



ST. PHILOMENA ACADEMY YOUTH CAMP 2026 FAQS



If you have questions that are not answered below, please email saintphilomena.quadcities@gmail.com.

- WHAT:** 3-Day/2-Night Weekend Retreat
WHEN: Starts (Check-In) @ 5:00 pm Friday, August 7, 2026
Ends (Check-Out) @ 1:00 pm Sunday, August 9, 2026
WHERE: Holy Family Catholic Church, 1923 Fillmore St, Davenport, IA 52804

**Times listed are approximate and may change. Please review your registration materials and email correspondence for the latest information and schedules. All programs and activities will take place on the campuses of Holy Family/All Saints Catholic School.*

Who are we?

St. Philomena Academy Youth Camp (SPAYC) is a 3-Day / 2-Night Weekend Retreat designed to provide an enriching spiritual experience for middle and high school students. This Catholic ministry, initiated by Father Nicholas Akindede, aims to reach students within the Davenport Diocese and surrounding communities. The camp is open to all students from 6th to 12th grade in the Quad-City Area (Iowa & Illinois) who wish to deepen their relationship with God and understand His love for them.

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

- Campers will be introduced to St. Philomena, a 13-year-old Virgin Martyr from the 3rd century, affectionately known as “the Wonder-Worker.” Her life and intercessions have inspired countless healings and miracles, earning her veneration from notable saints and popes such as Pope St. Pius X, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, St. John Vianney, and St. Pio of Pietrelcina. Her story serves as a beacon of faith and courage for our campers.
- The camp's activities are thoughtfully designed around the year's theme, offering enriching discussions on vocation discernment and an age-appropriate introduction to Saint Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body. These sessions aim to deepen campers' understanding of their faith and help them explore their spiritual vocations.
- Campers will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in traditional forms of Catholic prayer and worship. They will participate in daily Holy Mass, pray the rosary, and spend reflective moments in Holy Adoration. These Christ-centered activities foster a profound spiritual connection and enrich their faith journey.
- The camp provides a nurturing environment for creating lasting memories and friendships. Campers will engage in team-building games, arts & crafts, music, and enjoy s'mores around the campfire. A highlight from last year, the ping pong tournament, promises to be a favorite once more, encouraging camaraderie and fun.
- We pray that each camper will leave the weekend equipped with the knowledge and tools to navigate our often confusing and negative culture with a Biblical worldview. It is our hope that they will return home with a renewed understanding that life is a precious gift from God and that they are truly worthy of His love.

Who can attend Camp?

Boys and girls ages 11-17 who are in-coming 6th thru 12th grade students for the 2026-27 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:
 - saintphilomenaacademy.com
 - holyfamilydavenport.com
 - vinumnonhabent.com
- Or, you may register by **MAIL** (downloadable PDF available upon request).
 - **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?*

- \$40 Early Registration (Deadline: June 1st)
- \$50 Regular Registration (Deadline: July 25th)

Registration Fee covers a T-Shirt, all meals, lodging + mattress pad, & lots of fun! Payment due at time of registration.

**No one will be turned away due to inability to pay. Scholarships are made available through the generosity of our donors. To apply for a scholarship, please contact our Executive Director at saintphilomena.quadcities@gmail.com or contact the parish office at (563) 322-0901 to request additional information on how to apply.*

Can I cancel my registration?

Yes. Registrations may be canceled; however, all cancellations are subject to a 25% administrative fee, and camp fees are non-refundable after July 31, 2026.

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 is designed as an immersive overnight retreat, offering young participants a chance to connect with others and form meaningful relationships within the larger Catholic community. Much like C.E.W. or Cursillo experiences for adults, this camp provides a supportive environment where campers can explore their spirituality, grow in independence, and develop resilience.

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



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1. Visit the Camp Prior to the Session Starting
Attend Mass at Holy Family or request a tour of the accommodations. This can help familiarize you and your child with the environment and staff, making the transition smoother.
2. 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, providing comfort and companionship.
3. Volunteer to Be an Overnight Chaperone
If you have the availability, consider volunteering as a chaperone. This not only supports the camp but also allows you to be present and involved in your child's experience.
4. Consider the Day Camper Option
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 and 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. This option provides the same enriching experience without the overnight stay, ensuring your child can still participate fully in the camp activities.

What will my child eat?

| <i>Sample Menu</i> | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------------------|---|---|--|
| BREAKFAST | | Scrambled Eggs Hash browns with Bacon Fresh Fruit Cereal & Milk | Donuts Muffins Fresh Fruit Cereal & Milk Granola Bars Yogurt |
| SNACK | | Fruit Yogurt Cheese & Crackers | Fruit Popcorn Pretzels Apple Sauce |
| LUNCH | | Spaghetti Garlic Bread, Caesar Salad, Fresh Fruit Ice Cream Cups | Sandwiches Chips Fresh Fruit Desserts |
| SNACK | | Popcorn Chips & Salsa Mozzarella Sticks Apple Sauce | |
| DINNER | Pizza Minestrone Soup Caesar Salad Garlic Bread Ice Cream Sundaes | 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?

For the peace of mind of all parents and guardians, the Leadership Team at the St. Philomena Academy Youth Camp will have a dedicated cell phone available for incoming and outgoing calls 24/7 throughout the weekend. This dedicated line is primarily intended for emergencies. However, we understand that you might want reassurance about your camper's well-being.

Emergency Contact Information

- You will receive the Dedicated Emergency Phone Number during the check-in process. We encourage you to program it into your phone right away for quick access.
- Please ensure that the Primary Cell Phone Number you provide on your registration form is the one you wish us to contact first in case of an emergency or urgent situation.

We are committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all campers. Our team is trained to handle emergencies with the utmost care and urgency, ensuring that your child's safety is our top priority.

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. This schedule will ensure that all participants, along with their families, have a clear understanding of the weekend's itinerary and activities.

Weekend Wrap-Up

Additional details regarding the "Weekend Wrap-Up" on Sunday, August 9th will be provided to confirmed registrants. The wrap-up session is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the weekend's experiences and celebrate the spiritual growth of our campers. Campers will depart with an approved parent or guardian.

How Can I Support this Mission?

We invite you to consider making a tax-deductible donation to St. Philomena Academy to assist with our Youth Camp and other programming aimed at reaching middle and high school students in the Davenport Diocese and beyond. Your generous contributions are vital to the success of our camp, which is entirely supported by donations and volunteers.

Your Donation Helps

- Provide sponsorships for children who may not otherwise have the opportunity to attend. This ensures that all interested youth, regardless of financial background, can benefit from this transformative experience.
- Offset the costs associated with running the camp, including materials for arts and crafts, team-building activities, and essential supplies that enrich the camp experience.
- Aid in other vital programs beyond the camp throughout the year, helping us to continue our mission of fostering a deeper understanding of faith among the youth in our community.

Please make checks payable to:

"St. Philomena Academy" and include in the memo **"Donation - SPAYC 2026"** to ensure proper appropriation of funds.

Mailing Address:

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

You may also visit www.saintphilomenaacademy.com to make an online donation.

Your support makes a real difference in the lives of the youth we serve. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated.