

THE

BEST

WEEK

OF

SUMMER

# summer camp

*parent guide*



## WELCOME TO SUMMER CAMP

We want to start off by saying... THANK YOU!

Thank you for trusting us with your student. We want you to know that we take this very seriously. One of our values as a student ministry is to “partner with parents to help you win at what matters.”

We know it can be daunting to send them to camp with hundreds of people, so we want to walk you through what to expect.

This booklet is your complete guide to how to prepare for Summer Camp. From the morning students leave until the time they get back, we want you to understand what they will experience and help you get them ready for the best week of their lives.

If you have any additional questions, please email us at [summercamp@seacoast.org](mailto:summercamp@seacoast.org).

## WHY WE DO SUMMER CAMP

Why the time, why the resources?

Our desire is to provide a SAFE environment that we can CONNECT students to JESUS and EACH OTHER.

We believe that one of the best ways to do that is through an environment like camp with a few undistracted days that they can spend time with Jesus and each other.

The impact that this week can have on the life of a student may be equal to over a year of perfect attendance at weekly youth services.

Thank you again and we are praying for not only your child but for you as well. We can't wait to see what God does this week in your student's life.

## BEFORE YOU ARRIVE AT CHECK-IN

### check out the packing list.

- Make sure your student isn't packing too much. We have provided a packing list in this booklet to help them prepare.
- Note: Your student will be carrying their own bag off the bus and into their rooms. Make sure they can carry all of their bags.
- You will also want to make sure that no items on the DO NOT PACK list do not make their way into your students luggage, their personal belongs, or on their person.

### find your departure information.

- On page 7 of this packet you will find departure information for each campus/church. Please make sure you review this ahead of time so you can be at the right place at the right time.

### paperwork.

You have already filled out everything for camp so you do not need to bring anything additional to check-in.

### no cell phones.

We know it can be uncomfortable to feel disconnected from your student. But over the past several years, we have seen so much benefit from removing the distractions that come from texting, social media, etc.

And don't worry—you can reach them if you need to. In case of an emergency, please use the **emergency camp phone number provided in the stay connected section on page 3**. If your student needs to reach you, they can use the phone at the camp office or ask their room leader.

## STAY CONNECTED

You will want to stay connected to what is happening at camp.

### know the emergency number.

**(843) 376.8083**

If you ever need to reach us at camp, please use the camp emergency phone number. It will ring several of the camp staff's phones. You can also reach us via email at [summercamp@seacoast.org](mailto:summercamp@seacoast.org).

### follow us on social media.

Be sure to follow Custom Students on social media. We will be updating throughout camp with lots of photos and videos.

**Instagram:** @customstudents

**Facebook:** @customstudents

### receive text updates.

This is how you will know when your student arrived safely at camp and when they are expected to arrive at home. Be sure to sign up for your campus/church text.

### seacoast campus text numbers.

If you are registered with Seacoast, you have been automatically signed up with your campus to receive text messages to the phone number you listed under the parent contact when you registered. If you would like to add additional phone numbers to receive texts, you can sign up when you drop off your student at check-in.

### other church text numbers.

#### FREEDOM CHURCH

**HS Camp:** Text @fyhigh24 to 81010

**MS Camp:** Text @fymiddle24 to 81010

#### NORTHWOOD CHURCH & THE GATHERING CHURCH

If you are registered with Seacoast, you have been automatically signed up to receive text messages to the phone number you listed under the parent contact when you registered. If you would like to add additional phone numbers to receive texts, you can sign up when you drop off your student at check-in.

## AT CHECK-IN

Camp is about to start! There will be a lot going on, but here are a few things to keep in mind as you arrive at your departure location.

### arrive on time.

It may seem simple, but it is key to starting the week well. Make sure to arrive at your assigned check-in time so that we can depart on time.

### turn in your medications.

There will be a designated spot at check-in to turn in any medications. **All medications must come in the original bottles with the prescription attached.**

At medication check-in, we will go over the information you entered on your registration form to make sure everything is still accurate. You will place the medications in one of our ziploc bags and affix a supplied label to the bag.

