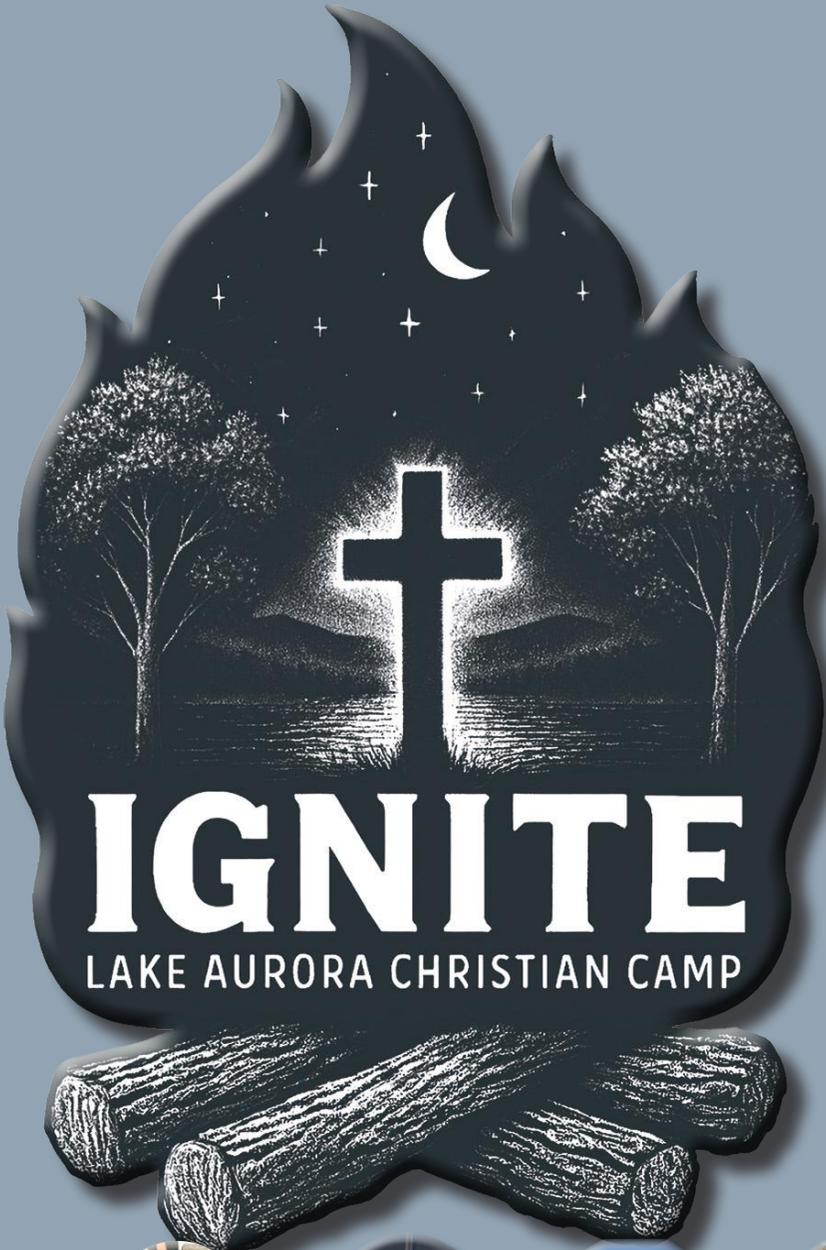




A ministry
of Christian
churches in
central Florida

79th Edition of Lake Aurora Summer Camp



2026

SUMMER 2026

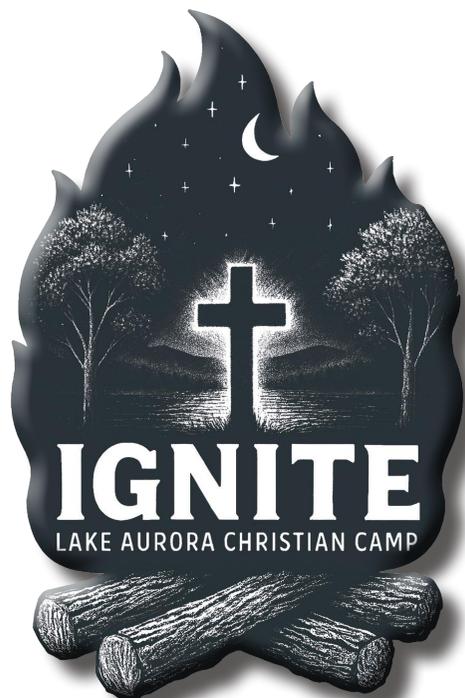
Why camp?

Encourage your camper to come and experience God in a vast, beautiful outdoor setting. Camp nurtures independence and IGNITEs God's purpose for their lives through Christian values, fostering lifelong friendships and memories!

In the camp environment, we teach, explain, demonstrate, and reinforce Biblical truth in fun and memorable ways, no matter the activity. Campers develop physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually in a safe, trusted environment to explore and discover God's love for them and their life's purpose.

As your camper grows, they will continue to make mistakes, and we want to help them understand how God can take that spark of hope and ignite a purpose for their future.

The 2026 summer season continues its trilogy of themes, and following "SPARK" comes "IGNITE"! That spark needs good kindling just like our faith needs a community to help build and grow. This summer will focus on ways to build campers' faith and grow into the disciple God intends for each of us to be for Him.



LAKE AURORA CHRISTIAN CAMP is owned by 75 independent congregations in central Florida commonly known as Christian Churches/Churches of Christ. Over 78 years ago it began as a small youth camp on 10 acres and has grown to 85+ acres. It is a 501(c)3 organization providing a year-round center for education, spiritual renewal, relaxation, and recreation through retreats, seminars, conferences, and camps in a Christ-centered atmosphere.

We invite you to join us in our 79th edition of camp!



What do you like most about Lake Aurora?

We made s'mores, went on a hayride, ax thro, bow and arrow, zip line, giant swing, photo ops, arts and crafts, game room, beach front area with slides, good food, great views, canoeing, nice cabins. I really can't say enough great things about this place.

