



SVP OZANAM CAMP HOLY ISLAND 2018

It's that time of year again! Applications are now open for Holy Island Camp 2018 and this letter is designed to explain our applications process, which after listening to parents and schools, is hopefully even easier for everyone this year!

What will be the same as last year?

As was the case last year, we will be allocating places on a 'first come, first served' basis, so please send us the information as soon as the process opens via our web site

<http://www.svpholyislandcamp.co.uk/>

Applications will be open to **girls currently in Year 5 or 6** and **boys currently in Year 5, 6 or 7**.

What's changed from last year?

- The suggested donation
- Simplification of the application process

Suggested donation.

Due to some increases in our costs, it is unfortunately necessary for us to increase the suggested donation. It is always our intention to keep the cost as low as possible to make the camp accessible – there is always support available for children who cannot afford the full donation. However we have decided upon an increase to £115 per week. Like last year, payment over several months/weeks will be available and we will be in a position to begin the process of collecting donations via bank transfers much earlier than last year. We believe this will help parents spread out payments if necessary and again help those families that need more time to pay.

Application process

Previously we have operated a two stage application process. The main purpose for this was to give us an opportunity to put groups of friends together on the same week. However, this was done when applications were by post when we often received huge volumes at around the same time, as schools would collect them up and send them all in together. Now that applications can be sent instantly online, this two stage process can be simplified. This year there will only be one stage and we hope that this will be much easier for parents.

Who is being sent this information?

As usual, we are sending this information to all Catholic schools in the diocese. As always, we ask schools to help identify children who perhaps would really benefit from a holiday but perhaps have family issues that would make this harder for them. Please let us know via our email address – holyislandapplications@hotmail.co.uk

As we did last year, we are also sending this information directly to the parents from whose addresses we hold, if their children are still within our age ranges. Only parents who confirmed we could keep their email addresses for this purpose will be sent this email.

We are also sending this information to our volunteers from Camp and the SVP Conferences across the diocese. We feel this will also help us to reach as many children who really need a week away next year.



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What next?

We would be grateful if schools/volunteers/SVP Conference Members could begin to prepare to communicate to children and their parents/guardians. (There is a PDF version of this letter as well as a PDF 'Information to Parents' document attached to this email). As always we are really grateful for your support.

Parents, please apply using our online form, which can be found on our website at the address below. You will also find more information about the camp from our website homepage. If there are any questions you still have after reading this, please let us know.

<http://www.svpholyislandcamp.co.uk/>

If anyone cannot access the internet to fill in this form just ring us and we will fill it in for them. Last year we did this for around 10 families and it worked very easily.

We are only asking for some basic information to begin with. Please consider all the available weeks.

Week	Start date	End date
Girls week 1	Saturday 26/05/2017	Saturday 02/06/2017
Girls week 2	Saturday 21/07/2017	Saturday 28/07/2017
Girls week 3	Saturday 25/08/2017	Saturday 01/09/2017
Boys Week 1	Saturday 28/07/2017	Saturday 04/08/2017
Boys Week 2	Saturday 04/08/2017	Saturday 11/08/2017
Boys Week 3	Saturday 11/08/2017	Saturday 18/08/2017
Boys Week 4	Saturday 18/08/2017	Saturday 25/08/2017

Historically, we have been inundated with applications for 1st and 2nd weeks and initially have fewer applications for the later weeks. If it's possible to spread the applications out across the weeks, it gives us a much better chance of giving everyone a place. We will, of course, at least offer everyone either an alternative week or a place on the reserve list if they do not get their preferred week(s). Having said all this, please ask your child to talk with their friends before deciding which week(s) to apply for. Although many children attend on their own each year and have a great time, we did get a number of drop outs last year as children discovered that their friends had applied for different weeks and they would not be together. If your child has a best friend or two that they would really like to share a room with, please note that in the comments section of the online form.

If there is anything at all you would like to ask or discuss, please contact one of our team members at any time – we may not be able to answer calls immediately, but if you leave a voicemail or email then we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Holy Island Applications Team (Rob Curran, Peter Monaghan, Eileen Stout, Joe Hollamby)

Email: holyislandapplications@hotmail.co.uk

Phone Contact

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