

Welcome to Family Camp

We're so glad you've come! We hope you enjoy the beauty, solitude, fun activities, friends and peace.

Our Staff

Joe, the camp director

Ian 23, teaches archery, any water sport, plays French Horn, studying music education

Joel 22, (teaches golf, fishing, story teller, studying international relations at Indiana University

Izzy 17, our lifeguard, great at guitar and singing, a senior at Brush High School, S. Euclid, OH

Ruby 18, great at paddle sports, tennis, guitar, uke and unicycle. Incoming College Freshman

Tyler 19, super friendly, water sports, will help you with anything. Dreams of cars. Very handy!

Keynan 18, mountain bikes, water sports, jack of all trades, Computer Science student, OSU

Carl, Head Caretaker / working on construction projects all summer / does not wear shorts

Mike Assistant Caretaker - Mike will wear shorts and has browner hair / construction projects

WiFi / Telephone

Your mobile phone and electronic devices should work when connected to our WiFi. You can only access the WiFi near the main office / lodge. There is an emergency landline in the camp office. In case of a power outage, the Wifi will not work. However, if you drive to the top of Dublin Road you should get service there. If not, drive to Sherrodsville and park near the post office and bank.

Guest Network

Guest Network Password: respect

Things to do at Camp

Hiking

We have several "official" trails at camp. There are many other opportunities to simply tromp through the woods and explore!

- **Larry's Loop da Lou Trail** starts at the Bethel Cemetery. Uncle Larry made this trail by connecting many horse trails and an old county road. It follows a creek and takes a sharp turn and traverses a steep hillside making it very close to a complete loop. You can access it several ways. The easiest is to walk straight up Dublin Road until you reach Bethel Cemetery. As you stand on Dublin Road facing the cemetery, walk down the left hand border of the cemetery along the fenceline. At the end of the fenceline, you will take a 90 degree turn to the left and you are on the trail. Follow the trail. It is about $\frac{1}{3}$ of a mile and will deposit you about 800 feet up the road on Dublin once again. From that end point, you can easily access the Homestead Trail just up the road. Taking the trail from the end back toward the cemetery is the easier walk with more downhill.

To the **Homestead Trail** walk away from camp to the North on Dublin Road and take a left at the green gate heading toward Camp Roosevelt.

For a more picturesque and longer way into **Larry's Loop da Lou** trailhead, begin at the climbing wall. You will find the trailhead to the right of the climbing shed near a large tractor tire. Take a right and follow along a small creek. Below the waste water plant, you will double back taking a switch back along the hillside. Near the top of the switch back trail, cut through the woods toward Dublin Road and access the trail, again, at Bethel Cemetery.

- **Homestead Trail:** This trail is really more of an old township road. You may access it at its bottom in Camp Roosevelt or from the top on Dublin Road. If descending from the top, keep your eyes to the right. You will see a very large old Norway Pine to the right. Bushwhack off the trail and you will find an old foundation for a homestead, a hand dug well and a spring. It's a cool place to ponder the past! Daffodils cover the hillside in the spring! Don't fall in the well!
- **Hoogton Hollow Trail:** This trail was built by counselors and campers during the summer of 2018. To access it, walk along the side of the dining hall that is farther away from the lake and the barn. Continue along the road and bend to the right. You will pass the Rita cabin on your left and the first unit of Firebird Camp on the right. Continue up the road and you will come to camp's Main Well which will be in your right. Continue up and you will see an unmarked trailhead. This short trail follows a drainage up the hollow to a ridge. There is a small fire circle at the top and several tent sites if you are into camping. You'll need to carry your water in! You have ascended about 230 feet Leesville Lake. Camp property continues over the ridge about 1000 feet down the other side if you feel like exploring.
- **Shoreline Stroll:** From the swimming area take a left and follow the shoreline. This short trail takes you back to the canoe racks. There is a nice cabin cook-out site along the way.

Canoeing / Kayaking / Paddle Boarding

Each family will be assigned its own boat(s), paddles and life vests. Please store them under your canoe when not in use. You must wear a PDF on the lake. Please store boats and paddles by the stake with your cabin's name. Time to paddle. Have fun.

