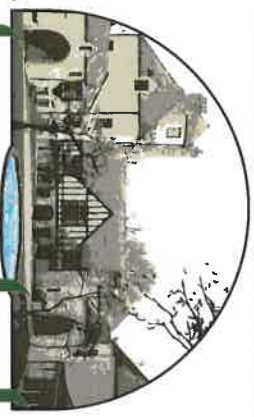


Stronghold

Camp & Retreat Center

Stronghold
1922 IL Rt. 2 N
PO Box 199
Oregon, IL 61061



For more information:
815-732-6111
summercampinfo@strongholdcenter.org
www.strongholdcenter.org

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CAMP
AND CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION
POCCA

2026 Stronghold Summer Camps

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Sleeping Area</u>	<u>Grade Completed</u>	<u>Tier I</u>	<u>Tier II</u>	<u>Tier III</u>
June 14-19	kin•dom	Castle	Ages 12-17	\$535	\$595	\$655
June 21 - 24	Mini Camp	Carriage House	2-4	\$265	\$295	\$325
June 21 - 26	Junior Castle Camp Climb High	Castle Sears	3-6 7-11	\$520 \$545	\$580 \$615	\$640 \$675
June 28 - 30	Grandcamp	Heritage Lodge	Grandparents & grandchildren 5-12	\$165 \$100	\$190 \$125	\$215 \$150
July 5-10	Harry Potter Camp Culinary Camp Middlers	Castle Carriagehouse Sears Center	3-6 3-6 6-8	\$520 \$520 \$535	\$580 \$580 \$595	\$640 \$640 \$655
July 12-17	Night Owl Sr. High Night Owl	Sears Carriage House	6-8 9-12	\$535 \$535	\$595 \$595	\$655 \$655
July 13 - 17	Day Camp	Castle	K-3	\$135	\$160	\$185
July 19 - 24	Juniors Mysteries, Puzzles, & Games	Carriage Hours Sears Center	3-6 6-8	\$520 \$535	\$580 \$595	\$640 \$655
July 20 - 24	Day Camp		K-3	\$135	\$160	\$185
July 24- 26	Family Camp	Heritage Lodge/Tents	Open to all	See Description		

Jr. Camps

Harry Potter Camp

Completed grades 3 - 5 Step into the magical realm of Harry Potter at this great camp. Campers will attend an American wizarding school and embark on a magical journey, learning about spells, potions, and the mystical creatures that inhabit the wizarding world. Campers will also do the fun traditional camp activities like swimming, bible study, arts and crafts, and ga ga ball that make a Stronghold summer camp great.

June 5 – 10 \$520 • \$580 • \$640

Castle Camp

Completed grades 3 – 6 Come to camp and take home memories for a lifetime! Have lots of fun growing closer to God and your group as you experience singing around the campfire, working together on the teambuilding course, learning to canoe, and having a great time while staying in the Castle. In this traditional summer camp experience, you will participate in a wide variety of activities including Bible study, hiking, arts and crafts, games, canoeing, archery, swimming, nature study, and cooking over a fire.

June 21 – 26 \$520 • \$580 • \$640



Day Camp & Mini Camp

Day Camp

Completed grades K - 3 Stronghold's day camp experience is a great way to introduce children to summer camp. Camps start on Monday at 9 a.m. with a full schedule of Bible stories, arts and crafts, pool time, games and walks in the woods. Pick up time is 4 p.m. Thursday night is an optional overnight with campfire activities included. Session 1 will stay in the Stronghold Castle and session 2 will camp out in tents. **Early arrival, prior to 9 a.m., available. Late pick up times, no later than 6 p.m. can be arranged.**



Mini Camp

Completed grades 2 - 4 Never been to camp before? This 4 day camp is a great one to give it a try. A low ratio of campers to counselors ensures every child receives the attention they need as they discover camp, God, and God's beautiful creation with new friends! Mini Camp provides an introduction to camp life with lots of fun, Bible stories, hiking, pool time, arts and crafts, games, nature study and campfire time.

