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Dear prospective campers for 2021 and parents,

It's a long story, but camp is on for July 4-9. We will be temporarily in a new camp, Pinebrook Camp in East Stroudsburg, PA. It's a nice camp, probably more expensive than we can afford long-term, but I'm confident we'll be fine using it this year. Here is the link to their camp - <https://pinebrook.org/> I'll attach some of my pictures below.

Notice that the camp will have to be one day shorter- Sunday through Friday morning. That is because they have others coming on Saturday and need Friday afternoon to clean up. Also, the shorter time frame is the other thing that makes it affordable for us.

The change was necessary because the Covid-19 restrictions at Crossroads camp will be too strict, not through any fault of Crossroads camp, but because of New Jersey State regulations and American Camping Association (ACA) regulations – A few examples: No singing, masks at all times even outside, no contact between campers except for 6 person “pods, all group meetings outside with masks and social distancing.

Pinebrook has some Covid restrictions but they are tolerable – masks in certain indoor buildings (mainly the lunchroom) but not in cabins nor necessary outdoors, temperature checks, etc.

Also, Pinebrook is a little stricter on getting applications in early, getting final numbers to them early, etc. So, please, talk now with interested parties and not the week before camp. Also, they are pretty strict on the minimum number of campers, so I'm only reserving a few buildings for around 100-120 campers because I think our numbers will be down. If we have more, I'll have to reserve more buildings, but that may be impossible if they are reserved first by others. So, make plans as early as possible. I'm just hoping that the Canadian border is opened so we can have our Canadians.

Our fees will be slightly adjusted — Single campers will be \$315, two campers from a family will be \$485 and three campers will be \$605. Add \$125 for each camper over three. If you want children to come but it is impossible for you to pay, let us know and we'll try to help find someone who can help you by "adopting" your camper and paying what you can't pay. **We don't want anyone to not come because they can't pay!** Let us work with you.

Our theme at camp this year will be “Why believe?” We'll be getting out more information about that as camp approaches. Our memory verse this year will be 1 Corinthians 15:3-6. Extra credit will be given for verses 7,8, Romans 1:19-20, 1 John 1:1-3 and 2 Peter 1:16-21. I hope to put a copy of the Bible material on the webpage, [www.jerseycamp.com](http://www.jerseycamp.com).

### **REMEMBER, NO CELL PHONES, OR OTHER PERSONAL ELECTRONICS**

Cell phones/smart phones will be banned as always! Please cooperate with us on this. Campers must choose whether they want camp or give in to their cell phone addiction. They can't have both!

We will give instructions in our last letter on how you can contact your camper if necessary, but for now I think it best to just think of our camp as a pre-cell phone camp (pre-1995, not that long ago for me!). Camps flourished before cell phones and I'm sure this camp can do well without them. It will be best for your child not to bring the cell phone, but if brought, they can be turned in at check-in.

(1) **Health form, medical clearance.** Pinebrook camp is less strict in their medical requirements, but we want to be responsible. Therefore, we will be requiring signed health forms and if possible, medical clearance. **Important changes this year** – Since our nurses are not certified in Pennsylvania, they will not be able to legally give out medication or treat sick campers. They will be keeping a watchful eye on the campers and we will be relying on their judgment as to when to take campers to Urgent care or the Emergency room. Your child will be responsible to take his/her own medication. We'll ask the counselors to try to remind them, but we can't be responsible. Therefore if your child is irresponsible with their medication, it is probably best not to have them come to camp. Also, if your child has serious medical issues that require constant supervision, it will probably best not to send them as well.

(2) **Two waivers will be necessary this year:** (1) Again this year we will need parents to sign a waiver for Florida College for photos and liability. (2) Pinebrook camp requires participation in an online Covid-19 waiver. I'll put the link on our web page on the page “Information, Applications.”

We need completed applications, health forms and money or deposits from campers as soon as possible. Last minute applications take years off the life of the director in stress.

**(3) Campers 18 years of age and all staff will have to do a background check.** It must be done on the Internet and takes about 5 minutes. Florida College requires this.

### **CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS**

\* As always, please help us with **cutoffs coming below the knee when standing! We always have problems with tight pants and short blouses that reveal the midriff.** These problems cause us stress because we don't want to have to ask campers to change. PRETTY PLEASE. If you think pants may only be slightly tight, or blouses only slightly short, don't bring them!

We appreciate the good attitude that most have about our strict clothing rules. They allow all of us all to be comfortable and we appreciate very much your help!

**Make sure all campers will be happy with our emphasis on Bible study and strict rules.** We want to try to make sure that those who don't like Bible study, or who would be unhappy with our rules won't come.

**Please talk with anyone who would be interested in helping the camp financially by "adopting" a camper who would have difficulty paying, or making a general donation.** I hate to have to beg, but it's necessary. So, let me know if you know of anyone who could help. Have them check out the web page.

We look forward to receiving your applications soon. We'll send you more information as soon as we get your application. Always feel free to contact me at (908) 850-5389 or email me at <GardnerHall3@gmail.com>. God bless all,

Your camp director,

Gardner