Medications are given at camp at four designated times during the day: breakfast, lunch, dinner and bedtime.

Additional details about medications will be emailed prior to camp.

### searching bags.

A big part of ensuring every student is safe is making sure they don't bring stuff on the DO NOT PACK list. When you check in your student for camp, we will be having you search their bags. Because there are some students who like to bend and break the rules we need you take ownership in searching their bags so your child is not that student. On occasion, it may be necessary for us to search bags while your students are at camp. We need you to help ensure the safety of every student at camp.

### don't forget lunch.

Dinner will be provided at camp, but we won't be stopping along the way for lunch. Make sure your student eats lunch prior to arrival or brings a bagged lunch if you arrive to check-in prior to noon.

## ARRIVAL AT CAMP + ROOMS

Students can find out their leader and their cabin room from their youth team the Sunday prior to camp. They be staying in cabins. Each cabin has a large common space and six bedrooms. There is one leader bedroom and five student bedrooms. The student rooms all sleep four students per room and they will be sleeping in twin bunk beds. Each bedroom has a private bathroom. Make sure to review the packing list on page 8 to see everything your student needs to bring or NOT bring. The volunteer-to-student ratio is 1 to 10. These are trained volunteers who have all been background checked. No leader will be sleeping in the same room as a student. No students will be sharing beds.

Once **ALL** students have arrived at camp, we will send out a text to let you know. Please be aware that while our goal is that everyone arrives at camp within a short window, we cannot control traffic and we will wait to send out a text from the main text line until all campuses and churches have arrived.

## THE RULES

We like to keep the rules simple.

- Respect the people, respect the place. This includes not being outside after lights out.
- Be on time for all services and activities.
- No romantic displays of affection.

### how do we address discipline issues.

We have a three-strike rule.

- **STRIKE 1:** The Room Leader will address it.
- **STRIKE 2:** The Youth Pastor will address it.
- **STRIKE 3:** Our Care Team will address it with their Youth Pastor. If it reaches this level, you will most likely have to come pick up your child.

## MEALS

We promise to provide good food for your students. However, there are a few things we would suggest:

### let us know about any food allergies.

You should have already filled this out on your students registration form. If you didn't, please email us at **summercamp@seacoast.org**. We need to know this prior to departure for camp. We are able to accommodate most food allergies.

In the case of severe allergies where the camp does not feel they can accommodate your child, our camp director will reach out to you about food arrangements for your student.

### snacks are a good idea.

There is plenty of food at mealtimes, but one thing we know about students is they can eat. A lot. Sending your students with snacks or cash to buy snacks is a great plan. If you do send snacks, please send them in a resealable bag so we can avoid ants in the rooms. Make sure they are **peanutfree** and pre-packaged items are best.

## SESSIONS

Every day will have a morning & evening session. Our sessions are an incredible part of camp where we get to worship, see God break down walls in the hearts of our students, and experience some incredible speakers. Each year, we see God do incredible things during these sessions.

## CAMPUS GROUP + SMALL GROUPS

Each day your student will have the chance to meet in both a campus group and a small group.

### why do we have these groups?

- They help reinforce the importance of not doing life alone.
- They are an opportunity for their leaders and their peers to minister to each other and to talk through what they have been experiencing in our sessions.

## HEART FOR PROJECT

Heart For is a heart for the hurting and those who have never heard. It is a student ministry-initiated project that provides much needed supplies, resources and ministry opportunities to missionary partners and communities across the world. The concept is simple: we give so that others can have. Students and youth leaders take on the responsibility to raise funds to make a difference in the church, community, and the world. If our missionaries are going to get to where the lost live, it will be because of the sacrifice and generosity of this generation.