June 21– 24 \$265 • \$295 • \$325

Intergenerational Camps

GrandCamp

Grandparent(s) and children ages 5-12 Start a new family tradition! Gather up the grandkids, give mom and dad a couple nights to themselves, and come to Stronghold for GrandCamp. Summer staff provides the program, all meals are included and everyone stays in private rooms with bath. Inter-generational experiences provide time for stories and song, hiking and swimming as well as quality "one-on-one" time. Adults participate in their own Bible study, discussion groups and private time, while grandchildren are engaged in Bible Story time, group games, nature study and art projects. Shared activities include swimming, special craft projects, campfire time and story-telling. Join us for this special camp at Stronghold! **Call for special registration forms or register on our website.**

June 28 – 30

\$165-\$210 Grandparent
 \$100-\$150 1st grandchild
 \$75-\$100 each additional grandchild

Family Camp

Families Enjoy a new adventure for the entire family. Parents, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, and all the cousins are invited for a weekend of games, crafts, swimming, campfires, and fellowship in the beauty of God's creation. Stay in one of our beautiful retreat buildings or bring a tent and stay at the Stronghold Family Campground area. Your camp fees include lodging, food, activities, and programs for ages 3 to 103! There are no charges for infants and toddlers and childcare is provided for them. Join us for this special weekend at Stronghold! Prices are listed below for Heritage/Campground in order. If you would like to pay an additional Tier, please refer to Grandcamp prices as a guide.



July 25– 27 \$165/\$80 each Adult
 \$100/\$55 Children (3 & up)
 \$ 75/\$40 each additional

Juniors

Completed grades 3 - 6 Come to Stronghold for a great week of fun, friendship, and faith development! Enjoy activities like swimming, canoeing on the Rock River, gaga, arts & crafts, bible study, archery, team building, and more! Grow closer with your group and deepen your faith while experiencing an amazing week challenging yourself and trying new things in the beauty of God's creation. Juniors stay in the air conditioned Sears Center.

July 19 – 24

\$520 • \$580 • \$640



Culinary Camp

Completed grades 4 – 6 Calling future chefs! If you have an interest in cooking, want to learn how to make great food, or just love to eat, this camp is for you. Spend your week at camp learning the basics of cooking, food safety, and creating delicious food. Take home recipes and ideas to share at home. Bible study, games, swimming, gaga ball, and campfire time are all included, so bring your friends and join the fun.

July 5 – 10

\$520 • \$580 • \$640

Completed 3rd -6th grade

Jr. High Camps

Completed 6th –8th grade

Mysteries, Puzzles, & Games

Completed grades 6 – 8 Do you enjoy puzzles and escape rooms? Do you like to solve riddles and play games of skill? Then this is the camp for you! Work with other campers on challenges centered around teamwork, solving puzzles, and using critical thinking. From scavenger hunts to mysteries to escape rooms every day adds a new challenge! You'll also enjoy things like swimming, arts & crafts, bible study, and all the things that make Stronghold camp and great place for summer fun! Campers will sleep in the air conditioned Sears Center.

July 19 – 24 \$530 • \$595 • \$655

Climb High

Completed grades 7 – 11 Have you ever wanted to try your hand at climbing? Reach for new heights in this climbing focused camp. Learn to belay while challenging yourself on the Leap of Faith. Step outside of your comfort zone and learn to repel while spending a day on Stronghold's High Ropes course. Go for a late night swing on the Swing by Choice. Pack up for an overnight trip to a State park where you'll learn to set up anchors and climb on real rock. With all these great things we've still managed to include swimming, astronomy, campfire, Bible study, and more while making great friendships and growing in your faith.

June 21 – 26 \$535 • \$595 • \$655



What is Tiered Pricing? Why 4 Prices?

