



Shepherd's Student Camp for middle and high schoolers is the highlight of the 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 in a unique environment!

## 2024 Theme

Each year, Merriam-Webster awards a "Word of the Year," recognizing a word that dominates online searches and lookup volume on the dictionary's website. The most recent prize went to the word **authentic**. With the world becoming increasingly digital, there's little wonder why people are so skeptical and searching for the *real thing* instead of a cheap imitation. When it comes to religion, it's easy to adopt the values and beliefs of "Bible Belt" culture while still missing the true gospel. Unfortunately, our communities are filled with cultural Christians instead of genuine Christ followers. This year at camp, students will learn what it means to be a real disciple of Jesus and how to navigate a world of counterfeits.



## Morning Sessions – “Real Conversations”

During the morning sessions, we’ll talk about some hot topics from a biblical perspective to help students navigate uncharted territory in their spiritual journey. These panels will be led by our pastors and other godly leaders. Here’s the topics we’ll cover:

- Getting Real about *AI and the Online World*
- Getting Real about *Deconstruction*
- Getting Real about *Friendships*

## Evening Sessions

Our evening sessions will be led by Dean Inserra. Dean is the founding and lead pastor of City Church, where he leads the vision and preaching. Dean was called to start a church in his hometown of Tallahassee when he was the Student Body President at Leon High School. Dean graduated from Liberty University and attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. He holds a MA in Theological Studies from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and is pursuing a D.Min from Southern Seminary. Dean is married to Krissie, and they have two sons, Tommy and Ty, and a daughter, Sally Ashlyn. Dean likes baseball, wrestling, and the Miami Hurricanes. He believes Tom Brady is the greatest quarterback, and that everyone who disagrees holds the right to be wrong. Dean has also written several books including *The Unsaved Christian: Reaching Cultural Christianity with the Gospel*.



## Dates & Location

**July 28 - August 1, 2024**

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

This is our second year at this camp, located on the border of Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina. The combination of breathtaking scenery, well-kept facilities, and superior activities makes for a truly unforgettable experience. You can learn more about Ocoee Ridge on their website at [www.ocoeeidgecamp.com](http://www.ocoeeidgecamp.com).

## Activities

This year’s activities include paintball, ziplining, swimming (wave pool), water slides, adventure race, rock climbing, high ropes, whitewater rafting/tubing, gaga ball, 9-square, basketball, pickleball, and more. During camp, grades will also be split into teams to compete for points throughout the week. Team colors and theme nights will be announced after registration closes!



## Registration

**Students: \$450**

**Leaders: FREE\***

### Where can I register?

You can register online at <https://my.shepherds.org/?page=4045&eventId=8509>

*(You can access the registration portal on [Shepherds.org/students](https://shepherds.org/students))*

### When does registration close?

Registration will close **June 30, 2024** at midnight.

### What is your refund policy?

- Refunds requested by May 31, 2024 – Full Refund
- Refunds requested after May 31, 2024 – No Refund

*\*All leaders must be evaluated and approved by SSM staff. Graduating seniors (class of 2024) may attend as a middle school leader.*

## Packing List

- Water bottle!
- 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)
- Clothes for Theme Nights & Team Color *\*to be announced after registration closes*
- Pajamas
- Dirty clothes bag
- Towels and washcloths
- Bible, pen & notebook
- Toiletries
- Bedding and pillow
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Sunglasses
- Swimsuit and beach towel
- Hand sanitizer
- Hand soap for bathrooms
- Flashlight
- Raincoat
- Drawstring bag
- Snacks and/or spending money for snack shop
- Prescription medication (if necessary)



## Schedule

### Sunday

6:30 am	Drop Off/Check-in
7:30 am	Load buses
8:00 am	Depart from TSC
12:00 pm	Arrive at Woodland Baptist Church for lunch
4:00 pm	Arrive At Ocoee Ridge Camp
5:30 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm	Opening Session
9:00 pm	Life Groups
9:30 pm	Free Time
10:30 pm	Quiet Hours Begins
11:00 pm	Lights Out

### Monday

8:00 am	Breakfast
8:45 am	9th/12th Grade Rafting ( <i>subject to change</i> )
9:00 am	Personal Devotion Time & Room Clean-up
10:00 am	Morning Session
11:00 am	Life Groups
12:00 pm	Lunch
12:45-4:30 pm	Middle School Tubing & 10th/11th Grade Rafting ( <i>subject to change</i> )
1:00 pm	Outdoor activities
5:30 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm	Evening Session
8:20 pm	Life Groups
9:00 pm	Free Time - Lip Sync Practice
10:30 pm	Quiet Hours Begins
11:00pm	Lights Out

### Tuesday & Wednesday

8:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 am	Personal Devotion Time & Room Clean-up
10:00 am	Morning Session
11:00 am	Life Groups
11:30 am	Lunch
1:00 pm	Outdoor Activities (high ropes, paintball, adventure race, water park)
5:30 pm	Dinner
6:15 pm	Lip Sync Battle! (Wednesday)
7:00 pm	Evening Session
8:20 pm	Life Groups



9:00 pm	Free Time
10:30 pm	Quiet Hours Begin
11:00 pm	Lights Out

## Thursday

8:00 am	Breakfast
9:00 am	Closing Session
10:00 am	Group Picture
10:20 am	Load Buses
11:00 am	Buses Depart
1:30 pm	Arrive at Woodland Baptist Church for lunch
7:00 pm	Expected Arrival Back at TSC

## FAQ's

*NOTE: We're thankful for our Camp Planning Committee, a group of parents, leaders, and staff 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 40 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. This may seem like a long trip, but who doesn't want to take a road trip with your best friends?! The bus rides to camp have become a legend in their own right!

**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 students apply biblical truths.

**What if my student doesn't know other students?** Then SSM Summer Camp is the perfect place to be! This event is designed to help students form meaningful relationships in their small groups.

**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 out, etc). We adopted this policy last year and it proved to be advantageous for our students and parents.



**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?** High schoolers will go whitewater rafting while middle schoolers go tubing. If a student does not want to or cannot go rafting/tubing, please let us know so we can plan accordingly.

**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 that will be at camp at all times.

**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 and showers.

**Are scholarships available?** Yes, we have a limited number of partial and full scholarships available to students who apply by May 31, 2024.

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

**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?** Please indicate any allergies in your student's registration. We will do our best to accommodate your student's allergies. If your student has a food allergy, please contact Mollie at [mandersen@shepherds.org](mailto:mandersen@shepherds.org) after you register.

## Emergency Contacts

**Caleb Cruse (Pastor)**

704-689-4384

[ccruse@shepherds.org](mailto:ccruse@shepherds.org)

**Devin Gallagher (Pastor)**

252-414-1175

[dgallagher@shepherds.org](mailto:dgallagher@shepherds.org)

*\*Nurse & leader contact info  
will be emailed before camp.*