

First Class
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PAID
Permit No. 118
Waterbury, CT

www.silverlakect.org

(860) 364-5526

timh@ctuccc.org annneh@ctuccc.org

223 Low Road, Sharon, CT 06069

Silver Lake Conference Center

Tim & Anne Hughes Co-Directors

The 2009 Outdoor Ministries Program of
The Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ

“Breakthrough”



2009 Summer Conference Calendar

SILVER LAKE
Conference Center

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Make Sure Your Parents Read this Part:

When should you be dropped off and picked up at Silver Lake?

Unless you read differently in the dean's letter, you should arrive on **Sunday**, the first day of camp, **no earlier than 2 PM**. Registration check-in is from 2-4 PM. Transportation to and from Silver Lake is the responsibility of the parents/guardian. Conferees should be picked up **promptly on Sat. at 10 a.m.** in the morning from their cabin/building area.

What behavior expectations are there of conferees?

We want you to have fun, be safe, and get the full value of your week at Silver Lake. Certain behaviors deemed inappropriate (including but not limited to: fighting, hitting, stealing, destruction of or intrusion into, another's property, threatening another, refusal to eat, sexual activity or possession of a weapon) can result in you being sent home and your minister being notified.

What should you bring?

Very few conferees need to go home due to homesickness. Usually, extra attention from the counselors to engage the child, and support with making new friends and having fun, is all it takes to "turn the corner" for an uneasy child. Parents concerned that their children may become homesick can help the child prepare for camp several ways. Don't pack for them, help them pack. Then, when they get to camp, they can find what they need – their flashlight, toothbrush, swimsuit, etc., and are much more successful at overcoming homesickness than those who were packed for by parents. A visit to Silver Lake ahead of time is the best way for a first-time conferee to know what to expect. Open House on May 31rd, 2-4 PM is an excellent opportunity to get a tour, meet the staff, see the cabins, lodges, the waterfront and ropes courses and get excited about the summer. Or call Silver Lake to arrange another time.

What should you NOT bring?

Cell phones are not permitted, and will be confiscated. Please do not bring candy, soda, electronic handheld games, pets, pocket knives, valuable jewelry, beepers, or computers. **No weapons, fireworks, alcohol or illegal drugs** are allowed.

May conferees call home?

We discourage calling home while at Silver Lake. In the case of homesickness, it almost always makes the child feel more homesick to call. If there is a problem, we will call the child's parents. Parents may call the summer office at (860) 364-4331. The dean, Co-Directors, or nurse will call the parents of children for whom any concerns arise. For more tips www.silverlakect.org/guide/#homesick

What if conferees get homesick?

Very few conferees need to go home due to homesickness. Usually, extra attention from the counselors to engage the child, and support with making new friends and having fun, is all it takes to "turn the corner" for an uneasy child. Parents concerned that their children may become homesick can help the child prepare for camp several ways. Don't pack for them, help them pack. Then, when they get to camp, they can find what they need – their flashlight, toothbrush, swimsuit, etc., and are much more successful at overcoming homesickness than those who were packed for by parents. A visit to Silver Lake ahead of time is the best way for a first-time conferee to know what to expect. Open House on May 31rd, 2-4 PM is an excellent opportunity to get a tour, meet the staff, see the cabins, lodges, the waterfront and ropes courses and get excited about the summer. Or call Silver Lake to arrange another time.

How much money should I bring for the Camp Store?

During Sunday afternoon check-in, the Camp Store will be open for you to open an account for the week. Conferees can purchase ice cream, snacks, beverages and items like Silver Lake water bottles, hoodies, T-shirts, hats, song CD, photos-of-the-week CD, etc. Usually, \$20-\$35 is plenty for the week. Your child will also be invited to donate to Silver Lake-sponsored missions on Wednesday, Mission Day, out of their store account. During Saturday pick-up, you may stop by the store to pick up your unspent balance, purchase the photo CD of the week, or souvenirs, etc. All proceeds from the store purchases go directly to support the ministry of Silver Lake. Conferees will receive a complimentary group photo of their conference.

What are the Health Form Requirements?

Health forms and Physician Order forms for medications can be downloaded from Silver Lake's web site, www.silverlakect.org, or will be mailed by request. ***NOTE: Be sure to sign the "Permission to Treat" box on the Health Form***. Your Health Form (required) is good for 3 years from the date of your Doctor's signature. Each conferee must present a completed and signed health form to the camp nurse upon arrival at camp. No exception. DO NOT send health forms to Silver Lake. All medications must have a signed doctor's order (Physician's Order Form) and must be turned over to the nurse at registration. In original containers with the conferee's name, the name of the medication, and usage instructions. Unused medications will be returned to parents at sat. pick-up. Please DO NOT bring over-the-counter medications like Tylenol (these are available as Standing Orders from the nurse) unless specifically prescribed by your doctor. Any over-the-counter meds brought to Silver Lake must also be handed over to the nurse, who is authorized to dispense them. Please attach a copy of your child's insurance card.