RESIDENTIAL CAMPS...

Both campuses experience extraordinary programs specifically designed for each age group, blending creative experiences with traditional camp activities from waterfront to campfires.

LAKESIDE CAMPUS

PAGE 3

Located on the south side of campus accommodating up to 144 campers per session with counselor group size of 7-8 campers. Housing is in lake-view, dorm-style cabins with bunk beds, A/C and adjacent bathroom. Meals are served in the dining hall in the center of campus.

HILLSIDE CAMPUS

PAGE 3

Located on the north side of our campus and housed in four cabins that include bunk beds, A/C and adjacent bathroom. This program can accommodate up to 64 campers per session with counselor groups of 7-8 campers. Meals are served in the dining hall in the center of campus.

CAMPUSWIDE

PAGE 3

This is a larger version of the regular camp programs utilizing both campuses for housing the same age group and using the Oak Hammock as their worship space. Accommodate 215 campers per session while using the 7-8 campers per counselor group.

SPECIALTY CAMPS

PAGE 4

- **Camp Friendship...** Tailor-made three night camp opportunity to meet the unique needs of individuals with challenged abilities for ages 10 through adult.
- **Girls Volleyball Camp...** Girls 6th-12th grade combine athletic skill development of volleyball with spiritual growth and life lessons.

IGNITE



LEADERSHIP CAMPS

PAGE 5

Servant Leadership! Developed for those who want to put their faith in action. These programs take Jesus' servant leader concepts and apply them to life, preparing true servant-leaders for Christ in His church. Big M.A.C. (Maturing As Christians), WHOLE camp, Aquatics Training, and Alpha programs challenge campers to discover the gifts God has given them to serve others. They focus on personal management and service skills which should help give the participant an edge in future life. Everyone in these programs learns to function as a team through a series of work, study, and play activities.

