



Summer Camp | 2024

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." -John 15:5

Our summer camp offerings provide all campers with an incredibly fun and relational Christ-centered camp experience. Our desire is for campers to hear and experience the extravagant love of God and to come to know Jesus Christ as their risen Lord and Savior.

Welcome Packet

We Are So Excited To Welcome You To Summer Camp!

We are so excited to see how God will move in and through your week of camp at Riverside this summer! Our team has been praying and preparing all year in developing an incredibly fun, Christ-centered and impactful experience for you. Our Cabin Leaders are eagerly awaiting the opportunity they'll have to spend the week with you and your friends eating together, playing together, worshiping together, and diving into God's Word together! Whether it's your first time at Riverside or you've been here several summers, you'll want to check out the very important information in this packet.

IMPORTANT: Before we get into anything else, we want to let you know that we are changing our drop-off and pick-up times this year for full week campers! Drop-off will now take place on Sunday from **4:30-5:45pm** and closing program/pick-up will be on Friday at **1:00pm**. You can find more information about the heart behind this change on pg. 3.

Have questions? They're probably answered in this packet! However, if after reviewing this packet you still have questions, don't hesitate to call or email us.



Riverside Bible Camp
3001 Riverside Rd. | Story City, IA 50248
RLBC@RiversideLBC.org | 515.733.5271

HOW TO BE CAMP-READY

- ☐ Complete all registration forms online:
 - ☐ Waiver
 - ☐ Pick Up Authorization
 - ☐ Camper Profile
 - ☐ Medical Info Form
- ☐ Pay balances online or by calling our office
- ☐ Add camp store funds (optional)
- ☐ Watch for a “check-in details” email one week prior

CAMPER CHECK-IN

Our goal at Riverside is to facilitate a safe, efficient process for getting campers checked in at their cabins while minimizing crowding and waiting.

Wondering how you can help Riverside to meet that goal? Keep reading!

- **GET SET-UP & PAID-UP.** Please get all forms completed, balances paid, camp store deposits made, extras added and paid for, and medication needs recorded before arriving at camp. You can log on to your family’s Online Registration Dashboard any time between now and one week before camp to get all of this done. You’re welcome to call our office at 515-733-5271 if you have any questions or issues.
- **WATCH YOUR INBOX.** The week before you come to camp, watch for an IMPORTANT email from Riverside! This email will inform you of your arrival time. *Arrival times are coordinated alphabetically and will fall between 4:30-5:45pm.*
 - » We know you’re excited for camp, but **please do not arrive before your assigned check-in window.** We want to keep the flow of traffic even and flowing to avoid crowding and backups. If you arrive early, you will be asked to kindly wait in the lower parking lot until your assigned arrival time, so relax and enjoy the ride to Riverside!

- ☐ Visit the “What to bring” section as you pack! (pg. 5)
- ☐ Familiarize yourself with the check-in procedure
- ☐ Mark your calendar for the closing program (pg. 6)
- ☐ Parents – please review the “Camper Pick-Up” section before picking up your camper, as well as the important information starting with the “Hey Parents” section.
- ☐ Have an amazing time at camp!

****Alpha campers who arrive on Wednesday will check in between 3:45-4:5pm.**

■ CHECK-IN PROCEDURE.

After being greeted by our staff at the camp entrance, you will drive directly to your camper’s cabin for check-in.

■ MED DROP-OFF.

If you have any over-the-counter or prescription medication for your camper, you may stop at the Dining Hall after you drop off your camper and turn them into our medical staff.



Chris Dahl



Cheri Schendel-Hennager

LET’S CONNECT!

If you’re a family who has never been to Riverside, or if you simply want to connect with Riverside’s leadership team before you go, join us for a meet-and-greet after you drop your camper off. Chris (Director) and/or Cheri (Associate Director) will be available at the Dining Hall. *Ask any staff member for directions to the Dining Hall.*

WHY THE CHECK-IN AND PICK-UP CHANGES?

We'd imagine, if you have been coming to Riverside for camp in the years past, you might be wondering why we are changing camper drop-off and closing program times. Riverside has had the same drop off and pick up times for as many years back as any of us can remember. We wanted to share our heart and rationale behind the changes we are initiating this year to answer questions that you may be wondering about.

The simple answer to this question is that we value excellence. It is a priority for us to do everything we can to ensure your kids are served by well-rested Riverside staff who are physically, emotionally, and spiritually restored to do the important work they have to do week after week. In addition to the amended drop off and pick up times, we no longer are accommodating rental/retreat groups on the weekends of the summer. In past summers, these 'extras' have required our summer team to pick up extra duties during what has been their only day off in a week.