Realizing that families have different abilities to pay, Stronghold has instituted a voluntary and confidential four-tier fee program. You may choose the tier that is most suitable for your family. It is really an honor system; you tell us what is affordable for your family. All campers receive the same Stronghold experience no matter what they pay. For those families that can not afford Tier 1, additional financial assistance is available to ensure that all children have this wonderful opportunity to attend camp. Some families use this system to give themselves a multi-child or multi-week discount.

Tier I is our historically subsidized rate and does not reflect the true cost of operating summer camp programs.

Tier II is our partially subsidized fee for those who can pay a little more but still can not afford the actual cost of camp.

Tier III more closely accounts for the true costs of camp.

Squire's Circle Include a generous donation to ensure the future of Stronghold Summer Camps.

Do you have more questions? Call us at 815-732-6111
Or email us at summercampinfo@strongholdcenter.org



How to Register:

Register online at www.strongholdcenter.org by clicking "**click here to register**" and creating an account, **OR** Fill out the registration form completely.

Mail form and half the registration fee to:

Stronghold Summer Camps
PO Box 199
Oregon, IL 61061

Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis without regard to race, color, disability, national origin and/or religion.

Please only **One name per registration form**. The registration form may be copied or more forms can be downloaded at our website.

Payment Policy One half of the camp fee is due at the time of registration and the balance is due 2 weeks before your camp begins. Pay online, over the phone, or send us a check. Please make checks payable to Stronghold.

Refund Policy Refunds of total paid, less \$25 processing fee, will be made only if cancellation is received 10 or more days prior to the first day of the event.

Scholarships A limited number of Stronghold scholarships are available. Please call for more information and to receive a scholarship application. Many churches also provide their own scholarships. If you receive a scholarship from your church and they will be sending payment to us please make sure to fill out the amount and church name on the registration form.

Can I register for more than one camp? Yes, but please fill out a separate registration form for each.

Middlers

Completed grades 6 – 8 Join us for an amazing week at Stronghold and stay in the air conditioned Sear Center! Middlers will have a fun filled week of canoeing down the river, spend time with old friends and making new friends, and challenging yourself on the high ropes course and other challenge courses. Small groups discuss issues that matter to them, laugh a lot, learn about God, and accept one another for who they are. Have a week of good food, good fun, and good time with God!

July 5 – 10

\$530 • \$595 • \$655



Night Owl

Completed grades 6 – 8 Not a morning person? Then Night Owl is the camp for you! Stay up late and sleep the morning away. We'll have breakfast at lunch, lunch at dinner, and dinner when the stars are in the sky. Enjoy swimming, canoeing, crafts, the challenge courses and more by day, and campfires, Bible study, night hikes, worship, and glow in the dark games by night. It's camp on your schedule! Night Owl campers sleep in the Sears Center.

July 12 – 17

\$530 • \$595 • \$655

Completed 6th – 8th grade

Sr. High Camps

Sr. High Night Owl

Completed grades 9 – 12 Not a morning person? Then Sr. High night owl is the camp for you! Stay up late and sleep the morning away. We'll have breakfast at lunch, lunch at dinner, and dinner when the stars are in the sky. Enjoy swimming, canoeing, crafts, the challenge courses and more by day, and campfires, Bible study, night hikes, worship, and glow in the dark games by night. It's camp on your schedule! Night Owl campers sleep in the Carriage House.

July 12 – 17

\$535 • \$595 • \$655



Climb High

Completed grades 7 – 11 Have you ever wanted to try your hand at climbing? Reach for new heights in this climbing focused camp. Learn to belay while challenging yourself on the Leap of Faith. Step outside of your comfort zone and learn to repel while spending a day on Stronghold's High Ropes course. Go for a late night swing on the Swing by Choice. Pack up for an overnight trip to a State park where you'll learn to set up anchors and climb on real rock. With all these great things we've still managed to include swimming, astronomy, campfire, Bible study, and more while making great friendships and growing in your faith.

June 21 – 26

\$535 • \$595 • \$655

Where do the campers sleep?