There is an **application process for Big MAC WHOLE, and Alpha** to help determine if a camper is ready for each program. Applications will be sent after the registration is received in the camp office with payment. Space is limited and the programs fill quickly. The Aquatics program has physical and age prerequisites from the Red Cross that campers need to meet at the start of the camp.

Should a camper not be accepted into a program, the fees can be applied to another program or refunded. Start the process with a download paper form or online "Alpha Application Request,"

LIFE EXPEDITIONS

PAGE 4

Adventure camps for those that love the great outdoors and wants to "rough it". These programs are based in nearby scrub woods and waterways to awesome state parks

- **Voice in the Wilderness...** an introduction level for elementary campers to tent camping, wilderness experiences and "old Florida" while listening for the voice of God through nature.
- **Canoe Camps...** for rustic loving middle school and junior high campers down the Peace River!

The following programs are open to high schoolers entering 9-12th grade as well as those just completing high school.

Spiritual Survival Camp... located in a nearby wilderness area, an intense experience developed to challenge and stretch high school campers in their faith and comfort level leaving a lasting impression!

- **N Florida Springs Canoe...** experiences God's Creation while snorkeling, canoeing and hiking several areas of the North Florida Springs and State Parks. Crystal clear, cool waters are waiting to be explored!



RESIDENT CAMPS

Lakeside Campus

All camps are for the grade entering in the Fall of 2026

Camper capacity 60-215 per program

Primary - Limited enrollment of 75
1 night camps **\$120**

Session A
Thursday 10:30 am - Friday 4 pm
1,2,3 Grades (**L123a**) June 18-19
Director: J. Littiken

Session B
Thursday 10:30 am - Friday 4 pm
1,2,3 Grades (**L123b**) July 23-24
Director: K. Haskett/J. Canary

2 night camp **\$270**
2,3,4 Grade (**L234**) June 28-July 1
Director: Jen Mehlenbacher
Sunday 4 pm - Wednesday 10 am

Elementary
4 night camps **\$390**
Sunday - Thursday
Check-in 4 pm & Check out 10 am

Session A
4,5,6 Grades(**L456a**) June 14-18
Director: L. Spencer

Session B
4,5,6 Grades (**L456b**) July 19-23
Director: J. Canary/K. Haskett

Hillside Campus

Camper capacity
64 per program

Elementary
4 Night Camps **\$390**
Sunday 4 pm - Thursday 10 am

3,4,5 Grade (**H345a**) June 14-18
Director: D. Tompkins/A. Blair

3,4,5 Grade (**H345b**) July 26-30
Director: L. Williams

4,5,6 Grade (**H456**) July 12-16
Director: K. Free



Middle School
5 Night Camp **\$510**

Sunday 4 pm - Friday 2 pm

Session A
6,7,8 Grades (**L678a**) July 12-17
Director: J. Mocherman

Session B
6,7,8 Grades (**L678b**) July 26-31
Director: J. Merrill

Campuswide
6,7,8 Grades (**CW678**) June 21-26
Director: E. Robinson/M. Sieja

High School
5 night camp **\$520**
Sunday 4 pm - Friday 2 pm

9-12 Grade (**CW912**) July 5-10
Director: B. Palmer/B. Mehlenbacher

Campuswide camp...Conference style programming with all the adventure of the camp environment. Special activities only available for the high school experience.

CW - Housed on both Lakeside/Hillside

Resident camp programming for both campuses experiences all the fun of summer camp including lakefront swimming, campfires, Bible study, wacky games, small counselor groups, awesome worship, terrific meals, and many outdoor activities on page 6.

Activities such as waterfront toys and ropes adventures are on an age progression and not all available at every program.



