

**ACC Fall Youth Retreat
February 13-15, 2026
Camp Swatara, Bethel, PA**



Details for Fall Retreat 2026

Hi Youth Leaders,

The Youth Committee is excited to invite you and your youth to the 2026 ACC Winter Youth Retreat at Camp Swatara. We hope you will come and bring your youth!

Resource & Spiritual Theme:

This year's Youth Retreat theme is "At Your Service". Anabaptists are known for service. What does it mean to serve? Why do we do it? What did it look like when Jesus served? How can we live lives of service every day? This retreat will explore the theme of service from an Anabaptist perspective.

Josh Carson will lead our worship times this year. Josh has worked with volunteers at Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) since 2017. He previously served as a youth pastor, loves Star Wars, and is an enthusiastic adult convert to Anabaptism. Josh has degrees from Eastern University and Palmer Theological Seminary, and is currently a student at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, earning a Doctor of Ministry in Leadership. Josh has been married to Lindsay Carson since 2015. They live in southwest Lancaster City, PA, with their daughter, Harriet, and are actively involved at James Street Mennonite Church. Worship times will be led by Andrew Pauls.

Cost:

\$150 per person - youth and leaders. This cost covers lodging, four meals, and activities.

Forms:

1. **Registration Form:** submit to the ACC office **by January 28th**. A check may follow by mail but should be received before the retreat.
2. **Medical Release Form:** To be kept with youth leaders in the event that one of your youth would require medical assistance during the weekend. This is a template for you to use.
3. **Congregational Youth Event Verification form:** must be signed by each youth leader/chaperone after the necessary clearances have been filed with the church. Should be handed in by registration on Friday night. Please fill this out completely!
4. **Youth Events Volunteer Covenant:** To be signed by a congregational representative after the necessary clearances for each youth leader attending the Fall Retreat have been filed with the church. Must be submitted to ACC Office prior to the retreat.

For facility information, a view of the camp and directions visit campswatara.org/map

Weekend Schedule:

Please arrive between 7:00-8:45 pm Friday evening. Our first session together will be held at 9 pm. The weekend will conclude Sunday at 11:30 am after our last worship session. The final meal is Sunday morning breakfast. A final schedule will be available at registration Friday night. A draft copy is available on the retreat webpage.

What to Bring:

- bedding (sleeping bag or sheets/blanket)
- pillow
- swimsuit (RM requires one-piece suits)
- flashlight
- washcloth, towel, toiletries
- warm clothes for outdoor activities

--Medical Release Forms**--Volunteer Covenant Forms (leaders)**

- Each youth group should bring plenty of snacks & drinks to share for Saturday night Snack Potluck

Registration deadline: January 28

Our ACC Youth Committee hopes that you will attend. We thank you for loving youth and giving so freely of your time to encourage them in life. Pray for this event; that those who attend will be encouraged, challenged, and inspired to commit to/continue the "journey of faith in Jesus."



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Please pray for our time together!