



The Episcopal Church
The Diocese of Georgia

The Office of the Right Reverend Frank Logue, Bishop of Georgia

August 9, 2021

REQUIREMENTS FOR ATTENDANCE AT OVERNIGHT DIOCESAN YOUTH EVENTS

In all that we do in youth ministry, we are called to balance our desire to engage in potentially transformative ministries with our young people with our need to minimize the risk to their health. Covid-19 has fundamentally altered this equation over the past year and a half. During that time, we have gained experience at gathering youth together, while mitigating risks.

We intend to hold our in-person events this fall. In order to increase our chances of doing so while minimizing the risks to participants, the Diocese of Georgia is implementing the following precautions:

1. **Covid-19 Vaccinations are now required for any overnight event for all who are eligible.** We will ask participants to share an image of their vaccination card with us. Vaccines are now available for free for everyone 12 years old and up. If a young person has a medical reason that they cannot receive a Covid Vaccine, please have their parents contact Canon Varner directly at jvarner@gaepiscopal.org to discuss. All vaccine information will be kept strictly confidential.
2. **Everyone must bring proof of a negative Covid-19 test administered within 96 hours of the start of the event** (Monday or later, for an event that starts on a Friday). Given the possibility of breakthrough cases, this requirement also applies to those who have been vaccinated. Test results must be submitted prior to the start of the event, ideally by email or text, in order to participate. *Registrants who arrive at Honey Creek without test results will not be able to take part in the event.*
3. We will make use of Honey Creek's beautiful outdoor spaces as much as possible, and will have fans on and windows open much of the time while indoors.
4. **Masks must be worn while indoors at all times, except when eating or sleeping, regardless of vaccination status.**
5. **Registration numbers** will be limited to allow for greater spacing both in the dorms and during events. Sign up early, because once events fill, we will not be able to add additional slots.

We will revisit these precautions as we move forward based on the global and local health conditions. In the meantime, by making the extra effort in order to reduce risk to our children, we are living into Jesus' call to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Please contact Canon Joshua Varner at jvarner@gaepiscopal.org with your questions.