



Bethany Birches Camp

Fun

Community

God

Nature

Summer Camp in a Pandemic



[Summer 2020 Photos](#)

As we contemplated opening our doors to campers this summer we struggled with fear, questions of liability and safety, and many unknowns. We wrestled with how best to pursue our mission amid this pandemic. We were blessed to see the growth of campers and staff despite all of the new Covid-related safety measures. A long-time camper mom shared, “BBC gave my children the gift of becoming more empathetic. I was taken by surprise how few days of experiencing and living life together with their peers made them move beyond their own worldviews and develop this deep empathy, and just understand others – naturally. I am so proud of the young men my little boys are becoming and so grateful to BBC for this wonderful experience. Or as one of my boys put it: **“best week of my life.”** We are so thankful for this story and many others from this past summer that help us know the struggle was worth it. We are also thankful to report no known cases of Covid-19 due to our summer program.

Winter Camp Growth



This winter at BBC we had our largest winter camp season with a 16.5% increase in camper attendance. We have been growing our winter camp program by hosting more sessions, and are now moving towards creating additional facilities to house more campers. We desire to keep our campers tied to camp throughout the year. By striving to grow our winter program we also endeavor to provide a consistent place where campers can grow, learn about themselves, open up to Jesus, and have a whole lot of fun!

Community and God



It has always been a goal at Bethany Birches to help people feel connected. As our program director, Anna “Meatball” Martin puts it, “BBC is unique in its unwavering dedication to having people feel known.” This summer a long-time camper became a counselor. She shared honestly and deeply with her campers. As someone who is asking good questions about spirituality and religion, she entered this summer with an open mind. She helped campers grapple with their own questions, and remained open to how God was moving in her life. Reflecting on the summer she stated, “relationships with God/spiritual journeys do not look like what I thought when I came into the summer. The world needs more places like BBC.” She shared about how she had never felt God as present as she did this summer. The pandemic caused “stay at home” orders and thankfully, God can make a home anywhere and even everywhere. It is a privilege to see evidence of this at camp.