



# ST. PHILOMENA ACADEMY YOUTH CAMP 2024 FAQS

**REGISTER**



**#SPAYC2024**

If you have questions that are not answered below, please email [saintphilomena.quadcities@gmail.com](mailto:saintphilomena.quadcities@gmail.com).

- WHAT:** 3-Day/2-Night Weekend Retreat  
**WHEN:** Starts (Check-In) @ 5:00 pm Friday, August 9, 2024  
Ends (Check-Out) @ 3:30 pm Sunday, August 11, 2024  
**WHERE:** Holy Family Catholic Church, 1923 Fillmore St, Davenport, IA 52804

*\*Times listed are approximate & may change. Please review your registration materials, as well as any & all email correspondence you may receive following registration for the latest information and schedules.*

**All programs & activities will take place on the campus of Holy Family & All Saints Catholic School.**

## Who are we?

St. Philomena Academy Youth Camp (SPAYC) is a Catholic ministry initiated in 2023 by St. Alphonsus and Holy Family parishes to reach middle school & high school students in the Davenport Diocese and surrounding communities. It is open to ALL students 6th-12th grade in the Quad-City Area (Iowa & Illinois) who seek to know themselves as children of God and be loved by Him.

## What can campers expect during the weekend? What will they learn?

- Campers will be introduced to St. Philomena, a 13-year-old Virgin Martyr who lived in the 3rd century. Nicknamed “the Wonder-Worker” because of the many healings and miracles attributed to her intercession, St. Philomena has been venerated by many great saints and popes throughout history, including Pope St. Pius X, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, St. John Vianney, and St. Pio of Pietrelcina.
- Talks & activities will revolve around the current year’s theme and include discussions about vocation discernment, as well as an age-appropriate introduction to Saint Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body.
- Campers will be introduced to & encouraged to participate in traditional forms of Catholic prayer and worship, participate at daily Holy Mass, pray the rosary, spend time in Holy Adoration, among other Christ-focused activities.
- Fruitful days will conclude with time to create lasting memories and relationships with other Christian peers & mentors through team-building games, arts & crafts, music, s’mores around the campfire, and a favorite activity from last year - ping pong.
- We pray that each camper will depart with the knowledge & tools necessary to navigate this often confusing & negative culture with a Biblical worldview, and leave the weekend knowing that life is a gift from God and that they are worthy of His love.

## Who can attend Camp?

Boys and girls ages 11-18 who are in-coming 6th thru 12th grade students for the 2024-25 school year.

## Do you have to be Catholic to attend camp?

Simply put, no. We are happy & excited to welcome campers from every faith background.

## Who are the adults in charge at Camp?

St. Philomena Academy Youth Camp is led by Father Nicholas Akindede, Pastor at Holy Family, and organized & run by a generous & committed leadership team, along with countless volunteers from numerous parishes within the Davenport Diocese & beyond. All leadership staff & volunteers must complete the Safe Environment Training, Safe Driver Training (if applicable) & background check process.



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## How do I register?

- You may register **ONLINE** (preferred method) by visiting one of the following websites & clicking on the St. Philomena Academy LOGO:
  - holyfamilydavenport.com
  - stalphonsusdav.org
  - vinumnonhabent.com
- Or, you may register by **MAIL** (downloadable PDF available for emailing/printing).
  - **Mail (Check Only)** – Mail in your completed registration form and **check payable to “St. Philomena Academy” (include Campers Name(s) in the memo) to:**

**St. Philomena Academy Youth Camp  
PO BOX 398  
Bettendorf, IA 52722**

## What is the cost to attend camp?\*

- Early Bird: \$30 (includes T-Shirt)
- Early Bird Deadline: June 1, 2024
- After June 1st: \$40 (includes T-Shirt)
- Registration Deadline: August 1, 2024

*\*No one will be turned away due to inability to pay. Please indicate on the registration form that you request sponsorship.*

## Can I cancel my registration?

Yes, however camp fees are non-refundable after August 1st, 2024.

## When & Where do I check-in & check-out my camper?

- All programs & activities will take place on the campus of Holy Family & All Saints Catholic School. Exact times & locations will be announced in writing to all confirmed registrants 7-10 days prior to camp.

## Where will my child sleep? **\*\*Girls & Boys will be separated.\*\***

- Sleeping arrangements & location will be made available to all confirmed registrants 7-10 days prior to camp.
- There will be Safe Environment Trained Adult Staff & Group Leaders, as well as 24/7 Hall Monitors to supervise campers throughout the weekend.

## Is a “Day Camper” option available this year?

St. Philomena Academy Youth Camp was created to be experienced as an overnight retreat, providing an opportunity for area youth to connect to others and form meaningful relationships within the larger Catholic community (similar to C.E.W. or Cursillo for adults). This overnight camp experience not only allows campers to grow spiritually, but provides an opportunity for them to build independence, resilience, and stand strong as a child of God. Overnight camp is where kids make friends and develop social skills. It is a safe environment in which they can make choices, as well as wonderful memories.