This year, we are going to focus on getting the Bible translated. Being able to read the Bible in your own language is transformative. Through the Bible Translation Project, millions more will have access to God's Word and we are committed to resourcing Bible translation into the Eastern Punjabi language. The contemporary translation will be the first translation that does not rely on formal language that is understood only by the educated, upper caste. This means that for the first time, all 48 million Punjabi-speaking people will be able to understand God's Word, regardless of education level, religious training, or caste. Partnering with One Hope and Biblica, we are committed to helping end Biblical poverty and making God's Word accessible to all people in their native language by 2033.

**Donate online at [customstudents.com/heartfor](https://customstudents.com/heartfor)**

## HOUSE WARS

Your student will be assigned to one of six "houses" for all of our rec activities. Each House will be competing against each other to win the ultimate title of Camp Champ. You will receive your student's House assignment via email prior to camp. Students love to rep their House and each House is a different color, so once you receive their assignment make sure they pack spirit wear for their House. We will email your student's assignment out two weeks before camp.

## FREE TIME

Free Time is a great time for your student to just have fun. From the two pools, canoe races, to tons of games, our free time is completely geared towards having fun. Don't worry, your students are not alone. We have leaders and camp staff stationed all over camp during Free Time to help ensure the safety of your students. Additionally, the pools have lifeguards.

## LATE NIGHTS

Each night after evening session and small groups, we like to end the night with a little more fun. From luaus, to games nights, to theme parties our fun force is ready to provide tons of fun for your student.

We have a few theme parties this year. Dressing up is not required but is definitely a lot of fun. Be sure to follow @customstudents on Instagram for costume ideas.

### high school theme nights.

- **COUNTRY VS. COUNTRY CLUB:** Choose your side and dress the part: Will you channel the laid-back vibes of the countryside with plaid shirts and cowboy boots, or opt for the sophistication of the country club with preppy polo shirts and pearls?
- **PINK OUT:** How much pink can one wear? From bubblegum beats to neon pink lights, this is your chance to shine in a sea of pink fun.

### middle school theme nights.

- **SUMMER CAMP OLYMPICS:** Who will receive the gold, silver, and bronze? Could it be you? Come dressed ready to represent your favorite country - the USofA - and be ready to win points for your house. There will be games to test your strength, speed, and smarts!
- **SQUAD GOALS:** Where two or more are gathered THERE WILL BE FUN! Show off your creativity and team spirit as you and your friends coordinate your outfits to match your chosen squad. Come as the cast of your favorite TV show or movie, a favorite band, a group of people from the past, your favorite sports team, or even your favorite candy (one year we had M&M's show up).
- **COLOR WARS:** The return of a camp classic! Grab your white shirts, bathing suits, and old clothes, because we're turning summer camp into a color explosion using colorful powder!

## **LEADER APPRECIATION**

We love our leaders! Without them, camp isn't possible and they have all taken time off of work to be with your students this week. So, we want to celebrate them well. If you want to send something with your student to say thank you, the leaders would love it. And don't worry, we have some fun things planned as well.

## **SAFETY + MEDICAL CARE**

We take safety and medical care seriously at camp. We have both a security team and nursing team ready to help your students. Our security teams helps ensure all of our students are following the rules and are where they are supposed to be. Our nursing team is ready to take care of your students in case they get injured or sick.

## **HEADING HOME**

On the last day of camp, we will load the buses and head home. A box lunch will be provided for your students. We will keep you updated via your campus/church text messages about when to pick up your student.

### **don't forget.**

Once you get your student, make sure you pick up all of their luggage and any medications you sent to camp.

