



Dear Camper/Parent,

Connect 2024 is rapidly approaching, and I can't wait to see you. Many of you are camp veterans, and you are eagerly anticipating another great week together at Round Lake. Some of you, however, are dipping your toes into the Round Lake experience for the very first time, and I promise you won't regret giving us a chance. Whatever your situation, I have been praying for you since you signed up, and I'm glad you're coming. Here is some information to help your week go better.

First, what should you bring to camp? Round Lake has a list on their website at [www.roundlake.org](http://www.roundlake.org) that includes bedding for a twin bed (sheets or sleeping bag), clothes to "play" in, regular clothes for the rest of the day, toiletries, towels, swimsuit, water bottle, flashlight, bug spray, sunscreen, a Bible, a notebook, a pen/pencil, and canteen money. **Two unique items for our week involve some activities we are doing during the week. First, every student will spend about an hour helping to build some picnic tables for our mission for the week, so you will want work clothes and possibly some gloves for that day. Secondly, one of the evenings we will be having water games, so even if you aren't planning on swimming during the week, bring at least one set of clothes (and shoes) you can get wet in for Water Wars.** There will be times when students are way from their dorm (even on the other side of camp) for several hours, so I also suggest bringing a string bag or backpack to carry items.

As you are packing, we also ask that you consider bringing money to support our missionary during the week. We'll be supporting Kainos Leadership Network this summer. Kainos Leadership Network helps to plant churches throughout northeast Ohio, and the tables we are building will help a new church in Solon get started this fall. We hope to raise at least \$5,000 this summer, which translates to about \$20 per student in attendance.

This is the second year of the "Mega-Camp" at Round Lake. We have nearly 260 students registered spanning grades 7-12. When you arrive for check-in, everyone will register at the Retreat Center on the camp side. Please leave all suitcases and other items in the car until after you are registered and receive your rooming assignment for the week.

A big change to camp this summer involves Round Lake's food policy. Because of the wear and tear on the dorms, **Round Lake has asked us to not eat or drink in the dorm rooms.** You are welcome to bring treats with you, but you will not be permitted to eat or drink in the dorm rooms this year. Please respect our efforts to help keep the camp property in good condition.

Finally, I need to address the issue of technology. Round Lake has a no cell phone policy at camp. We recognize that for many students their phone is also their camera, music player, and Bible. At Connect, we have a trust-based policy. We ask students to have their phones on airplane mode throughout the week, to avoid gaming, texting, and calling. The purpose of camp is to get away from the distractions of everyday life, and that's hard to do if we are "plugged in" all week. We do have access to security bags for phones, and if phones become a hindrance or distraction throughout the week, we may ask a student to turn off their phone, and place it in one of the locked security bags for the duration of our time together (if this policy seems unfair, please leave your phone at home). As parents, you can help by encouraging your kids to be fully present at camp and not messaging or calling them throughout the week. I know some of you wish we'd disallow phones completely, while to others this policy seems harsh and antiquated. We are trying to balance the benefits of technology with the desire to create a space to focus on God.

We are going to have a great week of camp together as we explore what it means to anchor our life in God and His power. It is always good to be back at Round Lake. We have fun and crazy activities planned. We have some worship services lined up to help you connect with God. And most importantly, God has big plans for you during this week. Check-In is at 5:30 on Sunday night, we'll be having pizza at 6, swim time at 7:00, and then the fun really begins.

See you on June 23,

Josh, Jeremiah & Tyler