If you are unsure whether you or your child is ready for an overnight camp, consider the following ways to alleviate concerns: (cont'd on next page)

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- Visit the camp prior to the session starting - attend Mass at Holy Family or request a tour of the accommodations.
- Sign up with a friend, sibling or cousin & mention them on your registration form. Having a familiar face at camp can help the first time go more smoothly.
- Volunteer to be an overnight chaperone!

All things considered, we understand that there may be extenuating circumstances (e.g. social, emotional or medical reasons) that may prevent certain campers from staying overnight. Therefore, we have included a DAY CAMPER option, in which campers will arrive & depart at designated times each day. Once they are checked in, Day Campers will be expected to follow the same rules as the Overnight Campers.

### What will my child eat?

<i>Sample Menu</i>	Friday, 8/9/24	Saturday, 8/10/24	Sunday, 8/11/24
<b>BREAKFAST</b>		Scrambled Eggs   Hash browns with Bacon   Fresh Fruit   Cereal & Milk	Pancakes   Sausage   Fresh Fruit   Cereal & Milk   Muffins
<b>SNACK</b>		Fruit   Yogurt   Cheese & Crackers	Fresh fruit, Popcorn, Pretzels, Cheese Quesadillas
<b>LUNCH</b>		Fish Sticks   Chicken Nuggets   Mac & Cheese   Apple Sauce   Brownies & Cookies	Pizza   Minestrone Soup   Caesar Salad   Garlic Bread   Ice Cream Sundaes
<b>SNACK</b>		Popcorn   Chips & Salsa   Mozzarella Sticks   Apple Sauce	
<b>DINNER</b>	BBQ Pulled Pork Bun   Tater Tots   Corn   Cole Slaw   Brownies & Cookies	Tacos   Cheddar Salsa   Sour Cream   Lettuce   Refried Bean   Rice   Cinnamon Sugar Cookies	

\*If your child has dietary restrictions or food allergies, you are kindly asked to provide a similar alternative menu item. At Camp Check-In you will check in with the kitchen team to deliver your alternate menu item(s) and share details.



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## What items do campers need to bring to camp?

### ALL CAMPERS:

- Drawstring bag (empty)
- Refillable water bottle
- Tennis shoes
- Medications (if applicable - must be approved at check-in)

### OVERNIGHT CAMPERS::

- Sleeping bag (sheets/blanket)
- Pillow
- Change of clothes - 2-3 sets
- Pajamas

- Underwear & Socks
- Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- Toiletries - Deodorant
- Hair brush
- Washcloth/Towel

## DO NOT BRING:

- Alcohol, illegal drugs, or tobacco (including but not limited to vaping products, e-cigarettes, and marijuana)
- Weapons (including pocket knives and multi-tools)

## WE HAVE A \*\*NO CELL PHONE\*\* POLICY AT CAMP

This opportunity could be one of the few times in your child's life when they are disconnected from technology. Leaving phones at home allows campers to focus on being a kid, relationship-building and being 100% present at Camp. If a camper chooses to bring a cell phone to camp, they assume all liability and may only be in possession of their cell phone during daily supervised 'device time', which includes only communication, no video games nor inappropriate device use. All other electronic devices are prohibited at camp.

Please counsel your children/teens that if they need to contact home, they should speak with Camp Staff. Parents will be contacted if any problems arise or if their child is experiencing a challenge in adjusting.

## How do I contact my camper at camp?

The Leadership Team will have a dedicated cell phone that will be used for incoming and outgoing calls (24/7) throughout the weekend. This dedicated line is intended to be used for emergencies only, however, we understand there may be a situation in which you just want to be reassured your camper is well. Upon check-in, you will be given the dedicated phone number. You are encouraged to program this number into your phone(s) immediately. Please be sure that the primary cell phone number you provide on your registration form is the same number you wish to be called first in case of emergency.

## What if my child gets sick?

It is our policy to notify parents in the case of illness or accident as soon as possible. In the case of an emergency, we are 4.6 miles (approximately 15 minutes) from Genesis Medical Center, Davenport, East Rusholme Street.



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## **What is the tentative schedule for the weekend?**

A detailed schedule of events will be emailed to you approximately two weeks before camp. However, it's important to know that you, along with your camper(s), will have ample opportunity to meet the leadership team & volunteers who will be with your children throughout the weekend.

Parents are strongly encouraged to join us Friday, August 9th for Orientation followed by a Welcome Dinner as we kick-off this amazing weekend of fun, faith & fellowship.

Additional details regarding the "Weekend Wrap-Up" on Sunday, August 11th, will be provided to confirmed registrants. Check-Out will begin around 3:30 PM and campers will depart with an approved parent/guardian.

## **How can I donate?**

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to St. Philomena Academy to assist with our Youth Camp and other programming aimed to reach middle & high school students in the Davenport Diocese and beyond. Your donations will sponsor children who may not otherwise be able to afford to attend & help to offset costs of putting on the camp.

Donations will be accepted online or by mail (check only, NO CASH).

Please make checks payable to:

**"St. Philomena Academy"** and include in the memo **"Donation - SPAYC 2024"** to ensure proper appropriation of funds.

Mailing Address:

**St. Philomena Academy  
PO Box 398  
Bettendorf, Iowa 52722**

You may also visit [www.saintphilomenaacademy.com](http://www.saintphilomenaacademy.com) to make an online donation.