



January 20, 2023

St. Tikhon's Summer Camp July 2-8, 2023

A Youth Ministry Program of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania
PLEASE PUBLISH IN YOUR PARISH BULLETIN AND READ IN YOUR
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Rev Frs. and faithful,

We as a Diocese must support youth ministry and particularly the camp program if we want our young people to continue in the Church. Each parish should commit to strengthening and supporting youth ministry and let us encourage our faithful and our parishes to set a goal, "Next year every parish will cover the cost of their own youth to attend". We would hope that all parishes would contribute something whether they are sending someone or not. The summer camp program is one way in which we can assist our faithful in Orthodox Christian Education and lifelong relationships amongst our youth. A little more than half of our campers this past year were from outside our Diocese which enabled our youth to begin building relationships with other Orthodox youth.

The Diocesan Council in the interest of helping our camp program voted unanimously to waive all fees for the youth of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania who otherwise may not be able to attend, and are in good standing with a parish of our Diocese. We realized that paying camp fees could be difficult, particularly for parents with *more than one child*. Camp Registration will be on a first-come, first-serve basis, so we encourage diocesan families to apply as soon as possible to ensure participation in the program (<https://www.stikhonscamp.org/> or <https://stikhonscamp.org/register1>). Those desiring to engage in youth ministry may use the same links to apply for a staff, counselor, volunteer, nurse, lifeguard, etc.).

We want to keep our youth in the Church and deeply appreciate the volunteers of our Diocese and those of other Dioceses in providing this wonderful opportunity. We ask the parents of our Diocesan youth ages 7-17 to use the link above to register for camp. *In order for the fees to be waived we will require a letter from the Rector on parish letterhead with the parish seal stating your family is in good standing for at least one full year and regular communicants. The letter must contain the names of the children needing assistance to attend. Please send the letter with the other required forms by May 15th. The earlier we receive the letter and all required documents, the earlier we can confirm a place at the camp. For parishioners who can afford the fees we ask that they cover the cost.* If anyone needs assistance, especially those with more than one child we are here for you.

Some of our parishes already committed to sponsor their youth as best they can (Whatever the amount sent will be appreciated). They may simply send one check to the Diocese with the names of their children. I hope that all of our parishes will sponsor the youth of the Diocese and the faithful will see the benefit of our camp program. No one should be denied because of the cost or suffer the embarrassment of asking for help. We also appreciate our volunteers and encourage more of our faithful to assist with the program. You may make donations through the website at <https://stikhonscamp.org/donate> or mail a check to the Diocese at the address below. God bless you for your generosity and commitment to our youth.

Your unworthy father in Christ,

+ Mark

+ MARK (Maymon), Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

CC: Diocesan Clergy and faithful of the Diocese



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"Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee." Augustine