

# NEOLA? What is NEOLA?

NEOLA is the name for the combined Outdoor Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Ozark Lakes Area (OLA) and the Northeast Area (NEA). Camp provides God centered, outdoor adventures and ministries that offer children and youth new and exciting opportunities. Our outdoor ministries serve to build Christian character and community while exploring beliefs, new skills, and God's gifts. Summer camping is a safe, meaningful, and fun experience for the youngest beginner to the most experienced camper.

## **Important Camp Information for Parents:**

**NEOLA leadership** recruits volunteer camp directors, hires paid program staff, facilitates planning and training of all camp staff, and provides support for directors and staff during the summer. Criminal background and reference checks are conducted on all staff over 18 years of age. Junior staff are screened and recommended by their local congregations and work under the supervision of an adult. All staff receive abuse prevention training. Camp Directors are pastors or adult leaders who recruit volunteer counselors, health staff, and others to plan and conduct each camp session. Program staff are college students who provide skilled leadership in key program areas such as music, life-guarding, arts & crafts, games & team-building, outdoor & camp skills, worship, drama, and other essential camp activities. **If you would like to serve in this ministry, contact your Area office: Northeast Area: (573) 442-5815 or Ozark Lakes Area: (417) 865-0850.**

**Outdoor Ministry Event Locations** are The Rickman Center near Jefferson City, Missouri, or in the case of canoe and back-packing trips, locations shown in the descriptions for those events. Detailed driving directions to The Rickman Center and canoe and backpacking locations will be sent at least two weeks prior to camp.

**Registration for Camp** must be received by April 15 at the NEOLA Office to qualify for discounted fees. The second fee shown for each camp is for registrations received after April 15. **Early registration is encouraged—some sessions fill quickly.**

### **How To Register:**

1. Complete and sign the enclosed Registration & Health History
2. Copy your child's immunization record and insurance card (both sides)
3. Submit Registration & Health History, copies (see #2 above), and your camper's fee to your local congregation
4. Your church will collect forms and fees, required documents, and get the Pastor's signature
5. After all materials are complete, your church will write one check for all camp fees submitted for campers from your church and send completed materials to the NEOLA Registrar, P.O. Box 10230, Columbia, MO 65205.

After processing registrations, the NEOLA Registrar will send **an email confirmation or postcard** if no email is available to each camper family.

At least two weeks before camp, the NEOLA Registrar will send each camper a Camp Director's letter and Parent Packet **by email or USPS if no email is available** which will include a list of what to bring to camp and other information to help campers prepare for camp.

**Cancellations** must be received in the Northeast Area Office by May 1 to receive a full refund of camp fees. After May 1, \$25.00 will be held to cover registration costs. Cancellations received less than fifteen days before camp will not receive a refund. Insufficient enrollment for an event may result in event cancellation. In this case, the camper may transfer to another camp session if there is an opening or fees will be refunded.

**Financial Assistance** is available through many local churches and your Area Office. If assistance is needed, please contact your local church first, then your Area Office for a scholarship application. Scholarships are given on a funds available basis.

**Immunization Record (with shot dates) must be submitted with Registration.** Incomplete registrations cannot be processed. A medical examination is not required for camp, but is recommended.

**Cabin-mate Requests** are considered **for Elementary and Junior campers**, and requests must be mutual - both campers must request each other. Final decisions about cabin assignments are made by camp directors. Cabin-mate requests are not available for older campers.

**Tobacco, Illegal Drug, and Alcohol Use** is not allowed by participants or staff of NEOLA Outdoor Ministry events. Violations will result in removal from the event at the individual's own expense. In the case of campers or junior staff, parents of violators will be notified by event leadership.

**Electronic Devices** are discouraged at camp. This is a time to get away from the distractions of everyday. Please leave cell phones, pagers, CD & MP3 players, IPODs, video games, and other electronic devices at home. NEOLA Outdoor Ministry will not be responsible for lost or broken items.

**Questions??** Northeast Area churches call: Northeast Area Office (573) 442-5815, Office hours M-F, 8:30am—4:30pm  
Ozark Lakes Area churches call: Ozark Lakes Area Office (417) 865-0850, Office hours M-F, 8:30am—4:30pm