We want to thank you in advance for partnering with us to take good care of our summer staff. They are important to us and it has become increasingly clear that we need to maximize the opportunity they have to rest and restore. Additionally, these changes will allow them to be able to have the time to attend worship on Sundays and enjoy a sit-down lunch with their work peers before embarking on a new week of camp.



HORSE CAMP OPEN HOUSE – WHY IS THERE NOT A HORSE CAMP CLOSING PROGRAM?

This fun new aspect of horse camp is good for everyone! When we decided to change the time of the All Camp Closing Program and camper pick up, it required us to take a close look at our Horse Camp Closing Program that has been in the hour before the All Camp Closing Program in the past.

The best part of the Horse Camp Open House is that it allows the horse campers more time to just have fun, learning about and riding their horse (versus preparing for a program at the end of the week). Many times families would have a hard time making it to the Horse Camp Closing Program. This would be a source of sadness for horse campers whose family couldn't make it or if they were running behind and missed out on their camper riding.

Our Horse Camp Open House will allow for your horse campers and our wranglers to concentrate their time during the week enjoying the horses. If you are able to make it to the Open House, they'll be excited to get to introduce you to our horses and you'll get to meet the wranglers and hear more about how everyone spent their week together. We are hopeful that this change will take some performance pressure off the wranglers and campers and instead will allow them to reflect on how they have seen God at work in their week of camp.



MEDICATIONS

All medications (prescription and over-the-counter) are distributed by our Medical Volunteer during camp. Campers should NOT have any medications in the cabin. All medications (prescription and over-the-counter) need to be turned into our Medical Volunteer at the Dining Hall AFTER you've dropped-off your camper at their cabin.

- ALL medications must be turned in to our medical volunteer **in the original containers** – please do not bring pills in baggies, in pill-minders, etc. Our volunteer needs to be able to safely distribute medications out of their original packaging/containers. (Exceptions: Rescue inhalers and Epi-Pens may remain with the camper, but you still need to visit with our Medical Volunteer!)
- Prescription and all over-the-counter medications – you will need to provide the names and dosage instructions for any medications your camper needs to take while at camp. Ideally, this is done ahead of time on your camper's registration dashboard. Click on "Update Info" and enter every medication under the Medical button.
- Special Note about supplementals and alternative medications - Today, some families are turning to alternative substances purchased in health food stores or websites for preventative health care and the treatment of a wide variety of medical conditions or to supplement general health. Because most of these herbal products and/or natural remedies are not regulated by state or federal agencies, consistent with Iowa school districts (IBON Declaratory Ruling No. 81, 11/21/95), we will be unable to administer these products to campers during the week of camp. Please refrain from bringing to camp - thank you for your understanding.

→ Prior to check-in, be sure to visit the MEDICAL section of your online registration dashboard to enter your camper's meds or to make any last-minute changes! If you are unable to complete this online, you may call our office and they will assist you over the phone.

ALLERGIES & SPECIAL DIETS

- **Allergies** – during the registration process, you completed the section about allergies in the Medical Info Form. If there have been any changes or you don't remember if you addressed this, please log on to your Online Registration Dashboard to review and/or amend.
- **Diets** – you probably already indicated your camper's special dietary needs during the registration process. While we do have some flexibility to modify diets to accommodate camper needs, it all depends on the situation. Our Hospitality Coordinator, Paige, will be sending out the menu a week ahead of camp to the families of campers with special dietary needs. This will allow you to review the food options and if necessary, you may supplement the camp food if you find menu items not compatible with your camper. It is helpful for Paige to know the degree of allergy and/or sensitivity (*ex. some kids may have an intolerance to a particular food but when it's cooked into something they can eat it*). If you have any additional questions, please contact Paige@RiversideLBC.org.



