers. This requires planning ahead throughout the year and may include budget allotment, fund-raising events or special offerings.
- Forest Home desires that no one should miss out on camp because of finances.
- To that end we have a group of donors who designate funds for the Campership program. We try to spread the funds as far as we can.
- Camperships are not guaranteed. They are provided as funds are available.

Follow-up:

- We ask that each camper who receives a Campership complete a questionnaire. This enables us to report back to the donors who have made this program possible.
- The questionnaire may be included in your registration packet and/or emailed to the church youth group leader after camp.
- Personal thank you notes that we can share with our donors are also great! They can include:
 - Fun things you did at camp
 - What you learned about Jesus
 - What you have taken home and put into practice so others will know that “you have spent time with Jesus”
 - Pictures of your family or kids in your youth group taken during camp are also great

Winter and Summer Children and Youth Camps

Large Church Groups Children/Youth: This applies to church partners who are bringing **100 or more campers** (not including counselors) to Forest Home summer camp programs. When determining the number of campers, include all camp programs (children's through high school). Contact your Reservation Associate (or email campership@foresthomes.org) to request the Large Group Campership Application form. You will complete one application for all camp programs combined. Your application should be submitted at least **6 weeks in advance** of your first week of camp. After camp, you will be asked to submit a list of the campers in your group(s) that received Forest Home Camperships.

Children/Youth Campers Attending with a Group: This applies to children and youth attending a Forest Home camp program as **part of a youth group**. The **group leader** should submit the Campership requests for the campers in their group that need a Forest Home Campership. Camperships will be awarded based on these **specific** campers.

To ensure that your application can be reviewed and processed before final payment is due, please submit your application at least **4 weeks in advance** of the conference or retreat you are attending. Camperships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis as funds are available.

The Campership Team will review your Campership application and notify you within two weeks.

Here is how to apply for Camperships for children and youth attending as part of a group:

1. Register for the camp program and number of campers you will bring as part of your group.
 - a. Begin early to determine which individuals in the group will need financial assistance.
 - b. Work with the family to determine what they can contribute to the cost of their child's own camp experience.
 - c. Determine what your local church body can/will do to provide scholarships to those who need assistance.
 - d. If finances are still a hindrance for a camper, request a Forest Home Campership. A Forest Home Campership should be the last source of funding.
2. Go to foresthomes.org/forms and complete the **Campership Application – Church or Group - Youth** at least **4 weeks prior** to your conference or retreat. Please complete a **separate application for each camp program/week** (The Village, Adventure Mountain, Creekside, Lakeview). In that application, be prepared to:
 - a. Name the specific camper(s) requesting assistance. Camperships will be awarded based on those **specific** campers.
 - b. Specify the amount of assistance you are requesting for **each** camper (after determining what their family and your local church body can contribute)
 - c. Briefly describe the circumstances that cause them to need a Forest Home Campership. e.g. Single parent, sudden loss of employment by one or both parents, unusual medical expense or condition, death in the family or other family trauma, homelessness.

3. You will be notified of the Campership decision within two weeks after we receive your application. The Campership amount will be applied to your group registration, reducing your balance due.

Children/Youth Campers Attending Independently of a Group: This applies to children and youth attending a Forest Home camp program **independently of a youth group**. Children and youth attending camp as part of a group should contact their group leader to request a financial assistance (from either the church or Forest Home).

Please submit your request at least **4 weeks in advance** of the conference or retreat you are attending. Camperships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis as funds are available.

The Campership Team will review your Campership application and notify you within two weeks.

Here is how to apply for an individual child or youth Campership:

1. Determine what you and your family can contribute to the cost of camp. Each camper is expected to contribute as much as they can towards their own camp experience.
2. Go to foresthomes.org/forms and complete the **Campership Application - Individual - Youth** at least **4 weeks prior** to your conference or retreat.
3. You will be notified of the Campership decision within 2 weeks after we have reviewed your application.
4. Register for camp immediately (if you have not already done so) so that the Campership amount can be applied to your registration.

Family Camp, Adult Retreats, and Parent/Child Retreats

Applies to: Memorial Weekend Family Camp, Summer Family Camp, Home for the Holidays, Men's and Women's Retreats, Parent/Child Retreats, and Marriage Retreats conducted by Forest Home.

To ensure as many people as possible can come to camp, **an individual or family is eligible to receive a Campership a maximum of two times over a five-year period.**

Please submit your request at least **4 weeks in advance** of the conference or retreat you are attending. Camperships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis as funds are available.

1. Determine what amount you can contribute to the cost of camp. Each individual or family is expected to contribute as much as they can towards the cost of their own camp experience. We are happy to create an installment plan to help you make regular payments that fit your budget.
2. Register for the conference or retreat you plan to attend. Please be aware that to assist as many campers as possible, Camperships can be used for Economy housing only.
3. Pay your deposit. First consideration for Camperships will be given to those who have registered and paid their deposit. Your deposit is refundable if the Campership request is denied.
4. Go to foresthomes.org/forms and complete the **Campership Application – Family/Adult** at least **4 weeks prior** to your conference or retreat.
5. You will be notified of the Campership decision within two weeks. Any Campership awarded will be applied to your balance due.

Active Military: We are honored to have members of our Military join us at Forest Home, whether it is for a weekend retreat or full week of Family Camp. A group of generous ministry partners provide the funding that enables Forest Home to offer reduced rates **for full-time active military** and their immediate families.

These rates can be applied to Forest Home Family Camps (Memorial Weekend, Summer, Home for the Holidays) and Men's, Women's, Marriage or Parent/Child retreats. **One Military Campership per year per individual or family.**

After you have registered and paid your deposit, go to foresthomes.org/forms and complete the **Campership Application – Military Family** to qualify.