

Lakeside Christian Camp & Conference Center Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Lakeside Christian Camp & Conference Center is a ministry of the Northeast Baptist Conference, which is a district of the Baptist General Conference. The camp is located in southwest Pittsfield, Massachusetts, on a 135-acre parcel on the shore of Richmond Pond. The property offers a mix of wooded land and open meadows, with one-half mile of frontage on the lake. Richmond Pond is a 220-acre state-owned lake. On the lake are two other camps (mainly day camps) and a mix of seasonal and year-round homes, as well as a public boat ramp and the Richmond Town Beach.

Lakeside's property was purchased by the Northeast Baptist Conference in 1980 and the first camps were conducted that summer. The facility we now know as Lakeside Christian Camp was formerly Camp Allegro, a girl's camp for an upscale clientele.

During the years since 1980 the facility has been upgraded for all-season use, through the winterization of the dining hall, chapel, Bethel Lodge, the Guest House, and the Administration/Camp Store building. Two additional all-season buildings were constructed in the mid-80's (Lakewood and Sharon Lodges) as well as two staff homes.

Lakeside hosts more than 1,000 summer campers who attend two-week or one-week sessions. Summer camp sessions consist of various weeks for different age groups (from first grade through high school), in addition to two weeks of family camp. The number of summer campers in Lakeside programs has more than doubled over the past ten years. Summer capacity is 180 to 200 guests, depending on the program. Our summer staff includes about 55 paid workers in addition to volunteers, speakers, etc.

During the retreat season (late August through early June) Lakeside serves a variety of weekend groups and a few weekday groups. On a given weekend we may be serving a rental group (men, women, youth or families from a church or group of churches; a campus ministry; etc.). Retreat season capacity approaches 200, again depending on the program.

Lakeside's year-round staff currently includes five full-time employees (Executive Director, Director of Programming, Director of Guest Services, Facilities Director, Food Service Director) and several part-time employees (housekeeping, maintenance, kitchen staff).

The campus includes 28 buildings ranging from rustic cabins used for summer campers to the motel-style Lakewood Lodge. Accommodations include summer camp cabins, dorm-style and motel-style rooms. The camp owns three licensed vehicles, a tractor (with front loader and small backhoe), commercial mowers, and other equipment.

Lakeside's dining room seats about 220 guests. Meals are served buffet-style. The kitchen is well-equipped with commercial ranges, convection ovens, pizza ovens, grill, walk-in cooler and freezer, reach-in cooler, tilt skillet, steamer, slicer, chopper, fryers, ice-maker and dishwashing machine.

Our mission is to provide a place that is set apart, where individuals become energized and equipped to impact our culture for the cause of Christ. Our current vision includes the addition of more guest housing, indoor recreation space (gymnasium), increased year-round programming, a kitchen addition, and other improvements.

195 Cloverdale St.
Pittsfield, MA 01201
Voice: 413-447-8930
Toll Free: 800-444-0253
Fax: 413-447-8934
Web Site: www.lakesideonline.org
Email: lakeside@lakesideonline.org