



Around here, Student Camp is the highlight of every summer. It's an opportunity for students to unplug from their day-to-day routines so they can focus on what matters most in life: God and people (Mark 12:30-31). Student Camp allows middle and high schoolers to cultivate healthy relationships, grow in their spiritual walk, and make lasting memories! Our theme for this year's camp is "Redefined" from John 10:10. Students will be challenged to consider what life with Jesus really means and how they can experience it personally.

Camp Worship

Theme: "Redefined"

The adversary is actively working to deceive this next generation into accepting a shallow version of life that promises fulfillment but delivers emptiness. In John 10:10, Jesus revealed his purpose for coming to earth: "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." We want students to understand that Jesus *is* inviting them to experience "the good life," but in a way only God can define. Each day, students will have a specific Bible study focus where they can learn God's idea of contentment, identity, glory, and joy. Pray for us as we invite students to experience abundant life in Christ!



Dates & Location

July 26-30, 2023

Ocoee Ridge Camp – 479 Frey Rd, Old Fort, TN 37362

This is a new location for us on the border of Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina. You can learn more about Ocoee Ridge on their website at www.ocoeeidgecamp.com.

Activities

This year's activities include paintball, ziplining, swimming (wave pool), water slides, adventure race, rock climbing wall, high ropes, whitewater rafting/tubing, gaga ball, 9-square, basketball, and more!

Registration

Students: \$425 (\$475 for late registration*)

Leaders: \$100**

*The registration fee increases to \$475 after May 31. Registrations will not be accepted after June 30. No refunds will be given after June 30. You can register online at shepherds.org.

**Graduating seniors (class of 2023) are welcome to attend as a Middle School leader.

Packing List

- Casual clothing for 4 nights of worship
- Comfortable clothing for 3 days of recreation
- Comfortable clothing for the trip home
- Closed toe shoes (For daytime activities)
- Light jacket/hoodie (It might be cool in the mornings)
- Pajamas
- Dirty clothes bag
- Towels and washcloths
- Bible, pen & notebook
- Toiletries
- Bedding and pillow
- Sunscreen
- Water bottle
- Bug spray
- Sunglasses
- Swimsuit and beach towel
- Hand sanitizer
- Hand soap for bathrooms
- Flashlight
- Raincoat
- Drawstring bag
- Snacks
- Spending money for snack shop
- Prescription medication (if necessary)



FAQ's

NOTE: We're thankful for our 2023 Camp Planning Committee, a group of 10 adults that includes parents and leaders, for helping us discuss, plan, and refine our camp strategy this year so students can have the best experience possible.

Who are the adult chaperones/leaders going to camp? This year, we're planning to take around 50 adult leaders from our church to camp. These leaders are a multigenerational mix of godly men and women who are eager to invest in the next generation. The team will include current grade leaders plus new leaders who have been approved (application and background check required). *Parents will get an email from their student's leader before we leave for camp.* If you're interested in serving as an adult leader, please let us know!

How are the students getting to and from camp? Students will travel on charter buses to and from camp. Since the ride is around 7 hours, we will be stopping near the halfway point for lunch on the way up and dinner on the way back.

What are the spiritual growth opportunities at camp this year? Each day, students will experience biblical, age-appropriate teaching in both a morning session and an evening session, as well as rich small group discussion times to help student apply biblical truths.

Are cell phones allowed? We are leaving it up to each family if you want to send a cell phone with your student. We would encourage students to leave them at home to enjoy an unplugged week of camp, but we will let each family decide. If you do send a phone with your student, there will be times when phones will not be allowed (sessions, small group, meals, after lights outs, etc).

What if my child does not bring a cell phone? This will in no way negatively impact their camp experience. You can reach your child through their leader using their phone. Leaders will be providing you with their contact information. Leaders will also be happy to take pictures for students!

Is everyone going whitewater rafting? On Thursday of camp, high schoolers will go whitewater rafting while middle schoolers go tubing. If a student does not want to or cannot go rafting/tubing, there will be a seating area at the rafting center where they can enjoy other ways to spend time together.

What is the swimsuit policy? Guys should wear loose fit swim trunks. Girls should wear a modest 1- or 2-piece swimsuit.

Will there be medical professionals on site? Yes. We're bringing two nurses to camp.

What are the sleeping arrangements? Students will stay in bunkhouses (boys and girls separate). Each room has 8 bunk beds for a maximum total of 16 occupants (including 2 leaders). Each room has its own bathroom.

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Why was there a cost increase this year? In addition to inflation that's affecting nearly every area of our economy, several other reasons contributed to a cost increase this year, including an increase in activities (like whitewater rafting/tubing), travel distance, and leader help. While the actual cost we are incurring per student is \$590, our church is graciously and generously supplementing this ministry to reduce the cost to attend.

Are scholarships available? Yes, we have a limited number of partial and full scholarship available to students who apply by May 31.

What does the cost of camp cover? Meals (during travel and at camp), lodging, transportation, activities (including whitewater rafting/tubing), t-shirts, and activity supplies.

How can I help with camp? Please be in prayer for our planning team, leaders, and students. We want this to be a fruitful, safe, and God honoring time for all.

What about food allergies? If your student has a food allergy, please contact Corinne at chigdon@shepherds.org after you register.

Emergency Contacts

Caleb Cruse (Pastor)

704-689-4384

ccruse@shepherds.org

Devin Gallagher (Pastor)

252-414-1175

dgallagher@shepherds.org

**Nurse & leader contact info*

will be emailed before camp.