



About Pact Family Camp East

Join other adoptive families for our annual Pact Family Camp East in Pine Mountain, GA! Families with adopted children of color assemble for this five-day residential experience to have fun, build community, and learn together as part of Pact's **child-centered, race-conscious, honesty-based approach to adoption, race and family.**

Pact Family Camp East, is a six-day/five-night event that brings together families with adopted children of color from across the country to share experiences, learn from experts, and build community. All of the camp counselors and featured speakers are people of color or have a personal connection to adoption. In recent years, we expect approximately 85-100 families (300 plus individuals) including extended family members as well as birth/first family members and adopted adults and foster care alum.

Pact Camp East will be held at the beautiful Callaway Gardens Spa & Resort, nestled in the southernmost foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in Pine Mountain, Georgia. Pact Family Camp East offers children, teens, and adults not only transformative learning experiences within "brave spaces," but the chance to relax together in a beautiful setting, have fun, and build friendships with other families who know where they're coming from.

You will stay in a comfortable, hotel-style room, with daily room service, and be provided with three generous meals a day. The site, located on 2,500 acres of land, offers upgrade options of cottages with kitchens and suites. Amenities include a heated swimming pool and hot tub, a lake, butterfly experience and zip-line a small fitness room, and even a spa where you can book an appointment for a massage. The resort is surrounded by walking trails and a beach; while many campers remain on the resort grounds the entire time, a 10-mile bicycle trail, and miles of nature trails showcase the beauty of the site.

Most of Pact's year-round staff will be on site to make sure camp goes smoothly, and over 75% of the counselors have been with us for several years or more. You can count on this highly experienced team to deliver a well-organized and thoughtfully-developed program!

"I walked into camp thinking how great it would be for our kids and believing I knew what I needed to know and love was really all that was needed. I left camp knowing it was essential for my kids and thinking about how much I didn't know but believing that love would give me the strength for the journey to learn it." – First Time Attendee from the Northeast

"It is invigorating to be with families that look like ours, and equally empowering to be simultaneously supported and challenged to look deeply at the critical role of race and birth families in the adoption experience. Beyond the adult education, the program and mentoring approach available to our son and the other young adoptees has been priceless. We believe Pact to be the 'gold standard' when it comes to ethical adoption education for parents, adoptees and birth parents. Knowing what we know now, we would never want to be adoptive parents (especially white parents of a child of color) without having had this invaluable guidance and our lives are better for it."– Kathryn, Northern Virginia



Who comes to Pact Family Camp? What are the benefits?

Most participants have a lot of questions before they sign up for Pact Family Camp. “Is it worth the money? Is this how we want to spend our vacation? Will my kids enjoy it? Will I?” *Families who attend once have a return rate of over eighty percent.* Families tell us that Pact Camp is literally life changing. Children tell their parents that Pact Family Camp is like home for them, a place where they feel safe and strong, able to explore the issues that they are often afraid to talk about at home or with their friends.

Children: Pact Campers, from infants to teenagers on the verge of adulthood, spend their days at Pact Family Camp with other kids and camp counselors who are like them in very significant ways. For many kids, Pact Family Camp is the one place where they really feel they belong. From preschoolers to high school students, each group has many opportunities for sharing experiences, making meaningful connections--and having fun! Activities are carefully designed to be age-appropriate, with the older children given progressively more independence, both to spend time with their friends and to explore their emerging thoughts and feelings about adoption and race. For more information about your child’s program go [check out our FAQ page](#).

Adoptive Parents: At Pact Family Camp, adoptive parents of children of color get a rare opportunity to take time out from the rush of everyday life to reflect thoughtfully—in a variety of formats, including keynote lectures, interactive workshops, film screenings, and facilitated group discussions—on parenting, adoption, and race, along with other parents who share their experiences, and expert professionals in the field. **Extended family members and birth family members** also participate in these opportunities

Adoptive Parents of Color: At Pact Family Camp, we are particularly committed to ensuring a safe and positive space **for adoptive parents of color** and their families. We provide a supportive environment for parents of color—we are here to meet the needs of you and your family. We expect that between 30% and 35% of the families in attendance will include at least one adoptive parent of color; the percentage is increasing each year. If you are an adoptive parent of color, serving you and your family is at the core of Pact’s mission. We want to see you at Pact Family Camp and we are committed to making it an experience that will meet your needs.

Adult adoptees: Pact welcomes 30-50 adult adoptees of color each year to our Camp. Many adult adoptees and foster alum tell us that Pact Family Camp is the first time they have had the opportunity to be around so many other adults who share their experience. Adopted adults of color are an essential part of Camp, including the renowned adoption professionals, researchers, and authors who speak to and work with both children and parents, as well as many of the counselors in the children’s program. These adults play a crucial mentoring role for Pact campers of all ages.

Birth/first parents: A growing number of birth/first parents are attending Pact Family Camp; some come with their children’s adoptive families, others without. In keeping with Pact’s values, we include birth/first parents, often the most marginalized members of the adoption triad, not just as one-time guest speakers but as full program participants. We offer specific programming for first/birth parents in addition to the programming available to all adult campers. They also participate in discussions with adoptive parents and the older children. Opportunities for connection between adopted youth and first families are almost non-existent in the adoption world—Pact is paving the way.