Paige Smith
Hospitality Coordinator

Build lifelong friendships

Teamwork



Awesome Cabin Leaders



Experience God's Love



WHAT SHOULD I BRING? {All campers list}

For sure:

- ☐ Bible, pen/pencil, notebook
- ☐ Clothes – shorts, shirts, jeans, sweatshirt, rain clothes (no shorty-shorts, straps on tops must have at least two-inch width, and all tops must cover the mid-section)
- ☐ Pajamas and underclothes
- ☐ Two pairs of shoes – tennis shoes, sandals and/or old shoes
- ☐ Towel, washcloth, hygiene items (soap, shampoo, toothbrush and paste, deodorant, etc.)
- ☐ Swimsuit – one-piece or tankini (covers mid-section) for girls, no Speedos for boys
- ☐ Sleeping bag OR twin sheets and blanket, pillow
- ☐ Sunscreen, bug spray and flashlight
- ☐ String bag or backpack to carry items around in during day
- ☐ Water bottle! (Also available for sale in camp store)
- ☐ One set of clothes that can get completely muddy/dirty

Only if you want:

- ☐ Camera (with label), books, musical instruments
- ☐ Envelopes & stamps so you can write home to tell everyone how much fun you're having!

Please leave at home:

- ☒ Cell phones
- ☒ iPods, iPads, and MP3 players
- ☒ Valuable jewelry/keepsakes
- ☒ Food (not allowed in cabins!)
- ☒ Personal video gaming systems



ADVENTURE & HORSE CAMPERS

In addition to the "All Campers" list, the following are 'must-haves':

EXPLORERS & PATHFINDERS

- ☐ Sleeping bag
- ☐ Sandals with full, secure straps that are able to get wet/muddy (ex. Chaco-type, Texas-type)
- ☐ Rain jacket
- ☐ Flashlight or headlamp
- ☐ Backpack or daypack to carry items for hiking, and showering

HORSE CAMPERS

In addition to the "All Campers" list, please bring the following:

- ☐ Lots of jeans – all the time spent on horses will require jeans
- ☐ Boots with a one inch or more heel
- ☐ Helmet, if you prefer your own – BUT we will provide required riding helmets for everyone
- ☐ We get dirty and sometimes wet, so extras of both clothing and shoes are a great idea!

VERY IMPORTANT: Horse campers are not allowed to wear flat-soled shoes (skater shoes, Chucks, etc.) for riding. These shoes do not provide adequate foot protection, and feet slide through the stirrups. Western riding boots work best, but inexpensive tennis shoes with a thicker sole and plenty of grip work fine as well.



DON'T MISS THE CLOSING PROGRAM!

Our closing program is a highlight of the week for families coming to pick up their campers. We invite you and your family to attend the closing program/s by joining us on main camp. We have found that our Chapel, while beautiful and cool, is just too small to accommodate everyone who wants to attend, so we will gather outdoors. If you want to be certain to have a place to sit, we recommend you bring a lawn chair and a cool beverage (beverages will also be available for purchase).

Parent attendance at our closing programs is completely optional.



NEW
IN 2024

12:15PM: Horse Camp Open House at the Riverside

If you have a horse camper, we invite you to come to the Riverside Ranch **Friday at 12:15PM** so that your child can show you around!

NOTE: In the event of rain, the Horse Camp closing program will be canceled.



NEW
IN 2024

1:00PM: All Camper Closing Program outside the Chapel

Friday at 1:00PM:

All other campers (including Horse Camp participants)

Some seating may be available but feel free to bring lawn chairs if you prefer not to stand.

Following the closing program, cabin leaders will lead their campers to a designated location and will be holding a sign with their cabin name. Cabin leaders will remain near or outside the area for 10 minutes following the end of closing program, and then will return to the cabin.

ALPHA:

Alpha campers who checked in on Sunday will have their closing program **IN THE CHAPEL at 3:00PM on Tuesday**.

Alpha campers who checked in on Wednesday will have their closing program on Friday with rest of camp as seen above.

CAMPER PICK-UP DETAIL

- Only the person designated on the Pick-Up Authorization will be allowed to pick-up the camper.
- Following the closing program, parents can return to their camper's cabin to pick-up the camper's belongings, which will be waiting outside, weather-permitting.
- Parents not attending the closing program can pick up the camper following the program (approx. 1:30PM)
- All campers need to be picked up by 2:00PM!**
- If there needs to be a change made to the pick-up person during the week of camp, you MUST contact the camp office to provide notification prior to Friday afternoon.



WE ARE USING AN APP THIS YEAR!

This year, we are introducing an app, Bunk1, for parents to use. There are many benefits to using this app that include receiving updates throughout the week about what activities are taking place at camp, access to a private gallery of photos of your camper, and the option to send “bunk notes” for your camper to read at lunch each day!



