RAINBOW TRAIL LUTHERAN CAMP
2027 Registration Policies

Registration Philosophical Statement

Rainbow Trail's goal is to help people be successful in coming to camp, while offering a fair opportunity to all who desire a Rainbow Trail experience. Because of the high demand, payment is expected in a timely manner, not to prevent people from coming to camp, but to minimize cancellations and to help ensure full camp sessions at Rainbow Trail.

General

Compass Points and Bridging Borders brochures will be mailed out in early August.

General on-site brochures and postcards will be mailed out in the middle of October.

Registrations can be submitted through the online registration system. Family Camp and Labor Day Family Weekend can register on-line as well.

Registration for **youth camps, summer family camps, and Labor Day Family Weekend** opens November 1st. Registrations will be received on a first come, first serve basis.

Prior balances must be paid in full before camper is allowed to register for current year.

On-Site

Before January 1st, registration preference is given to Lutherans of the Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA. This policy applies to all on-site programs, including family camp. After that date, open registration will be in effect. The exception to this rule is any non-synod camper that is "hooked" (attending camp with a synod camper) to a synod camper in the same camp week. An email needs to be sent to the registrar stating the campers are "hooked" together. Only one non-synod camper can be attached to each Synod camper. This is our attempt to encourage evangelism with our campers.

For family camps only, RTLC staff alumni will be given in-synod status and priority.

Deposits

A deposit of $130.00 for all youth camps MUST be paid at the time a camper is registered online. The weeklong family camp deposit is $360 per family. Labor Day deposits are $175 per family. VISA/MASTERCARD/DISCOVER and ACH payments will be accepted for deposits.

All youth camp deposits are non-refundable after April 1st. All family camp deposits (both Labor Day and weeklong camps) are non-refundable after April 1. A service fee of $25 will be charged on refunds prior to that date.

Balances Due

Balances are due by May 15th. In mid-April, all campers will receive a fee statement along with their camp information that reminds them of the May 15th payment deadline. A reminder e-mail will also be sent three weeks prior to the May 15th deadline. Payments can be made by either credit card, ACH payment, or check. VISA/MASTERCARD/DISCOVER or ACH payment is accepted for the balance due. The camp fee is non-refundable and non-transferrable after May 15th. A service fee of $25 will be charged on refunds prior to April 1st.

For July family camp, the balance of the registration fee is due May 15tth. For August family camp, one-half of the fee is due on May 15th and the balance of the registration fee is due July 1st. For Labor Day Family Weekend, one-half of the fee is due on May 15th and the balance of the registration fee will be due at August 1st. The number of family members attending needs to be finalized with the final payment. Final balance is non-refundable except in medical related circumstances. If the number of family members coming to camp decreases, the family must notify camp 1 week prior to the specific camp. However, the final balance will not be adjusted. Additional family members may be added on a space available basis.

If balances have not been received by the due date, either phone or e-mail contact will be made and a deadline for payment will be set. If the fee is not received by that date, the spot will be filled with next available camper from the wait list. Deposits will be forfeited.

Cancellations

All cancellations need to be in writing, either by mail or e-mail.

A service fee of $25 will be charged on deposit refunds prior to April 1st. Cancellations for youth camps after May 15th are non-refundable and non-

transferable. Exceptions to this would be camper's medical situation or summer school requirement.

All youth camp deposits are non-refundable after April 1st. All family camp and Labor Day Weekend deposits are non-refundable after April 1st. A service fee of $25 will be charged on family camp and Labor Day refunds prior to April 1st.

After May 15th Family Camp and Labor Day Family Weekend registration fee refunds for cancellations are contingent upon Rainbow Trail's ability to fill the vacancy. These refunds do not include the non-refundable deposit.

Camperships

Camperships are available for those in need of financial assistance. All that is required for camperships is a letter on church stationery from their Pastor identifying that there is a need. Rainbow Trail camperships cannot be used for the initial deposit. Camperships are available for both youth and family campers.

Family Discount

A $20.00 discount will be given in cases where more than one child of an immediate family attends non-charter youth camps at Rainbow Trail. The first child will be charged the full rate and each additional sibling will receive a $20.00 discount.

Wait Lists

Wait lists will be maintained for all weeks including family camp. Campers will be placed on the wait list in the order that their registrations are received. Non-synod campers will immediately go on the wait list in the order received along with Synod campers. Non-synod campers will be placed in camps only after January 1st. Male and female lists will be maintained separately for each youth week.

Other Special Situations

Five percent (or 5 spots) of each youth on-site camp are set aside for director discretion – for special needs from pastors, for diversity in camp population, etc.