Wilderness Adventures

Experience God's natural world upclose and personal through primitive camping, star strewn nights, campfires, exploring Florida's state preserves, parks, and waterways learning skills from an era gone by and the friendship of new tent mates!

These programs begin on campus and travel to their destinations beginning on Sunday or Monday. Aurora Buck Discounts are available for these programs. Wilderness trips have minimum quotas and are dependent upon environmental conditions. If a program is cancelled full refunds issued.

Voice in the Wilderness \$ 350

Sunday 4pm - Thursday 10 am
4,5,6 Grades June 21-25 (LEViW 456)
Director: Randy Garland

An introduction into primitive tent camping & campfire cooking while living in and exploring a wilderness setting at Lake Kissimmee State Park. Focus on listening to the voice of God while being introduced to experiences such as hiking, canoeing, star gazing, scripture reading, memory verses, devotions and singing around the campfire.

Peace River Canoe Camp \$ 350

Sunday 4 pm - Thursday 10 am
7, 8 & 9 Grades July 5-9
8, 9 & 10 Grades July 12-16
(LEcanoe 7-9 & 8-10) Director: Randy Garland

An amazing four night experience of tent camping, canoeing, & life on the Peace River for both guys and girls.

Camp ends Thursday at 10 am

Special preparation packing list available after registration. First and last nights are spent on the Lake Aurora campus with two nights primitive camping on the banks of the Peace River.



Specialty Camps...

Camp Friendship \$220

Removing barriers to great experiences.
Sunday 4pm - Tuesday 2 pm
Age 10 thru Adult w/self help skills
June 28-30

Dir: Kim Meeks

Camp Friendship is planned especially for those with developmental and physical disabilities. Campers, each accompanied by a "special friend," will have opportunity to participate in a wide variety of experiences, including worship, Bible study, crafts, swimming, fishing, game room, talent night, hayride and much more.

Separate registration application is required and is available at lakeaurora.org.

N. Florida Springs Adventure

Sunday 4pm - Friday 4pm \$495

Grades 9 thru 12 June 7-12
(LE NFL 9-12) Director: R. Garand
High School trip exploring and snorkeling and canoeing the crystal clear springs of North Florida with day hikes and other excursions while state park tent camping.

Spiritual Survival Camp \$470

Sunday 4pm - Friday 4pm
Grades 9 thru 12 July 26-31
(LESurv 912) Director: Randy Garland

As an unique and popular adventure, come experience primitive tent camping & campfire cooking while living in and exploring a wilderness setting. Spiritual principles are explored while learning compass/navigation skills, knots, & fire/shelter building. A rugged experience for spiritual growth, adventure & lifelong benefits.

Program capacity is 10-18 campers per session. Go online today and register!



Girls Volleyball Camp \$390

Sunday 4pm - Thursday 10 am
Grades 6 thru 12 July 19-23
Director: Johnson

A five day, four night adventure of learning strategies and extensive play opportunities and volleyball skill development all while applying biblical principles and enjoying camp activities. Comfortable cabin housing and meals in dining hall.

Beginner to intermediate skill levels

Ends 10 am Thursday.

Servant Leadership

AQUATICS TRAINING

Red Cross Lifeguard \$470

Age 15 and up May 31- June 5

Dir: R. Garland/R. Knight

Sunday 4 pm - Friday 2 pm

You will be trained for leadership at the waterfront through Red Cross lifeguard training. Encounter Christ-like staff, specific waterfront training and inspiring small groups. Specifically for those considering earning lifeguard certification.

Requirements: Participants must be 15 years old by 5/31/26 and successfully complete a pre-course session of: a). Swim 500 yds continuously using breast stroke, crawl, & sidestroke. b). Tread water for 2 min. using legs only. c). Submerge to a depth of 7 ft, retrieve a 10 lb brick & return to surface. d). Swim 25 yds from shallow to deep, retrieve 10 lb brick, return to shallow end. RED CROSS online classes and tests must be completed prior to arrival on campus. Two year certification as Lifeguarding + Waterfront including First-Aid & CPR.