Castle - A unique Tudor-style manor house, it features the Great Hall, spiral staircase, and a 5 story tower. It has dormitory-style lodging with twin beds and bunk beds.

Summer Cabins - Each site includes two rustic cabins, a pavilion, outdoor sanitation facilities, and a fire pit. These sites have potable water, but no electricity.

Sears Center - A contemporary lodge, Sears Center has eight bedrooms, each with a double bed and a set of bunk beds and a large central meeting room. Four bedrooms have private baths and the remaining four bedrooms share two connecting baths. Each room is air-conditioned and has a ceiling fan.

Carriage House - A separate, two-story wing of the Castle, Carriage House has 8 bedrooms with bunk beds and shared baths. This building is air-conditioned.

Hickory House - Hickory sits in a wooded setting overlooking the Rock River. Sleeps a maximum of 12 in six rooms with Tempur-pedic mattresses. Shared baths and two showers in each hall. Hickory House is air conditioned.

Heritage Lodge - Heritage Lodge, offers a gathering room and 16 double occupancy bedrooms each with a private bath. Heritage Lodge is also air-conditioned and handicap accessible.

Camping - Occasionally campers have the opportunity to sleep out at our group camping area or one of the wilderness sites. During this time we use high quality 3 season dome tents with full coverage rain flies.



kin•dom Camp

kin•dom Camp

For campers aged 12-17 kin•dom camp is an opportunity for LGBTQIA+ youth ages 12-17 to feel safe and free to show up as their full selves. Campers will have the chance to experience all the fun that camp has to offer in a week filled with affirmation, community, and celebration. This camp is affirming – full stop. It affirms all genders, sexualities, identities, religious backgrounds, and varieties of belief. The only thing we expect is a commitment to welcoming and celebrating everyone where they are, as they are.

June 14 – 19

\$535 • \$595 • \$655

A typical day at Stronghold

Each day at Stronghold is full of different activities to promote teamwork, build friendships, and challenge campers to try something different and think about other opinions and views. Many campers get a chance to canoe, learn archery, and spend some time on the challenge course. Below is a typical schedule for a day at Stronghold. Specific times for activities will vary and some activities will use multiple activity block times.

8:15 AM	Breakfast
9:15 AM	Morning Celebration/Morning Watch
10:00 AM	Bible Study
11:15 AM	Arts & Crafts
12:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM	Free Play
2:15 PM	Swim
3:30 PM	Games
4:45 PM	Nature Study
6:00 PM	Supper
6:45 PM	All Camp Games
8:15 PM	Campfire/Vespers/Snack
9:00 PM	Cabin Time/Astronomy (once a week)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is kin•dom community?

A: kin•dom is a queer-led organization creating space for queer community, belonging, and celebration. Inspired by the concept first named by theologian Ada María Isasi-Díaz, “kin•dom” envisions the full inclusion and interdependent relationships of all people. kin•dom community’s vision is to be an example of what is possible when love and inclusion are the norm.

Q: How will kin•dom camp be different from any other summer camp?

A: Now more than ever, LGBTQIA+ youth are in need of unconditional love and acceptance. kin•dom camp will be a week for LGBTQIA+ youth to experience belonging and affirmation. The week will include plenty of “traditional” camp activities and recreation, plus some specialized programming to incorporate activities and conversations around queer history, culture, and experiences.

Q: What does “kin•dom” mean?

A: The word “kin•dom” offers a new way of imagining the full inclusion and belonging of all people. It is a word that offers an alternative to “kingdom” and allows a more expansive view of how we are all connected. It moves beyond dynamics of power and oppression, and invites us all to see the ways we are interconnected and made better together. The word was originally brought forth by theologian Ada María Isasi-Díaz, who used the word to speak about the liberation that is intended for all people. This camp is a direct part of kin•dom community, and there is no greater vision we can imagine for LGBTQIA+ youth than for them to know that they belong, that they are loved, and that they are free and safe to be their whole selves.

Common Questions

What if I'm not Presbyterian or don't attend church regularly?