Starting on the Saturday prior to a camp week, last minute openings will be filled from the wait list, although not necessarily in order.

After April 1st, directors can shift male/female mix of camp to ensure a full camp.

Confirmation Camp

Congregations that have attended the prior summer have priority in the SAME week until the third Monday in September. New churches can reserve blocks for the coming summer beginning on the third Monday in September. A wait list will be maintained. Online registration for individuals listed in the reserved block and $130.00 deposits are due February 15th – NO EXCEPTIONS. After February 15th, only spaces that have deposits and registration forms will be retained. Any open spots will become available for churches on the wait list. Those on the wait list will be moved into available spots based on the number of confirmands in their groups and the number of spots available. The first congregation on the wait list will be contacted first, even if the spaces available are less than the size of their confirmation class. Deposits are non-refundable and non-transferrable after April 1st.

If a congregation has a youth cancel from their reserved group, the Rainbow Trail registrar will inform the congregation that they have twenty-four hours to refill that spot with another youth from their congregation. If they have a replacement camper, the camper will register through the online system. If the congregation does not fill the vacated spot, the spot will be released and filled from the wait list.

Adults coming to camp with confirmation groups need to be connected to the confirmation class in some tangible way. Their registration must be completed by February 15th in order to guarantee a spot with their campers. Therefore, the expectation for confirmation adults attending Rainbow Trail with campers is to be one of the following: 1) their Pastor, 2) a teacher of their confirmation class, 3) their Youth director, or 4) an adult who works closely with that confirmation class. Also, the expectation is that those adults will attend the entire week of camp with their campers.

Bridging Borders

Charter Groups

Bridging Borders is designed to serve the congregations of the Rocky Mountain Synod. Ecuador trips are not available to congregations outside of the Rocky Mountain Synod. A minimum of 12 participants is required for a charter. A maximum of 12 participants can be accepted for any one charter for Mexico. Ecuador trips are a minimum of 12 participants and a maximum of 24 participants. Dominican Republic trips are a minimum of 18 participants and a maximum of 24 participants. Appalachia trips are a minimum of 12 participants and a maximum of 24 participants. Bridging Borders charter groups from the current summer have priority to reserve the same corresponding week for the coming year for up to a week after their trip. After that date, reservations will be taken on a first

come, first served basis for that week.

Deposit schedule for Mexico and Appalachia trips:

All deposits are non-refundable as of the date due.

First deposit is due four weeks after the contract date

Deposit 1 $1,200.00 ($100/person, min. 12 people)
Deposit 2 $1,000.00 ($100/person, min. 12 people) due January 15
Deposit 3 $1,000.00 ($100/person, min. 12 people) due March 1

The remaining balance for the contracted number of participants is due June 1st. If deposits are not received by the due date, the following policy will be followed:

Deposit 1 $1200.00 due four weeks after the contract date
If deposit is not received, congregation is called, arrangements are made with a 10 day deadline for payment; if no payment received reservation is cancelled and charter is replaced.
Deposit 2 $1,000.00 due January 15
If deposit is not received, congregation is called, arrangements are made with a 10 day deadline for payment; if no payment received reservation is cancelled and charter is replaced.
Deposit 3 $1,000.00 due March 1
If deposit is not received, congregation is called and payment schedule is set. At this point we are working to keep the charter in place since replacing the group at this late date will be nearly impossible.

If a charter group cancels after March 1st, they are responsible for the full fee of a minimum charter of 12 people.

Deposit schedule for Ecuador trips:

All deposits are non-refundable as of the date due.
Deposit 1 $1200.00 ($100/person, min. 12 people) for Ecuador
Due four weeks after contract date.
Deposit 2 $1000.00 due January 15
Deposit 3 $1000.00 due March 1

The remaining balance for the contracted number of participants is due June 1st.

If deposits are not received by the due date, the following policy will be followed:

Deposit 1 $1,200.00 due four weeks after the contract date
If deposit is not received, congregation is called, arrangements are

made with a 10 day deadline for payment; if no payment received reservation is cancelled and charter is replaced.

Deposit 2 $1,000.00 due January 15

If deposit is not received, congregation is called, arrangements are made with a 10 day deadline for payment; if no payment received reservation is cancelled and charter is replaced.

Deposit 3 $1,000.00 due March 1

If deposit is not received, congregation is called and payment schedule is set. At this point we are working to keep the charter in place since replacing the group at this late date will be nearly impossible.

If an Ecuador charter group cancels after March 1st, they are responsible for the full fee of a minimum charter of 12 people plus airfare.