W.H.O.L.E.

Wilderness Hands-On Leadership Experience

Friday 3 pm - Thursday 4 pm

\$85

Grades 9-12 June 19-25 Dir: Randy Garland

Participants will ideally have completed previous Lake Aurora leadership camps or be highly recommended. Leadership and teamwork principles then focus toward service working with Voice in the Wilderness campers in meal prep, lessons and wilderness activities.

Requirements: Application and recommendation. Space in this camp is limited.



BIG M.A.C.

Maturing As Christians

\$490

Sunday 4 pm - Friday 2 pm

Grades 8 & 9

June 7-12

Director: Josh Fell

In today's world, character is hard to find. Here you will find the true meaning of integrity, servant-hood, respect, kindness, and gratitude. Specifically for those jr high campers that are serious about becoming a leader for Jesus Christ. This program sets the foundation for our leadership programs and there is an application process as not all that apply are accepted. Campers experience awesome Bible studies, incredible service opportunities, and radical waterfront fun.

Requirements:

1. Application process
2. Two references.

ALPHA PROGRAM

Grades 9-12

Application Fee:

\$100

(transferable if not selected)

Intern in vital support positions (kitchen help, dishwasher, assistants, grounds work) for summer camp in two week sessions. Limited to 12 campers per session. These are intense leadership development programs designed to instill in the participants the servant leader principles taught by Jesus. They will focus on time management and service skills which should help to give the participant an edge in future life. Everyone in these programs learns to function as a team through a series of work, study, and play activities.

To start the application process, select "Alpha Application Request" online or download paper registration. Each session is for two weeks and earns the participant a camp scholarship for one week of camp. Highly recommended for campers to experience a Big MAC session prior to Alpha. Indicate a 1st and 2nd choice of sessions. Programs fill quickly.

A: June 7-19

B: June 21-July 1*

C: July 5-17

D: July 19-31

*Alpha B is a shortened session and earned scholarship is reduced.



Dear Parents,

Thank you for considering sending your child to a Christian camp, and particularly to Lake Aurora. Since you are taking into account our programs, we want to help you understand who we are and how we operate.

Lake Aurora is owned and operated by non-denominational Christian churches in central Florida. These churches furnish over 400 volunteers each summer to staff our programs. Lake Aurora also has a year-round professional staff who trains and orchestrates these volunteer workers. Our counselors and staff use a variety of methods to communicate spiritual truths including devotions, skits, teachable moments, interactive Bible studies, exploration of age appropriate social issues and campfires.

The health and safety of your child is important to us and we work hard to make our campus and programs safe. We make every effort to meet or exceed state and industry standards. Obviously there is always the chance for injury or illness to occur, so we do our best to be prepared for emergencies. Since camp is a community setting, we ask that you monitor your camper's health prior to attending to reduce the spread of any contagious variant.

We are a camp who specializes in teaching Christian values and concepts. Thus, it is not unusual for campers to become motivated to make life decisions while at camp — often it is the decision to embrace Christianity. We do not promote any denomination, but counsel straight from the Bible.

Being a Christian camp does not mean that only Christians can attend. It does mean that Christian values are taught here, and that we are connected strongly with church programming. Lake Aurora attempts to blend the goals of the church, the parents, and the child into a unified program. We provide Bible based study and worship, we help the child discover appropriate responses to many social and family issues, and we provide an atmosphere of controlled fun.

Our fees are based on our actual costs — we are a not-for-profit ministry. Available through our supporting churches are “Aurora Bucks” (discounts) on select camp programs. The camp office can direct you to the church nearest you. Other scholarship programs may also be available from most churches. We do not want any camper to miss camp for financial reasons, so if you have need of financial assistance please call for a Lake Aurora Campership Application.

Most children have wonderful experiences at camp. That is our goal for your child. Thanks for giving us the chance to partner with you to provide your child with a fun, safe, and experiential learning adventure.