Can I still attend Stronghold and feel comfortable? Absolutely.

Campers from many different faith traditions attend, including some who do not have a faith tradition. An atmosphere of community and God's love is central to our program. We do ask that all campers participate in Bible study, worship, and group discussions that are part of our camps, as it is our goal to help campers feel comfortable and have fun talking about and exploring their faith journey.

Can I visit camp before I come? Certainly. We would love to have you visit. Call 815-732-6111 ext. 613 to schedule a visit.

Do you have a medical staff on duty? A Health Care Manager is on duty at camp 24 hours a day and all of our camp staff members are certified in CPR and First Aid.

Can you accommodate special dietary needs? Definitely. We happily accommodate campers who are vegetarian, lactose intolerant, allergic to certain foods, and the like. Our menu is nutritious, well balanced, tasty, and provides plenty of choices at each meal. Please make sure to note special dietary needs on the health/registration form so arrangements can be made to accommodate your camper's needs

Can I send letters and email to my child? Absolutely. Letters and email from home can make the transition to camp life easier. Please limit e-mail to one per day, per camper and do not send attachments with e-mail messages. Stronghold's email address is summercampinfo@strongholdcenter.org (please include the camper's name and camp in the subject). Unless there is an emergency, campers will not have access to phones or computers while at camp. If you would like your camper to email home we do offer a service called "bunk notes" for a small fee.

When does camp start/end? Registration for all camps will be at Brubaker Center from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. on the starting date for each camp. Early arrivals are welcome to walk the grounds until registration begins. Parents are invited to celebrate the week with us on pick up night at 4:00 in the Brubaker Center and talk to your camper's counselors about the week. Campers will be released after.



Our Staff

It is our goal to offer all campers opportunities to build meaningful relationships with peers, camp counselors, and with God through Christian community-oriented fellowship, Bible Study, and worship experiences. To meet this goal, Stronghold employs quality domestic and international Christian young adults who have committed their time and energy to care for the campers. Our staff come from around the world to share faith and broad world views as we live together in our Christian community at Stronghold. They are college-age or older and all have been screened, including a background check, and experienced an intensive two-week training program to ensure an exciting and meaningful camp experience for the campers. All staff are certified in first aid and CPR.

Welcome to Stronghold

For over 60 years Stronghold's Summer Camps program has impacted thousands of people from all walks of life and produced many life-changing experiences. An atmosphere of community and God's love is central to our program. Opportunities abound for making new friends, strengthening old friendships, meeting people from around the corner and around the world, developing individual talents and leadership abilities, challenging yourself, learning new skills, deepening your faith, and having tons of fun! Campers are challenged to build a Christ-centered community of acceptance, trust, sharing, and forgiveness as they play, laugh, and grow spiritually, physically, emotionally, and socially.



Can my child have a cell phone with them while at camp?

One of the biggest benefits of camp is being able to grow in independence and resilience. Being able to call home changes the dynamics of the camp experience. Instead of engaging with the people at camp, the camper is staying connected to their friends and parents back home and not gaining the valuable independence that a camp experience provides. It is for this reason that we do not allow campers to have cell phones. Besides disrupting the group building process, we prefer campers to work out their differences or problems rather than just calling home. It's a great thing to see kids getting to know other campers and connecting with them. It also gives the campers an opportunity to unplug. There are not video games, computers, or cell phones getting in the way of building relationships with the people we are with. Here at camp, we gather around campfires talking with each other. If a problem arises, a camp representative will be in touch with you, and if deemed necessary, or requested by the parents, we will put you in touch with your child. We will never prevent a parent from speaking with their child.

Is there financial assistance available? Yes. A limited number of Stronghold scholarships are available. Please call 815-732-6111 ext 613 for more information. (Many churches also provide their own scholarships).

What is your refund policy? Refunds of total paid, less \$50 nonrefundable deposit, will be made only if cancellation is received 10 or more days prior to the first day of the event.

