

Bethel Park Bible Camp

Principles and Policies Handbook

INTRODUCTION

This “Principles and Policies Handbook” was developed to help provide a friendly, safe and comfortable environment for everyone. **CONSIDERATION, CO-OPERATION AND CHRIST-LIKE CONDUCT** are key overriding principles that govern all of the content provided in this Handbook.

All Cottage Owners, Guests and their families are subject to the following principles and policies while residing on the grounds. It is important that they familiarize themselves with these principles and policies so that misunderstanding and conflict will be minimized.

Attendees of Children’s Camps, Youth Camps, and Group Rentals, are subject to these Principles and Policies.

ADDRESS CHANGES:

Please notify the Office of any address, name, telephone or e-mail address change as soon as practical. This information will help keep our Cottage Owners records up-to-date.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:

Bethel Park is an alcohol-free environment. The drinking of alcoholic beverages is not permitted on Camp property.

CAMPFIRES:

Campfires are allowed in the designated camp fire pit only and must be strictly supervised. There must be immediate access to a fire extinguisher or water at all times.

Permission to use the fire pit must be granted by the Director of Facilities or designate.

Provincial and local regulations with regards to fire bans will be strictly adhered to.

The Director of Facilities or designate has the right to withdraw permission for any reason that may present a safety issue.

Cabin Owners must notify the office if they currently have a chiminea or other type of outdoor fireplace. These outdoor appliances must be enclosed and located so as not to damage any buildings, hydro poles or trees. Proposed location of a new outdoor

appliance must be reviewed with the Director of Facilities prior to use. All provincial and local regulations and fire bans must be observed. The Director of Facilities or designate reserves the right to ask a cabin owner to remove the appliance if it is thought to be unsafe.

CARE OF MINORS:

Cottage Owners and registered guests and campers must take full responsibility for all children in their care who are under the age of 18. In the interest of their safety and protection, children should be instructed:

1. not to play on roadways, in any public meeting areas, in any secluded area (such as forests or fields hidden from public view), in any vacant room or building, or near any Camp work area such as the maintenance compound.
2. not to leave bikes, scooters, skateboards, etc. near any public entrance out of courtesy for the elderly and physically challenged
3. not to leave the grounds unescorted (without a known guardian) at any time.
4. to wear a bike helmet when riding their bike.

CONDUCT:

Bethel Park has been dedicated to the glory of God for the purpose of ministering to all ages, emotionally, spiritually and physically. As such, all attendees while on the grounds must agree to demonstrate to the best of their ability, by word and action, a lifestyle that is consistent with the moral principles found throughout Scripture.

Camp management reserves the right to determine violation of the scriptural principles and apply punitive measures if required (i.e. expulsion from the camp grounds).

CONFLICT RESOLUTION:

In the unlikely event that an issue remains unresolved between the Camp management and a Cottage Owner or guest, the matter will be referred for decision to a neutral arbitration committee set up for this purpose of hearing the complaint at the earliest practical time.

CURFEW:

Noise Curfew is 11:00 p.m and Curfew (indoors) by 12:00 midnight. All persons not registered to reside on-site, are expected to leave by curfew. Residents are requested to assist the Camp by having their children and teenagers returned to their accommodations by the required curfew.

DONATIONS:

Bethel Park Camp operates on a slim positive balance and charitable donations remain essential in funding the Camp's ongoing ministries. Camp taxes and fees only cover expenses necessary to sustain the grounds and facilities and do not cover all expenses for the organization. Every year, the Finance Committee will establish a recommended donation amount per cottage. This will be communicated with the Tax and Fee Notice sent out at the beginning of each year. Arrangements for payment by post-dated cheque(s) credit card remittances or Automatic Withdrawal from your bank account can be made with the Office.

Tax Receipts will be issued for all donations \$20.00 and over in any given calendar year.

DRESS CODE:

Residents and guests are asked to dress modestly at all times in keeping with generally accepted Christian standards.

FOOD SERVICES:

Family Camp & Heritage Camp: The Dining Hall is open for Lunch meals and Canteen snacks after the evening service.

