

Kids Camp 2024 Counselor Information

Arrival: Please arrive on Olivet's campus by 6:00 on Wednesday, July 10th. Each counselor will check in with the camp director to receive cabin assignments, counselor handbooks, a name badge, room key and a counselor bag with other helpful items. (If possible, this is not mandatory)

Attitude: Throughout the entire week of camp, counselors set the tone for every activity. Please maintain a Christ-like attitude, encouraging the campers, supporting the mission of camp, and affirming the leaders. Be enthusiastic and energetic – silliness is encouraged!

Activities: We will maintain an action-packed schedule throughout the week. You will be given a schedule upon arrival, but please be flexible if changes need to be made. Please make sure you and your campers arrive on time to each activity, are dressed appropriately, and are prepared to participate. Many of the activities will be led by one of the camp directors, but there will be times when you will be required to lead your cabin in activities or devotions. Always do your best to include everyone, keeping activities fun while still maintaining focus and discipline among your group.

Accessibility: These days at camp are ALL about the campers. With the exception of pastors and other on-call workers, we expect counselors to leave work and family obligations at home to solely focus on the campers. This means counselors should not take phone calls or respond to texts, messages or emails while at camp, except during break times or after campers are in bed. Set up an auto-respond message on your voicemail and email. Your undivided attention to the campers will make you a more effective counselor.

Attire: You will need one or two outfits per day – one for the morning rotation and one to change into after pool time – plus a modest swimsuit to wear at the pool. There is no need for fancy clothes – you will want to wear clothing that can get wet or dirty. A light jacket for cool nights would also be wise.

Chapel: There is a morning and evening chapel service each day. You will sit with your cabin – be sure to spread out from your co-counselor (divide and conquer!) so you're each within arm's reach of a few campers. Services are action packed with music, games, counselor challenges, and videos, in addition to an age-appropriate sermon. Do your best to help your campers participate and stay engaged in all activities. The speaker may ask the counselors to take time as a cabin to discuss the sermon – this is a time to be serious and reflective, being sensitive to the Holy Spirit and the campers.

Daily Living: You will be working with kids under the age of 13. Some of these kids may be away from home for the first time. Your role is to help them feel comfortable, make sure they take care of their own personal hygiene, eat three meals a day and get to bed at the scheduled time, in addition to participating in all the regularly scheduled activities and keeping their rooms clean.

Staff: We have a team of directors who is responsible for planning and operating the camp. Additionally, there is a nurse who will handle all medications, tend to injuries and assist with any other health-related concerns. Counselors will work in pairs and will be in charge of 10-12 campers. Throughout the week, your cabin will be assigned to rotate to stations with other cabins. Work together with the other counselors in your rotation to look out for all of the campers in your group.

Some general rules to remember:

- Boys aren't allowed in girls' dorms and vice versa. This includes counselors!
- At least one counselor must be with the campers at all times – this includes meals, chapel, activities, shower time, etc.
- Campers should always use the buddy system – no camper should ever go anywhere alone. We share the campus with other groups and want to ensure our camper's safety.
- A counselor should never be alone one-on-one with a camper behind closed doors. If you need to have a private conversation, do so in a public area, visible by others.
- Counselors should never change clothes in front of the campers.
- Staff should never bad-mouth an activity or person. Even if things aren't going well, keep a positive attitude and discreetly talk to a director at an appropriate time.
- Campers should never be allowed to call home without direct permission from the director.
- If a camper is missing from your group, alert the director immediately.
- Touch must always be appropriate – no tickling, kissing, sitting on laps, etc.
- Your words must always be kind and appropriate – if you are angry or frustrated, take a minute to compose yourself before talking to campers or staff
- No smoking, drugs or weapons of any kind are allowed. Cell phones should only be used for camp purposes.
- All medication, camper and counselor, should be turned in to the camp nurse.
- Food and drink (besides water bottles) should only be in the dining hall and the snack area, not in the dorms or chapel.
- Any major behavioral infractions should be reported to the camp director. Keep her informed of any issues before they become major obstacles.