Yours in Christian camping,

The Lake Aurora Staff



For Lakeside and Hillside, no day is typical, but it might look something like this...

7:45 am	Breakfast
8:30	Cabin Cleanup
9	Personal Devotions
9:30	Activity Period 1
10:30	Activity Period 2
12 pm	Lunch
12:30	Program Option
2	Activity Period 3 Canteen
3	Activity Period 4
4	Activity Period 5
5:30	Dinner
6:30	Activity Period 6 Vespers Evening Fun (Skits, Talent, etc.) Canteen Campfire Lights out (Varies with age)

Sample only -- times/options may vary

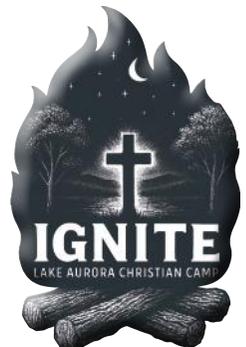
On Site Activity Options:

- Swimming
- Archery
- Leathercrafts
- Canoe/Paddleboat
- Bible Study
- Nature Walks
- Field Games
- Low Ropes Course*
- Life Application
- Pedal Carts
- Zoom Floom
- Double Zipline*
- Giant's Swing*
- Sand Volleyball
- Pole Fishing
- Social Issue
- Service Projects
- Banana Sled*
- Tubing*
- Roller Racers
- Game Room
- 18 Hole Disc Golf
- Gaga Ball
- Canopy High Ropes*

* Dependent on age requirements. i.e. Blob & Banana begin at the 4,5,6 grade camps & Zipline at 5,6,7 grade.



2025 Year-round Staff



863.696.1102

26brochureLA.indd

6



To create the most rewarding

ATMOSPHERE

for everyone at camp, the following criteria listed below, will be expected from each camper...

Attitude ~ Christian conduct and character is expected at all times.

Time ~ You will be expected to follow the schedule.

Missing ~ You will not be permitted to leave the grounds except for scheduled excursions.

On & Off ~ Your clothing should be of a modest nature. The standards of the world are not the standards of Lake Aurora. This especially includes swimsuits. If clothing is inappropriate or immodest, you may be asked to change.

Sickness ~ All sickness and accidents must be reported to your counselor or infirmary promptly. Lake Aurora has a modest accident insurance policy covering each camper.

Promotion ~ Shirts and clothing promoting alcohol/tobacco products, suggestive statements, grotesque scenes, or graphics not consistent with a Christian environment may not be worn or displayed. This includes vehicles.

Healthy ~ Tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and illegal items & other such products are not permitted.

Education & Electronics ~ To maximize the camper experience -- DO NOT BRING cell phones, handheld gaming devices, WiFi enabled devices including, smart watches, ipods, tablets, etc. Prank related items are not allowed.

Rights ~ While at camp your rights will be determined by The Golden Rule of Christ. Christianity is and always has been a religion that was based on one "denying ones self". This principle will affect what you say, what you do, what is expected of you, & what you can expect from others.

Emergency ~ For the benefit of the camper, telephone usage will be for emergency use only. Campers should plan to communicate with their parents & friends by writing.

Do not bring cell phones. If brought, they will be stored in the Director's possession for the duration of the program.



WHAT TO BRING...

Registrations will be confirmed by email from the camp.

Helpful links on our website:

Click on Summer Camp and select from the top menu bar for these options:

- **What to bring link** will have packing list and **Check in brochures** to guide you through check in day and check out procedures.
- **The Prepared Parent link** will answer a lot of questions about camp life.
- **Healthy Camp** to help prepare healthwise.

Items coming to camp that are not permissible may be "held" by the camp staff until the end of the program for safe keeping. *Cell phones are NOT permitted for campers.*

Values from the perspective of a Christian are taught and practiced here. Therefore, in swimming, *if* modesty is questioned, a dark colored t-shirt should be worn over the swimsuit. At all other times, clothing of both males and females should remain modest and decent. If clothing is inappropriate, the camper may be asked to change. Remember, the standards of the world are not the standards at Lake Aurora. Review the "criteria" for camp atmosphere to the left.