Meals on Retreat Weekends are announced in advance of the weekend.

FIREARMS:

Possession and/or discharge of any firearm is strictly prohibited.

FIREWORKS:

The use of fireworks (including firecrackers) is prohibited unless special permission is granted by the Camp Management.

GARBAGE:

During Camp sponsored events, sanitation containers are conveniently placed throughout the grounds.

Only household garbage, in secure plastic bags, are to be placed in these containers. Garbage is to be left at these designated areas only, and prior to the last daily pickup. No garbage is to be left in the containers overnight. In the interest of safety and sanitation never leave waste or debris at the roadside where it obstructs traffic.

During non-camp planned events, cottagers are responsible for taking their garbage to the bins located by the Maintenance Buildings across from the soccer field.

GUESTS

Protocol for Cottagers Regarding Guests:

We realize that cottagers may wish to invite guests to use their cottage with or without the owner present. While the primary focus for cottagers must be on utilizing their cottages for their own spiritual development, social interaction and recreational needs, we nevertheless provide the following guidance to cottagers, for guests using private cottages at Bethel Park

1. All users must understand that the cottage is located on a Christian Camp and that certain lifestyle expectations are required by owners and users. Cottagers must notify the office when renters and guests are using a cottage when the owner is not present.
2. Cottagers must view their property as being available and utilized for their own purposes as the primary option with a rental component only as a secondary option.
3. Cottagers are responsible for the behaviour of their guests at all times.
4. Cottagers must make their guests aware of the Policy & Procedures contained in this document.
5. The Board of Directors reserves the right to refund any registration fee to any person or group, who does not abide by the principles and policies set forth in this handbook and, if necessary, request that they leave the grounds

All cottagers will be required to sign *on the Tax and Fee notice information update (beginning with 2016 Notice)* that they will abide by this guidance.

HOSPITAL:

If medical attention is required, the closest hospital is:

Newbury Hospital: 1824 Concession Dr. Newbury, ON N0L 1Z0

Main Phone: 519 693-4441

LIABILITY:

Bethel Park Camp is not responsible for personal injury or loss, or damage to private property or personal belongings. Persons responsible for willful damage to Camp property will be required to reimburse the Camp for such losses and or damage

MAIL & EMAIL:

OFFICE mailing address is:

310 Fairway Road South, P.O. Box 45070

Kitchener, ON N2C 1X0

Email Address: administration@bethelpark.ca

Website is www.bethelpark.ca

Phone: 519 748-5125

CAMP SITE address is: 21661 Talbot Line, Hwy #3, Rodney, ON N0L 2C0

Phone: 519 785-2090

MEDICAL CARE:

See hospital.

PAYMENT of TAXES & FEES

Payment for Taxes and Fees are due in full on or before the first Sunday of Family Camp. A 1% per month administrative fee is added for every month that the Cottage invoice is in arrears. It is appreciated if taxes are paid as soon as possible after receiving the invoice as Bethel Park's first tax installment is due the end of March. Arrangements for payment by post-dated cheque(s) credit card remittances or Automatic Withdrawal from your bank account can be made with the Office.

PETS:

Domestic pets are permitted on the campgrounds, in private cabins. Dogs are banned from areas where people congregate ie. around the playgrounds, the tennis/basketball courts, the store, the tabernacle, the chapel and the dining hall. **Pets are not allowed in any Camp owned cottages or buildings (with the exception of a service animal/guide dog required by people with disabilities.)**

We request that campers be considerate of neighbours by ensuring that pets remain quiet, indoors or on a leash, and under control at all times. All pet waste must be cleaned up immediately and placed in an appropriately sealed garbage container.

Dogs over 25 pounds which are outside of the owner's cabin must wear a muzzle, and their leash must be held by (and the dog must be under the control of) a person 16 years of age or older.

PROPERTY:

Property is owned by Bethel Park Bible Camp Society. Cottage owners own their cottage or trailer, but not the property it is located on.