HOW TO GET STARTED:

- 1) Go to www.Bunk1.com or download the white Bunk1 app from the app store.
- 2) Click “New here? Get Started” button and complete the basic form

***IMPORTANT:** Your password *must* include a capital letter, number, and special character.

- 3) The invitation code for Riverside Bible Camp is **RBC2024**

4) You will be prompted to select a bundle for access to your Parent Portal. Bundles include credits for you to send Bunk Notes and the ability to use the facial recognition software to quickly find photos of your camper. **The FREE bundle is at the bottom of that page and will give you full access to view the photo gallery.**

****PLEASE NOTE:** Bunk1 is not like Waldo where there is a guaranteed quota of photos of your camper when paying for a bundle. We will take as many as we can, but we are not promising a specific amount.



PHOTO GALLERY WITH PHOTO TAGGING:

Save Favorite Photos for easy access to pictures of your camper all year-round. Select the heart icon to favorite.

Upload a profile photo of your camper to enable Photo Tagging. Our photo tagging software will scan all the uploaded photos and notify you when we detect photos of your camper.

Share Photos to social media or email a photo to family.

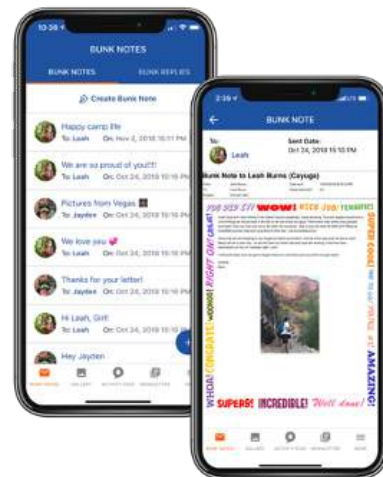
Order high resolution digital downloads or prints.



SENDING BUNK NOTES:

Send Bunk Notes day or night. Riverside receives a pdf at **11:00am CST** each day containing all Bunk Notes received in the last 24 hours. Camp prints each Bunk Note and delivers them to your camper with the regular mail. You can purchase more credits anytime in the Bunk Notes menu. Successfully sent Bunk Notes will appear under Bunk Notes > View Sent.

****The Bunk1 team is available to support you 7 days a week during peak season. They guarantee a response within 24 hours and it's usually much quicker than that. Please call Bunk1 at 212-974-9112 or email support@bunk1.com. For FAQ's related to the services above, visit www.bunk1family.com/faqs.**





HEY PARENTS!

You can still go online and sign up for these AWESOME options! If you are unable to go online to add an option and you'd like to take care of it before camper check-in, please call the office to sign-up and pay over-the-phone. All of these items are OPTIONAL and require an additional fee.

Care Package – Your camper will receive our summer-themed t-shirt, a fun accessory item from our camp store, a sticker, and a certificate that will get them one food and one beverage item from the camp store. **Cost: \$25**

Ranch Care Package – Your camper will receive our summer ranch-specific t-shirt, a fun accessory item from our camp store, a sticker, and a certificate that will get them one food and one beverage item from the camp store. **Cost: \$25**

Birthday Cookies – If your camper is celebrating their birthday while attending camp, we will make them homemade cookies to share with their cabin! This camp extra is only available on the day of their birthday. We will pass along the special surprise to their cabin leader to share with the rest of their cabin mates. **Cost: \$12**

Slingshot Paintball – Your camper will enjoy three to four 10-minute games of slingshot paintball during free-time. *Please note: this option is only available to junior high and senior high campers.* **Cost: \$10**

Horseback Ride – You don't have to register for a Horse Camp to enjoy a horseback ride! Your camper can participate in a 30-40 minute ride on a horse during free-time. Campers who are entering 4th grade will enjoy their ride in the arena, while campers in 5th grade and above will ride the outdoor trails. Plan on preparing your camper ahead of time by ensuring they bring jeans and either tennis shoes or boots for riding (required). Register early for riding as busy weeks will hit their limit early on. *Please note: horseback rides are not available for Alpha campers.* **Cost: \$18**

2023 Summer Theme Water Bottle – New this summer! Order an exclusive Summer 2024 themed water bottle! Add it to your registration before check-in day and we'll have it labeled and ready for your camper at supper on the first night. **Cost: \$16**

SENDING MAIL TO YOUR CAMPER

Option One: You may send it to:

Riverside Bible Camp, Attention: [your camper's name],
3001 Riverside Road, Story City, Iowa, 50248



Send your mail the week before your camper comes to Riverside to ensure they receive it!