What do the nurse and deans need to know?

Everyone is differently-abled. In order for us to help your child have the best experience possible, the Co-Directors and your dean need to be aware in advance of any physical, emotional, or behavioral needs a child may have. Special arrangements for support can be made, and this information is strictly confidential. Please explain on Registration form as indicated, as specifically as you can.

**** Bring a friend to Silver Lake for the first time and you each get a free STCC gift! ****

What if my child gets sick at camp?

At our Health Center, the nurse will treat minor cuts, abrasions, tick removal, and symptoms of temporary illnesses, or refer them to our camp doctor in town. Parents or guardians are responsible for health care costs should a camper need to be brought to our doctor's office, pharmacy, or the Sharon Hospital Emergency Room. We will always attempt to teach parents before such a trip. Children may be sent home at the nurse's or doctor's recommendation if their illness prevents them from resuming activities with their conference, or if their condition is determined to be contagious.

Are scholarships available?

Yes, scholarship applications are available from Silver Lake by request. Many local churches also sponsor partial or full scholarships for their youth. Please ask your local pastor if such support is available from your church first. Silver Lake's Scholarship Fund (from special donations) is there to provide financial assistance to those families who would not otherwise be able to send their child to Silver Lake for a week. We at Silver Lake don't want any child or youth to miss coming to camp due to financial need, so please ask for an application if you need it. Email to: stephaniep@ctuccc.org. The deadline for all scholarship applications is May 1.

May conferees receive mail?

Yes, conferees love receiving mail. Please do not send food, soda or candy! Cheerful letters or faxes from home are a great support, especially when they express confidence that children are having a good time. Parents note: Please keep letters upbeat and don't focus on how much you miss your child - this can trigger homesickness. Mark letters or faxes with: Child's Name, and Conference Name. Send to Silver Lake Conference Center, 223 Low Rd., Sharon, CT 06069 or fax to: (860) 364-1000. Mail and faxes will be distributed daily.

How do I order a Care and Share Package from the Camp Store?

Please order your Care and Share Packages prior to arrival at Silver Lake. You may download an order form on the web site and send it in, or call to request one. The package includes healthy snacks to share with cabin mates, games, Autograph T-shirt, Silver Lake items, pocket Bible, and more! All packages are delivered to the conferees on Wednesday.

How do I register?

The quickest and easiest way is on our web site: www.silverlakect.org. You can still mail in registrations to the Silver Lake office if you can't get online (get application from your UCC church). Fill out a complete Registration Form (both sides) for each person who is registering for a conference. Mail it with deposit to: Silver Lake Conference Center, 223 Low Road, Sharon, CT 06069. A non-refundable, \$100.00 deposit is due with your registration form even if you are applying for a scholarship. Every effort is made to accommodate a conferee's first choice. Please do not call Silver Lake regarding registration status, you will be notified directly by mail or by email (if applicable). The balance of the registration fee must be paid by June 10th.

Can you go to more than one conference?

Yes, conferees may attend Silver Lake more than one week in a summer but must take at least a week off in between. Please wait until March 1st before registering for a second conference, to give everyone a chance to get in.

Other information you should know:

- Granting special bunking requests is at the discretion of the Deans and Co-Directors.
- Changes to your registration must be in writing and mailed to Silver Lake. A \$25.00 fee is charged for any change once your registration is received at Silver Lake
- We are not able to refund deposits or final payments once a child has been registered. Payments for a cancellation may be applied to another conference a child can register for, but are not transferable to another child. Payments must be made in full by June 10th.

Silver Lake Conference Center Mission Statement

Silver Lake Conference Center, a year-round outdoor ministry of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, is called to covenant in partnership with God and with the churches of the conference in the work of forming life-sustaining leaders for the Church and world, by offering:

- Experiences of inclusive and nurturing Christian community
- Opportunities to grow and participate as Christ's disciples
- A model of sustainable environmental stewardship of God's world.

We worship, learn, play, serve and work together, respecting the right of private judgment. We seek to provide a safe environment of acceptance regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, reflecting our unity in Christ and respecting the faith journeys of all of God's children.

“Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”

- Romans 15:7

Good Counselors Needed

If you're interested in making a positive difference in the lives of young people by volunteering as a counselor for a week during the summer, and you are 18 years of age or older, please contact Silver Lake for an application at: 860-364-5526 timh@ctuccc.org

See the Silver Lake Video on our web site at: www.silverlakect.org