WATER SAFETY...

Whenever swimming and boating activities are open, certified lifeguards are on duty. Boaters must wear U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets (provided). Personal safety and the proper use of the equipment is emphasized at all times. Power boat water sports adhere to industry wide safety standards.

As a progression of activities available to campers, the "Blob" & "Banana" are options for 4th grade and up. The youngest camp programs experiencing these water sports begin where 4th graders are the youngest campers in the program.



REGISTRATION TIPS

Camps are for the grade ENTERING in the fall of 2026. Correct grade group is required.

Fast and Easy Online Registration:

- **Previous Camper parents:** If you forgot your username and password, follow online instructions or contact info@lakeaurora.org.
- Have all necessary payment and medical information readily accessible before starting.
- Deposit is required to reserve a space. You may log in and continue to make payments prior to camp.
- **2026** - Church group reservation available for most Lakeside programs. A church pays a deposit on the number of spaces needed. A link is sent to families to complete information. Church responsible for tuition. **Anonymous group registrations are canceled on May 1** with forfeit of deposit on each canceled registration.

SCAN TO
REGISTER
ONLINE

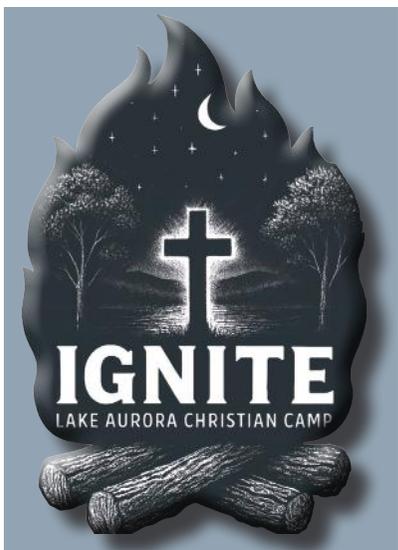


Express Check-in... Camp fee paid in full **3 days prior to check in**. Express Check-in campers go straight to housing assignment area. Campers with any "balance due" must check-in at the Ministry Center Office prior to getting in line for housing assignment.

Please register camper for grade entering in the Fall.

Camp Codes: letter stands for the campus and numbers indicate grade entering. (L123 - Lakeside 1st, 2nd, 3rd grade)

A deposit (portion of total fee) must accompany registration. "Aurora Buck" discount coupon may not be used as a deposit. Outstanding balance is due at check-in. **Deposits are not transferable or refundable unless a waitlist.** All but the deposit is refundable if requested two weeks in advance. Exceptions include illness or symptoms that develop up to three days prior to camp program. Please, no sick campers at check in.



OUR GOAL...

To make the camper aware that their whole life is lived before God, giving them biblical principles and a chance to practice them in a safe environment.

OPEN ADMISSION...

Acceptance and participation in the Lake Aurora programs are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap.

IMPORTANT POINTS...

Register Early!

Many camps fill quickly. We encourage you to register early and online. Registrations cannot be taken over the phone and a deposit is needed to reserve a "spot".

If finances are an issue, please initially contact your local church for available assistance through an 'Aurora Buck' and/or camper scholarship. "Aurora Bucks" are not limited to church members but are encouraged for free distribution to community. Lake Aurora has limited assistance available through Campership applications "Scholarship Fund". Contact our Campership Coordinator at 863.696.1102 or info@lakeaurora.org.

Register online at lakeaurora.org.

Pre-Ordered T-shirts...

Purchase the 2026 camp shirt for \$15 with your registration until June 1. Available in the camp store as supplies last. Pick up ordered camp shirt on check-in day. Please label shirts immediately upon pick up. We can not replace lost shirts..