Option Two: We welcome you to leave letters that you've prepared for your camper at the Dining Hall after you've dropped off your camper at their cabin. This way, you'll know their cabin name and can write it on the letter. In the Dining Hall, we will have prepared bins for each day of the week so that you can define when you'd like your camper to receive the letter. We will also have some supplies gathered for you to write and leave your camper notes at the Dining Hall during check-in.

Option Three: On our new app, Bunk1, there is an option to send "bunk notes" to your camper if you have purchased credits. These are written like a text message or an email within the app itself and then will be printed and delivered to your camper at lunch each day. If a bunk note is sent after 10AM, it will be delivered following day at lunch.

GETTING REAL ABOUT TECHNOLOGY

At Riverside, we believe that camp is a great opportunity for your children to disconnect from the constant buzz of technology. Phones and tablets, which are often our constant companions, are left behind for the week. This digital detox allows campers to focus on experiencing and being more fully aware of God's presence. Our staff also embrace this practice, limiting their phone use to only specific and necessary times. This intentional break from technology fosters a healthier and more engaging camp experience for everyone.



Riverside has always had a “no electronics” policy at camp. Never has this been a more important practice than TODAY, and never has it been so difficult to maintain this policy effectively at camp. In 2010, a study by the Kaiser Family Foundation found youths ages 8-18 spent an average of 7.5 hours a day on digital media. With how far technology has come since then, we can only imagine what that has done to this statistic.

Most people nowadays have an attachment to technology which comes with some consequences like lowered social skills, self-motivation, emotional intelligence, and empathy. Taking a “device sabbatical” for just one week is a very healthy (and survivable) practice for your camper. We encourage you to take possession of your camper's devices - smartphones, smart watches, etc. - before they come to camp. We'd love for you to reassure your camper that they'll be fine without it! If any electronic device is discovered with one of our campers, our practice has always been to securely store it at our camp office and return it after the closing program.

We want to thank you in advance for your help with this! We know that even for ourselves, being separated from our devices can create some anxiety. We just want to be real about the topic of smartphones and desire to partner with families to encourage healthy practices—and that can start with campers leaving their phones at home for a week.



CONCERNS ABOUT HOMESICKNESS

We know that some of our campers are having their first experience being away from home without family and may struggle with feelings of homesickness. In our culture of immediate accessibility and instant contact via our mobile devices, we realize some parents may also struggle with their camper being away! We want to provide your family with some suggestions – things that are worth considering as you prepare for your camper to have the best camp experience ever!