The purchase of plane tickets is required for Ecuador trips, and possibly Appalachia. Tickets will be purchased in January. The cost of the plane tickets will be the responsibility of the charter group at the time of ticket purchase.

Compass Points

Charter Groups

The Compass Points program is designed to serve both the congregations of the Rocky Mountain Synod and non-synod congregations. A minimum of 10 participants is required for a charter. A maximum of 13 participants can be accepted for any one charter. With 12 paying Compass Points participants from a Rocky Mountain Synod congregation, one adult comes free. Compass Points Charter groups from the current summer have priority to reserve the same corresponding week for the coming year for up to a week after their trip. After that date, reservations will be taken on a first come, first served basis for that week.

Deposit schedule for Compass Points:

All deposits are non-refundable as of the date due.

Deposit 1 $1000.00 minimum ($100/person, min. 10 people) due four weeks after contract date

Deposit 2 $1000.00 minimum ($100/person, min. 10 people) due March 1

The remaining balance for the contracted number of participants is due June 1st.

If deposits are not received by the due date, the following policy will be followed:

Deposit 1 $1000.00 minimum due four weeks from the contract date

If deposit is not received, congregation is called, arrangements are made with a 10 day deadline for payment; if no payment is received, the reservation is cancelled and charter is replaced.

Deposit 2 $1000.00 minimum due March 1

If deposit is not received, congregation is called and payment schedule is set. At this point we are working to keep the charter in place since replacing the group at this late date will be nearly impossible.

If a charter group cancels after March 1st, they are responsible for the full fee of a minimum charter of 10 people.

Compass Points Open Sign Up Weeks

These weeks are reserved for individual Rocky Mountain synod youth. Open sign up for youth in the Rocky Mountain Synod will follow typical on-site registration procedures. After January 1, non-synod youth can be accepted into this program.

$130 deposit due with online registration.

Retreating

RTLC programmed events have priority use of facilities

Rocky Mountain Synods congregations/organizations have priority over other groups for use of the site and may make reservations up to 18 months in advance.

Other organizations may reserve date 12 months in advance.

If there is a synod group that has historical use of a weekend, a courtesy call will be made to that group before giving the dates to another group.

Exclusive Facilities Rental. Exclusive use of Rainbow Trail facilities is defined as “one individual group reserving the entire facility for only their use for a particular scheduled time.” Exclusive use guarantees that no other groups will be booked by Rainbow Trail for use of any facilities during that time. If a group or individual wishes to have exclusive use of the camp facilities, the group or individual agrees to a fee equal to or greater than 75 participants (55 paying adults, 20 paying children) for the duration of the rental. If the group size exceeds 75 participants, the group agrees to pay the fee appropriate for services rendered.

Day Camp

Current year preference. Rocky Mountain Synod congregations that contracted Day Camp with Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp have first priority for their SAME corresponding week of summer for the next year. Rocky Mountain Synod congregations can call camp to reserve the same corresponding week for the

next year up until the third Monday in September. All non- Rocky Mountain Synod congregations must wait to reserve their day camp date until the Friday following the opening date for Day Camp reservations.

Beginning at 9 am (Mountain time) on the third Monday in September, Rocky Mountain Synod congregations who want to change weeks AND new Rocky Mountain Synod congregations can call camp to reserve a week. No faxes, e-mails, or answering machine messages will be accepted as reservations. All openings are filled on a first call basis. However, on the Friday following the opening day for Day Camp reservations, non-Synod congregations may fill any open Day camp weeks. Additional fees may apply for locations outside the borders of the Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA. First deposits are due on December 15th.

Deposit and Payment Information:

1. Deposit – A $200.00 deposit for a 4-Person team and $100.00 for a 2-Person team is due December 1st.
2. Second Deposit – An additional deposit of $300 for a 4-Person team and $200 for a 2-Person team is required by February 1.
3. Final Balance – The final balance is based on actual camper numbers and is due on the last day of your Day Camp.
4. If there are fewer than 25 campers with a 4-Person team, the church is required to pay the $1,850.00 minimum fee, less deposit, to fulfill the congregation's financial obligation for its Day Camp.

Acceptance of Differently-Abled Campers

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp is open to serving all of God's children. We feel that a week of camp is a valuable experience for not only the differently abled camper, but also for the camp community. Because our staff is not specifically trained to work with differently-abled campers, we are not able to accommodate every special needs camper. However, we will work with each family to assess each camper on a case by case basis as to ensure that we can meet the needs of their camper. If you have a camper with special needs, please contact the Executive Director to discuss your situation.

Approved at the September 24, 2026 RTLC Board Meeting