Group Photos...

Purchase an 8x10 photo of the entire group program your camper attends. Includes campers and counselors for their program. \$6 a photo.

Prepayment of optional items are for your convenience. They are also available for purchase at check in and check out while supplies last. **Camp shirt is available for pre-sale until June 1.** Color is Heather Blue Lagoon.

Hillside and Lakeside fees include a \$5 'Store Card' EXCEPT when using Group Registration.. See "Prepared Parent" online for more details.



SCAN TO REGISTER



- ⇒ Waiting lists are based on the date that registrations are received in the CAMP office whether by mail or online.
- ⇒ "Walk-ons" may not be accepted due to full programs! **PLEASE -- Do not bring a "walk-on" camper to check-in.**
- ⇒ Confirmations by email.. Check in day information available online. Special at home health pre-screening requested.
- ⇒ **CHECK OUT TIMES vary. See program time frames.**



Campership...

It is our policy to not turn someone away because of finances, but expenses and costs still exist. Therefore, individuals and churches are encouraged to sponsor children to camp who otherwise could not afford the opportunity of attending a program. Please consider a gift for "campership" to help fund camp for those that request help.

If assistance is needed for your camper, please contact the camp office for a campership request. Campership for one program per camper per summer.

CHECK IN: for most camps

4-5 pm except...

Primary Camps -

L123a, L123b Check-in - 10:30 am

CHECK OUT: for 5 night camps
Lakeside/Hillside **2 pm**

Special Check out times:

Grade groups L123a&b LESS, LENFL, = 4 pm

Grade groups L234, LH345, LH456 = 10 am

Canoe Trips/Voice in Wilderness = 10 am

ONLINE PHOTOS

One way e-mails and photos are available thru "Bunk1" on the parent portal or by downloading the app. Parents must grant access for guests. Provided by an outside service so there is an additional charge for emails and downloads.

MAIL CALL...

Campers look forward to receiving mail. "Mail Call" silliness varies with each program. E-mails are delivered to counselors and not through "mail call". Due to the nature of retrieval, e-mails are not considered private. *Please do not send shaving cream, silly string, water balloons & other "prank" related items.* As an option, consider "The Wrinkled Egg" for great "care packages". Check out the link on our webpage. Or check out our camp store on check-in day for Lake Aurora "goodies" that may be left at the camp office for delivery on the desired day.

Include the following information on all mail:

Camper Name

Program & Cabin Name

Lake Aurora Christian Camp

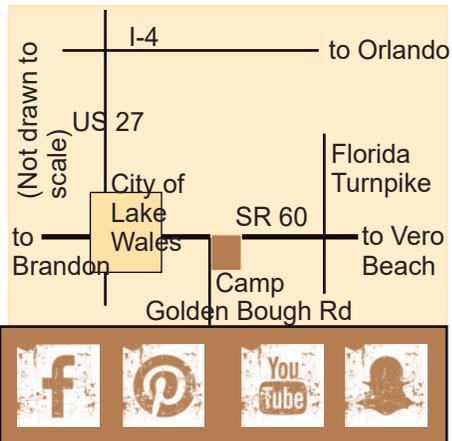
237 Golden Bough Road

Lake Wales, FL 33898-9410



DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Lake Aurora is located just south of S.R. 60, about 8 miles east of U.S. 27 or 40 miles west of the Turnpike. It is on Golden Bough Road, a paved road turning south off S.R. 60. A camp sign is on the SE corner of Golden Bough and S.R. 60, and the Shell Gas Station is on the SW corner.



237 Golden Bough Rd Lake Wales, FL 33898

863.696.1102 general

info@lakeaurora.org

Social Connect fb.com/lakeaurora





Lake Aurora Christian Assembly, Inc.
Summer Camp & Retreat Center
237 Golden Bough Road
Lake Wales, FL 33898-9410
863.696.1102

LAKEAURORA.ORG

**Already registered?
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