What to Pack:

- Two outfits per day of clothes that can get dirty
- One modest swimsuit
- Comfortable walking shoes and socks
- Bedding for a twin-sized bed
- Toiletries including bug spray and sunscreen
- Your Bible and a pen
- A sweatshirt or light jacket
- Umbrella
- Water bottle
- Cabin decorations – be creative, but use temporary methods of attachment
- Simple games or quick activities you can play when you have a few minutes of down time (Uno, Farkle, a Frisbee, a simple craft, a hacky sack, etc.)
- Optional: some sort of gift or item for your campers (bandana, mask, sunglasses, visor, etc.)

Special Policies for Camp 2024

There will be a counselor training with the camp director before camp begins. If you have any questions, you can contact Anne Whalen at 815-535-1215 or arwhalen22@gmail.com prior to the start of camp.

- All counselors need to be at Olivet by 6:00pm on Wednesday, July 10th. The staff will undergo several hours of training together, both on Wednesday night and Thursday morning before the campers arrive. Staff will have the option to stay overnight in the Olivet dorms on Wednesday.
- Kids attending this camp come from all types of family backgrounds. We have a primary responsibility to protect the safety of the campers in our care. If a child shares anything with you that causes you concern please notify the camp director, Anne Whalen. Never promise a child that you will not share information – that’s a promise you cannot keep. Any concerns about physical, sexual or emotional abuse should be brought to the camp director and not discussed with any other counselors or staff.
- Every camper will need to shower at least once a day, either first thing in the morning or in the evening. Each cabin should have ample time to get campers through the showers, but campers should not share a shower. Both counselors should not shower at the same time – someone needs to stay with the kids.
- Cell phone use, texting and viewing personal social media sites during camp should only be for purposes that are part of Kids Camp activities.
- This is a large campus with other people present. Never let campers go anywhere alone, and as much as is possible stay together as a group. Always utilize the “buddy system” – where a camper always takes a friend with them – even just to the nurse.

Volunteer Applicant Standards for Service

This information was included on the volunteer application. It is included here for your reference and as a reminder of the standards you agreed to upon applying.

I understand that I am to dress, act and speak as an example of Christian living while at Kids Camp. The use of profanity, provocative or inappropriate dress or inappropriate conversations can result in my immediate dismissal.

I understand that by accepting a volunteer camp position, I will be committing myself to a position of service, and that my behavior and attitude will be examined on terms of modeling and ministry to others. I will seek to be an example of biblical Christian living throughout my camp volunteer period.

At all times I will conduct myself in harmony with the doctrine, statements, polity and beliefs of the Church of the Nazarene, as enumerated by the Covenant of Christian Conduct set forth in the Manual of the Church of the Nazarene.

I understand that if selected, I will be required to abide by all camp policies, standards, and regulations, as they are presented and explained.

I affirm that I have never been convicted, nor have I been found guilty or have I admitted guilt of, nor am I the subject of pending charges for, any offense involving actual or attempted child abuse or sexual molestation or any offense against a child in any jurisdiction.

Rumors, backbiting and unresolved interpersonal issues tear apart the people of God. Matthew 18:15-17 is clear about how to handle disagreements, misunderstandings and troubled feelings. I agree to talk only with the person/persons who have offended me about the offense, and not to talk to anyone else about the offense until I have worked through the problem in the proper biblical steps.

I recognize that I am under a continuing obligation to disclose relevant information concerning my position, and I agree to promptly disclose any information that may have a bearing on my position.

I understand that if I am selected and if any statement herein is not true, I may be released immediately. I hereby affirm and acknowledge that the answers given by me to the foregoing questions and the statements made by me are complete and true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that any false information, omissions, or misinterpretations of facts called for in the application may result in rejection of my application.