Leesville Lake is 9 miles in its entirety. It is shaped like a narrow V with the dam being the point of the V. Looking out from our swimming beach **to the right** you will see the earthen dam which appears as a long stretch of grass. Around the bend from the dam is **Leesville South Marina**. It's a nice place to get a drink - about a 30-45 minute paddle. There is supposed to be a small

restaurant there this year too. Say hi to Keith if you make it! If you head out to the left, paddle directly out straight from the dock with our pontoon boat toward the opposite shore. After that, hug the shoreline on the left and you soon come upon a natural spring that has been “improved” by humans. Locals (and campers) have been drinking this cool water for years. Continue that way down the lake and you see several other of the camps on the lake (there are six!). The FFA Camp Muskingum on the right shoreline has a beautiful new building they are quite proud of.

Coffee Pot Farm

Our friend Kathy runs this alpaca farm. Call her in advance @ 330.735.2067 If she’s free, she’ll be happy to show you around. Due to the virus, I’m not sure if she’s open. Ask Joe for details. She has unique alpaca fleece items for sale too. We have worked with Kathy and her alpacas and goats over the summer boarding some at camp and getting experience on her farm.

Grocery Stores

There is a decent Giant Eagle at exit 93 off of I-77 if you are driving down from Cleveland.

However, once you are at camp, **New Philadelphia** is the place to go. There, you will find many choices. Just take 39 right outside of Sherrodsville. It’s about 25 minutes to town.

- Buehlers - This is my favorite. Decent diner inside the grocery store too.
- Aldi’s
- Walmart - Begrudgingly, but I will tell you that they will have anything you need

Places to Eat Out

(I know, why would you want to? And with the virus . . . who knows. But if you get the urge.

- **Dave’s Diner** - Local breakfast and lunch in Sherrodsville on 39 toward New Philadelphia right out of town. 10 minute drive. Say hi to Dave the owner and Ashley the waitress.
- **Bowerston Grill** - locals say it’s the best. This diner is in Bowerston which is further east on route 212 from camp. Check out the pie! It’s always homemade. 10 minute drive.
- **Dellroy Drive In** - local ice cream and burger joint. 10 minutes away in Dellroy, Ohio. A nice drive drive down the backroads to get there. Dublin to the hilltop, take a right on Caddy Road. Go 2 miles. Take a right on Antigua at the cemetery. Proceed about a mile and take the second right onto Explorer Road. This road dead ends in Dellroy. Take a left on main street at the dead end. You will see the drive in on your right at the light.
- **Jimmy’s Bar B Que** - my favorite quick tasty barbeque in *Carrollton, Ohio*. A small, bigger town. But it’s not on the interstate! 20 minutes.
- **Lil Brown Dog Cafe** - also in *Carrollton*
- **Que Pasa Mexican Restaurant** - also in *Carrollton*
- **The Depot** - also in *Carrollton*

- **Canal Tavern** - this is a pricier place in a historic old store which served the canal boats in its time. It is a cool spot with good German food. It is on the outskirts of Zoar (25 minutes)
- **In New Philadelphia (25 minute drive to the Big City)**
- **New Philly favorites are:**
 - * **Common Grounds Cafe**
 - * **Buehler Grocery Store Restaurant**
 - * **J and G Grill**
 - * **Tlaquepaque Mexican Restaurant**

The Red Farmhouse has a Cool History

The house is a circa 1900's Sears and Roebuck kit house that was mailed to the site where the Preston Family assembled it. Until the late 1930's, the house looked out on McGuire Creek to the east. Leesville Lake was dug in the late 1930's. It was a depression era public works flood control project completed by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District was established at that time to help manage this lake. They still do!

So the "front door" you entered was originally the back door and the sunken living room used to be a front porch! The property was a family farm owned by the Preston Family. You can visit some of the Prestons that are buried a ½ mile up Dublin Road in the Bethel Cemetery. The cemetery is a small cut out of property in the midst of our land. The Prestons were social activists. The family was deeply involved in the underground railroad. Perhaps some escaped slaves once found refuge on these lands. The old barn dates back to the 1890's as the beams are not hand hewn but milled. Locals suggest this is when the barn was built.

Service Project at Camp?

We've always got some work to do! If you're interested, Joe will get you all set up.