

# Top 10 Things

## Churches Need to Know about Summer Camp 2025



EST.  1955

### PILGRIM FIRS

### 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](http://www.n-sid-sen.org)  
[www.pilgrim-firs.org](http://www.pilgrim-firs.org)

### 2 Summer Curriculum Another Way

Jesus often challenged the world around him with **another way** of being. Through his example, we are reminded that God invites us to examine who we are and how we do things. Being at camp, we are already experiencing **another way** of living, set apart in a natural setting, away from the everyday demands and distractions.

Together, we will explore how growing in different ways, and accepting and supporting others as they grow, can change the way we live our lives – not just at camp, but when we return to our lives at home, school and work.

We will imagine how the changes we make in ourselves can contribute to the changes we seek in the world. Whether we are addressing unfair rules or dreaming of a time when all people belong, we know that God calls us to do a new thing and faithfully forge **another way**.

### 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, as well as additional resources can be found on the N-Sid-Sen website under [Resources for Churches](#).

### 4 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 our summer adventures with a **You & Me Camp** and a **Kids Camp** at Pilgrim Firs. Check our websites for details.

### 5 Family Share & Church Share

Summer camp is an important piece of the year-round faith formation efforts for many PNC-UCC congregations. To encourage and support their church families, many churches 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.***

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**6 Online Registration**  
Families register and can make payments online. The **Summer Camp Section** of our websites -- with links to registration -- is easy to find. **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, our camps have a voluntary three-tier fee program.

Each family chooses the rate that is most suitable for their circumstances. That 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 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 and You & Me 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](#) tab in the summer camp sections of our websites.

## **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. There is also a conference-wide scholarship fund that 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, Event Directors, Nurses, Chaplains and Resource People are the heart of our summer camp programs. Minimum commitment is 4-7 days at N-Sid-Sen and 4 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 (PNCUCC).**

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