



Explanation of the Fee Increase for 2024 CBG Camps

We are excited to be opening registration for the 2024 camping season. We had a wonderful summer in 2023 and are looking forward to a new Permanent Staff and a continued focus on the safety, enjoyment and spiritual opportunities for our campers and staff.

Over the past several years, the cost of camp has continued to increase in line with the Cost-of-Living Index. The costs of food, personnel, needed equipment & site upgrades have increased exponentially. Following the COVID pandemic, upgrading the cabins; fixing deferred maintenance items; and, replacing equipment, etc. have all added cost to the overall operation of the property on the south side of Way Road.

The budget for CBG has relied on assistance from the Diocese and Trustees and draws from our endowments. As a result, we have reduced the principal overall. While it would be ideal to let those endowments see an increase in principal by reducing our reliance on them, we have not been able to replenish as we'd like. With the sale of most of the raw land on the north side of Gray Center, we expect that we will be able to repay the debt that has accrued over many years.

All of this is to say that we had to consider, as a last resort, an increase in fees to have a balance budget. This year's fee increase represented an adjustment based on the COLA over the past three years.

We encourage anyone choosing the Tier III level to also apply for a scholarship. Scholarship assistance will be used to pay the Tier II cost of \$750/primary \$428 (a difference of \$200 for regular sessions and \$122 for the primary session). Our hope is that those families who request a scholarship will be able to pay all of Tier III and will ask their faith community to also contribute. Available Scholarship funds also come from individual donations given for that purpose and a scholarship application triggers our ability to draw from those funds and the scholarship endowment income.

Under no circumstances will a camper be turned away for financial reasons!

This past summer we had over 40 people on the waiting list for two of our sessions. We contacted those waiting to fill slots in those sessions that opened at the last minute. Very few people were able to fill those slots due to changes in plans and those sessions were not filled. This year, we ask that two weeks' notice be given if a camper won't be able to attend their waiting list session. If no notice is given, the \$50 deposit, now required to be paid to be placed on the waiting list, will be forfeited.

We give thanks for the overwhelming support given to the CBG program at Gray Center. The CBG Alumni Association, The Trustees of the Diocese, the parishes/missions of the Diocese, individuals who generously give to the scholarship endowment and those who can pay fees to support the camping program.

Peace, Chip

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