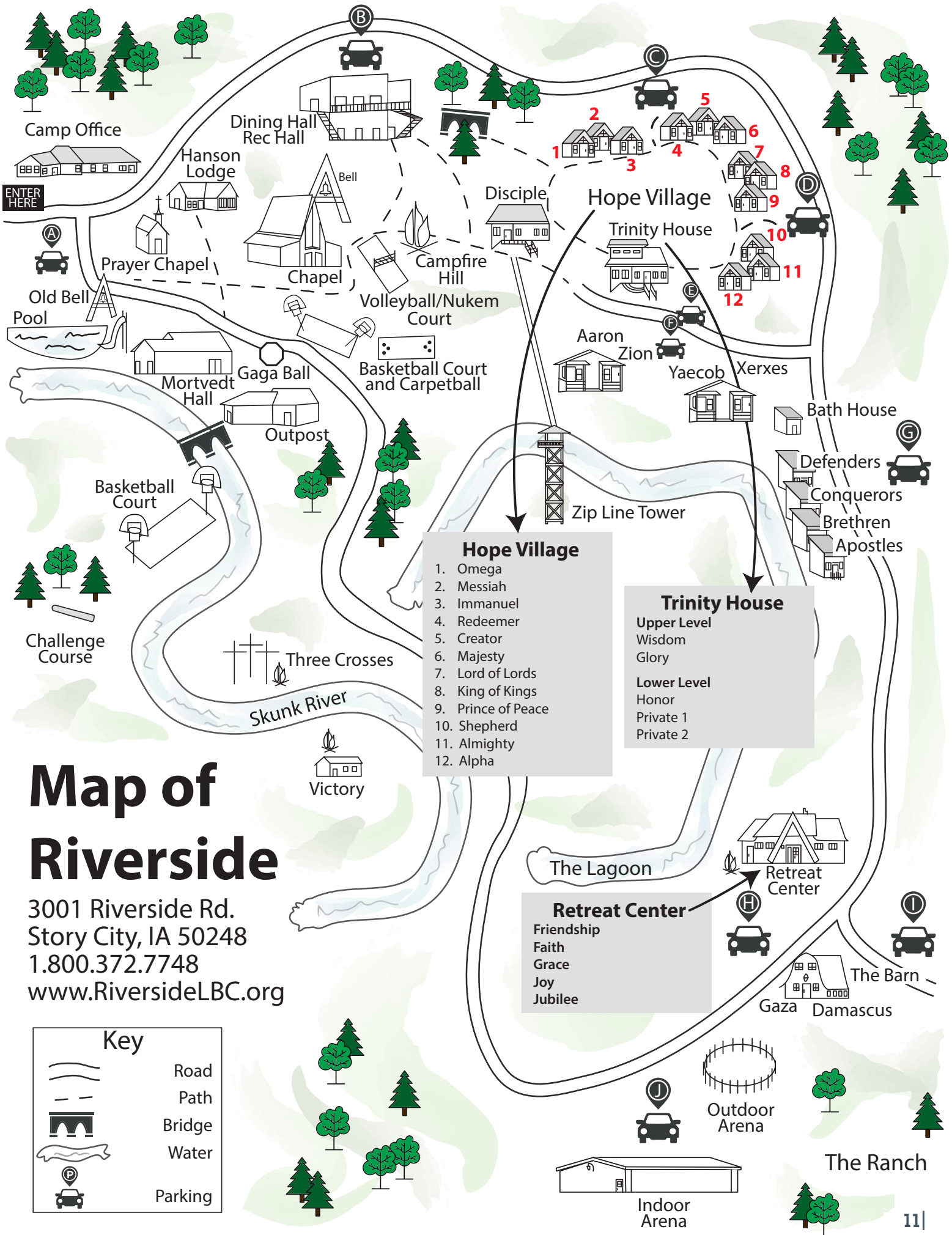
- If you know your child will likely experience some sadness about being away from home, encourage a friend or same-aged family member to attend at the same time. They can even request each other as cabin mates. A favorite stuffed animal, blanket, or family picture is perfectly acceptable to send along as well!
- Be careful to not let your own anxieties be heard or visible to your child. Instead of focusing too much on how much you will miss them while they are away, reassure your camper that you'll be fine while they are away at camp and that you can't wait to hear about all of their adventures at the end of the week.
- Refrain from telling your child that you'll pick them up if they don't like it or become homesick – this sets them up to struggle and inhibits our team's ability to help them cope and work through the challenge. You can remind your child ahead of time to talk to their cabin leader if/when they are missing home.
- Ensure that your child understands that you will not have contact with them during the week (unless through letters you send each other). Send them with paper/envelopes to encourage them to write you. Although you are likely to not receive the letters until your camper is home, it is a great way to provide a distraction for your camper and feel connected to you through writing!
- Camper drop-off – try not to linger too long when dropping them off or engage in a prolonged goodbye. Instead, focus on all of the terrific fun they are going to have.
- If this is your camper's first time at Riverside, a fun thing to do if you live within a reasonable distance of camp is to come check it out ahead of time! Take a drive around camp – see the cabins, the beautiful chapel, check out the pool and zipline, the horses at the ranch, etc. If you live farther away, you can check out a video of camp online.

As a reassurance, we want you to feel encouraged to know that most campers can overcome feelings of homesickness and go on to enjoy a great week of camp. Our summer team is equipped to address these special circumstances. Decisions about a camper returning home are made by our program team and parents collectively.

WHAT ABOUT CAMPER ILLNESS?

Camper wellness and the safety of our staff and campers is a priority for all of our Riverside team. During the summer months, we know that many kids will be experiencing symptoms relating to allergies while others may become ill while at camp. Here are a few things we want you to know ahead of time:

- Every week of camp has a medical volunteer who lives at camp all week. Our medical volunteer is necessary for a variety of reasons, including to respond to camper medical needs, both pre-existing and those that may arise during the camp week. If your child becomes ill at camp, they will be assessed, and depending on the circumstance, you may receive a call.
- Decisions for a camper to go home are made by the medical volunteer along with Riverside leadership. We remain acutely aware of the seriousness of communicable illnesses and will always act out of an abundance of caution.
- If your camper does not feel well ahead of drop-off day, please don't send them to camp and potentially jeopardize making others ill. You can delay your arrival until you know they feel better or we could help you find another session, if available.
- If you have a child who has to go home during the camp week because of actual or suspected illness, it may be possible for them to return to camp to complete the week if symptoms remain subsided for greater than 24 hours.



Riverside

Lutheran Bible Camp

*We can't wait to see
you this summer!*

