



Camp & Retreat Center



PILGRIM FIRS
camp & conference center

Top 10 Things

Churches Need to Know about Summer Camp 2024

Your Camp & Retreat Centers

1 Why Church Camp?

Because church camp is joyful fun! It is a sacred place. It is intensely relational and positive role models abound! Camp is different from Vacation Bible School and Sunday School. Campers and leaders live, work, play and worship together from early morning until late into the evening. They grow together through shared experiences and form an intentional community. They hear our faith stories in new places and new ways, and find opportunities to share their own.

For dates, rates, and details, check out our websites: www.n-sid-sen.org
www.pilgrim-firs.org

2 Summer Curriculum *Linked by Love*

We know that love comes from God, and sometimes we experience it directly. More often, God's love is manifest in relationships of all kinds that weave in and out of our lives. We see God's love in close friends and family – those we are born into and those we chose along the way. We see God in quiet moments where we are present with each other and in acts of profound grace when we have been far apart. We hear God in life guiding and life changing words of truth from those who know and love us. We know that such love links our lives, teaching us about commitment, intimacy, grace, and faith. As we seek to create and strengthen life giving relationships, we remember that such love flows from God, links us all together, and we give thanks.



3 Celebrate Camp this Spring in Your Church!

You are invited to lift up our shared ministry this spring. Select a Sunday for your **Camp Sunday** and have fun! The summer camp schedule, creative ideas for promotion and additional resources can be found on our websites or check [Resources for Churches](#) on the N-Sid-Sen website.

4 NEW: Sessions at Pilgrim Firs in Port Orchard.

Most of our camp sessions are held at N-Sid-Sen, but this year, we are kicking off summer with a You & Me Camp and Kids Camp, June 14-16, at Pilgrim Firs. Check out the schedule for our line-up of great summer adventures.

5 Family Share & Church Share

Summer camp, at N-Sid-Sen or Pilgrim Firs, is an important piece of the year-round faith formation efforts for many PNC-UCC churches. To encourage and support their church families, many congregations pay a portion of the camp fee. We refer to this as the "church share".

The process is simplified when churches **determine a set amount of support per session.** For example: \$250 for full-week sessions and \$150 for part-week sessions. This way, church support remains constant, no matter which discounts or tier rate a family may select.

Save time! Pay for all your church's campers with one check. We'll bill your church toward the end of the summer camp season. *This later payment does not affect the Early Bird discount for campers, because families register and pay the initial deposit upfront.*

N-Sid-Sen
36395 S Hwy 97
Harrison, ID 83833

208.689.3489
info@n-sid-sen.org
www.n-sid-sen.org

Pilgrim Firs
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Port Orchard, WA 98367

360.876.2031
info@pilgrim-firs.org
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6 Online Registration
Families register and can make payments online. The **Register** link is easy to find on our website home pages. Payment of the non-refundable deposit is required at the time of registration.

7 Camps Fees: Gratitude, Direct Cost & Subsidized Rate Tiers

We are passionate about the power of church camp and committed to keeping camp accessible to everyone who seeks a church camp experience. We recognize that families are differently gifted and have different financial constraints. We seek to balance the cost of providing a quality camping experience with options for families to pay at the level that fits their budget. To do this N-Sid-Sen has a voluntary three-tier fee program.

Each family chooses the rate that is most suitable for their circumstances, and the choice is kept confidential.

All N-Sid-Sen & Pilgrim Firs campers receive the same experience, no matter which rate is selected.

Gratitude Tier: This higher tier more closely reflects the true costs of providing our camp experience, including facility maintenance, equipment repair and replacement, program development, and insurance. It addresses increasing costs for food, fuel and staff. Even if you cannot afford to choose the Gratitude Rate in any given year, we hope seeing this higher tier helps to increase awareness of the actual cost of the camp experience – costs we must seek to make up throughout the year.

Direct Cost Tier: This tier reflects a payment that covers the direct costs of a week of camp for a camper: programming, food, and summer staff.

Subsidized Tier: This tier covers a portion of the direct costs, but not all of them. Fees paid by adult guests throughout the year and generous donations from local churches, groups and individuals who value the impact of our summer camps, make up the difference between the true cost of the summer camp experience and the fees paid under the Direct Cost and Subsidized Tiers.

8 Early Bird Discounts & More! **The Early Bird Deadline is April 15!**

If families register and pay the non-refundable deposit by April 15, they save \$25 on part-week camps and \$50 on full-weeks camps.

Bring A Friend Discount

Help us spread the word! Youth campers can bring a friend new to N-Sid-Sen and Pilgrim Firs and save! The friend saves too! Learn more in the [Ways to Save](#) section of the N-Sid-Sen website or in the upcoming camp brochure!

9 Financial Assistance

Don't let finances prevent the children in your congregation from attending camp! Many churches pay a portion of the camp fee. In addition, some are able to provide additional assistance. In addition, a conference-wide scholarship fund was established to help. Contact the camp offices to explore the options.

10 Volunteer & Employment Opportunities

There are many ways to serve and make a difference. For details, check out our websites or contact the camp offices.

ADULT VOLUNTEERS: Cabin Leaders, Session Directors, Nurses and Resource People are the heart of our summer camp programs. Minimum commitment is 4-7 days at N-Sid-Sen and 3 days at Pilgrim Firs. Length of service depends on the position and the session.

SUMMER STAFF are the backbone of our program. Theirs is truly a Summer of Service. They clean, tote, haul, clear and so much more. Their efforts in the kitchen, cabins, at the lake and throughout the grounds provide support for our summer camps and our partner group events. Some paid positions run from mid-June through August, others longer.

PLEASE HELP SPREAD the WORD!
Have some possible candidates in mind? Send us an email.

N-Sid-Sen and Pilgrim Firs are ministries of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ (PNC-UCC).

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