Prior to any contemplated cottage renovation (decks, sheds, additions etc.), detailed plans must be submitted to the Director of Facilities for approval. The County has allocated specific square footage and building restrictions, and as such a building permit may be required for the renovation.

In the older and more congested areas of the Camp, lot sizes vary and lot lines are hard to distinguish. The Camp reserves the right to make the final decision over any matter of dispute.

Areas around cottages and trailers should be kept neat and tidy. Exterior decors should be tasteful and in keeping with the neighbouring properties. The Camp reserves the right to make the final decision over any matter of dispute.

The minimum/maximum area square footage limits must be followed if a tent is to be erected on a cottage site.

A dining tent or a small sleeping tent is usually permissible in the trailer area. The Camp reserves the right to make the final decision concerning space availability.

Decks are allowed beside trailers and cottages, but are not to be attached and/or closed in so as to increase living space without appropriate approvals. Attached and/or closed in decks will be included in the taxed square footage of the cottage or trailer.

All tents and RVs must be located only in designated areas.

Do not take independent action. If in doubt, refer questions to the Office for clarification prior to making changes.

PURCHASING/SELLING/TRANSFERRING PROPERTY:

Prior to any sale of the property and/or transfer, Cottage Owners must obtain a sale/transfer package from the Office which includes:

1. An offer to purchase agreement
2. Seller and Purchaser information
3. A letter to be completed by the Purchaser's Pastor confirming their church membership and standing
4. Membership Application Form

All documents must be completed and approved by the Office before a sale/transfer can be finalized. No monies should be exchanged until final approval is made by the Office.

NOTE: Any change of name on the property requires the same procedure as above even though there may not be an exchange of funds.

QUIET HOURS:

It is our desire to provide a place of quiet and restful occupancy for all attendees. Therefore, the hours of 11:00 p.m to 7:00 am will be considered "Quiet Hours". It is important for all campers to respect this period of time, out of consideration for their neighbours.

During all other times, excessive noise and rowdy activity should be kept to a minimum in consideration of your fellow campers.

REGISTRATION:

All persons staying in Camp accommodations or in the RV area are required to check in and check out with the Hospitality Director.

SEASON OF OCCUPANCY:

The Camp will generally be open for occupancy of private seasonal dwellings and trailers from May 1st to October 31st of each calendar year. (Dates may vary and will be communicated to members and cabin owners by Newsletter and E-mail)

SMOKING:

Bethel Park is a smoke-free environment. The smoking of any tobacco product, marijuana or any other plant based substance, is not permitted on Camp property.

SPEED LIMITS:

Speed limits (currently 8 km./hr) are clearly posted and in the interest of safety must be obeyed at all times. All motorists are requested to please drive carefully. All drivers must be licensed. No person is allowed to ride on the outside of a car.

SUNDAYS:

Sunday shall be observed as the Lord's Day. Campers are requested to refrain from working on their Cottages on this day.

TUCK SHOP:

The Tuck Shop offers candy, snacks, beverages and ice cream for your enjoyment. The hours of operation vary and will be posted at the Tuck Shop entrance.

VEHICLES:

Vehicles parked in and around your property should be kept to a minimum. Some cottages and trailers have very limited space for parking- even for one vehicle. Your cooperation is appreciated in reducing congestion in and around the camp properties. The Camp reserves the right to address parking issues with the Cottage Owners on an individual basis if necessary.

Driving through the camp grounds is to be kept to a minimum (see Speed Limits). Bikes and children's toys are to be stored close to your cottage or trailer. If bikes are used at night, they must be equipped with a light. Children must wear bike helmets at all times when riding their bikes.

IN SUMMARY:

Bethel Park is a private camp ground and as such, reserves the right to determine who is allowed on the grounds, who can own cottages or trailers, and who can rent your facilities.

The Board of Directors reserves the right to refund any registration fee to any person/groups who do not abide by the principles and policies set forth in this handbook and, if necessary, request that they leave the grounds.

All questions and concerns may be directed to the Bethel Park Office
Phone: 519 748-5125 or E-mail: administration@bethelpark.ca