# DEPARTURE LOCATION + SCHEDULE

## high school dates.

DEPARTING: Saturday, July 20

RETURNING: Wednesday, July 24

## middle school dates.

DEPARTING: Thursday, July 25

RETURNING: Sunday, July 28

### DEPARTING FROM ASHEVILLE, NC

#### ASHEVILLE CAMPUS + THE GATHERING CHURCH

CHECK-IN: 9:00 - 10:00AM

DEPARTURE: 10:30 AM

LOCATION: Asheville Campus | 123 Sweeten Creek Road | Asheville, NC 28803

### DEPARTING FROM COLUMBIA, SC

#### CONWAY, COLUMBIA, IRMO + MANNING CAMPUSES

CHECK-IN: 11:00AM - 12:00PM

DEPARTURE: 12:30 PM

LOCATION: Columbia Campus | 631 Sparkleberry Lane | Columbia, SC 29229

### DEPARTING FROM GREENVILLE, SC

#### GREENVILLE CAMPUS

CHECK-IN: 11:00AM-11:45AM

DEPARTURE: 12:15 PM

LOCATION: Greenville Campus Offices | 33 Mall Connector Road | Greenville, SC 29607

### DEPARTING FROM MOUNT PLEASANT, SC

#### MCCLELLANVILLE + MOUNT PLEASANT CAMPUSES

CHECK-IN: 7:30-9:30AM

DEPARTURE: 10:15 AM

LOCATION: Mount Pleasant Campus | 750 Long Point Road | Mount Pleasant, SC 29464

### DEPARTING FROM SUMMERVILLE, SC

#### CANE BAY + SUMMERVILLE CAMPUSES, FREEDOM CHURCH + NORTHWOOD CHURCH

CHECK-IN: 8:00-10:00 AM

DEPARTURE: 10:45 AM

LOCATION: Summerville Campus | 301 E 5th North Street | Summerville, SC 29483

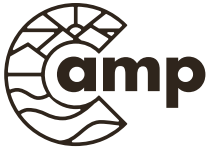
### DEPARTING FROM WEST ASHLEY, SC

#### JOHNS ISLAND, NORTH CHARLESTON + WEST ASHLEY CAMPUSES

CHECK-IN: 8:30-9:45 AM

DEPARTURE: 10:15 AM

LOCATION: West Ashley Campus | 2049 Savannah Hwy | Charleston, SC 29407



## 2024 PACKING LIST

### TO PACK

- Clothing & shoes for 4-5 days of activities [modest clothing: shorts need to have a 3" inseam, no crop tops, and undergarments should not be visible. Be sure to pack stuff to rep your team and for the late night parties]
- Pajamas/clothes to sleep in
- Clothes that can get wet [for House Wars activities]
- Sneakers that can get wet [for House Wars Activities]
- Bathing suit [one piece or tankini that covers the entire mid-driff for girls]
- Flip Flops
- Large plastic bag for dirty clothes
- **Bedding** [bedding is **not** provided this year, please send sheets for twin bed or sleeping bag, blanket, and pillow ]
- Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Soap & Shampoo
- Shower Towel
- Beach Towel
- Bible [please have name in Bible so we can return it if it should get lost]
- Notebook & pen
- Sunscreen
- Bug Spray
- Water Bottle [please have name on water bottle so we can return it if it should get lost]
- Flashlight
- Watch [needs to be a traditional watch; smart watches are not allowed]
- Raincoat
- Medications [Medication must be brought in its original bottles or we will not be able to give it to your child. Bags will be available at dropoff to put the medication bottle in and label with your child's information.]
- Lunch for Travel to Camp
- **OPTIONAL:** Snacks [must be nut-free and pre-packaged or resealable] or money for snacks [all meals are provided]
- **OPTIONAL:** Spending money for Summer Camp merchandise, snacks and our heart for project [smaller bills please]

**YOUR STUDENT  
NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO  
CARRY ALL OF THEIR  
BELONGINGS BY  
THEMSELVES IN ONE  
TRIP SO PLEASE PACK  
ACCORDINGLY.**

### DO NOT BRING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

- Electronics or mp3 players [this includes handheld gaming system, iphones, androids, ipads, etc]
- Cell phones
- Smart Watches
- Firearms, explosives, knives or other sharp objects
- Illegal drugs, alcohol or cigarettes [this includes e-cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, vapes, juuls, etc]

***\*Please note all bags will be searched by the person dropping them off in the presence of our check-in teams. Please look through your child's bag prior to bringing it to drop-off.***