

Jesus Camp

At Camp Bond

It's not by might or power

but by the Spirit!

JESUS CAMP at CAMP BOND
COUNSELOR/MENTOR AND STAFF PACKET

**Counselors, Mentors, and Staff will meet at location provided for training at 11am on the 10th.
Campers will arrive the following day.**

CAMP VISION

Mission Statement: To plant Jesus seeds in the hearts of children to win them through God's overwhelming love, grace and glory by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Without the hand of God, this camp would not be blessed. God is the key, He is the rock and we will always trust that He will lead and direct the camps now and in the future. We will trust him with every aspect and lean on him on every part of the camp just as we should lean on him for every single part of our lives.

As humans, we want to try to make things happen on our own, our own way. May this camp never be about us, but always about JESUS. Therefore, let us go to God and pray that he will lead us in our lives, at camp, and all the ministries He brings our way.

Intimacy with God – We want everyone at camp from the children to the entire staff to be intimate with God. In our staff preparation, we need to get on our knees in prayer, not only at the designated meetings but in our quiet times with God at home. At camp, we will have a lot of praise (God inhabits the praise of His people) and prayer. We will show them and point the way to be intimate with God.

Character of Jesus - This is Jesus Camp and we want to reflect the characteristics of Jesus. We need to reflect love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control by the power of the Holy Spirit. How can we reflect Jesus if we don't spend time with Jesus?

Pray with every child – We will pray with every child in the mornings, night, during ministry times, and when they are hurting. Whether the hurt is a scratch or the hurt is in their heart. We will teach them to go to God for everything.

Let God direct the camp - We will prepare a schedule knowing that God might want to change the schedule at camp by having longer teaching times, praise times or having certain activities. We will be flexible and open to the Holy Spirit so that His work will be accomplished in our hearts and in the hearts of all that attend.

Love the children that God brings – In the past, most of the children have been from apartment complexes around Lake Highlands. We will continue to recruit the non-churched children around Lake Highlands and other churches. However, we will be open to other non-churched children coming to camp as the Holy Spirit directs your heart. Some of the children that God brings will attend year after year because they see God's love at camp. They want to be near it and experience it. If they experience salvation the first year, the last year they attend or many years down the road, we are here to love them and show them the way to a relationship with God.

Prepare the Staff - We will prepare the staff through training sessions, individual prayer, and praying together during meeting times.

***Make camp a safe place for children to share their thoughts and struggles** – The entire staff must be open to listening to the children, getting to know them, and make them feel welcome. If we want the children to open up, then we need to be open to them.*

Teachings at camp – We want to teach the children about God’s love and how to have relationship with Him. We want to teach them God’s commands: first to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and second to love others. We want them to know they were created by God and they have a purpose in life.

Make camp a fun atmosphere (Staff attitude, Games, Arts, Activities) – We want the staff to be involved with all the activities. If it’s Funky Hair Day, that means everyone must be involved.

Camp Roles

All roles at camp are vital to camp running smoothly. We have Counselors, Jr. Counselors, Mentors, Cooks, Teachers, Nurses and Support Staff. Each cabin, will have up to 6 children per cabin. One counselor will be in charge of the cabin and one Jr. Counselors will help out in each cabin.

Counselor

The counselor’s job is very demanding and requires denying of your needs for a week. The main tasks of a counselor are to love the children, minister to their needs, plant Jesus seeds, lead the children, and maintain discipline. You will be responsible for your camper’s physical and spiritual well being (pointing them to Jesus) for a week. Praying before camp and during camp will be necessary to get through the week but the rewards are tremendous. A counselor can make a difference in the camper’s life by just showing love and care to them. This is something that they may not get at their home.

1. Build relationships with the campers
2. Be their mentor
3. 9-parts praise, 1-part correction
4. Lead them to a relationship with Jesus
5. Eat and engage with them at meals together
6. Support the leadership, and keep the campers quiet during the appropriate times
7. Show them love by the power of the Holy Spirit

Role of a Mentor

The role of a Mentor is to support the counselor at the camp. The Mentor will be praying for their assigned cabins the entire week. Listed below are their areas of responsibility:

1. Pray for their assigned counselors and campers
2. Be available to their counselors for help and support
3. Build relationship with the campers in your assigned cabins
4. Eat at meals together with your assigned cabins
5. Be there for activities with your assigned cabins
6. Work discipline issues
7. Support the staff in keeping the campers quiet during the appropriate times

Jr. Counselors

1. Give your campers your full attention, not your fellow JCs
2. Support and obey your counselor
3. Obey the camp rules and help your campers to obey
4. Stay with the campers that your counselor assigns you to during free time, meetings, and taking them to the bathroom to get ready for bed
5. Help direct campers who aren’t paying attention to focus on the counselor or the speaker
6. Take your camper(s) who need daily medication to the nurse’s station at the assigned times

Support Staff

Support Staff make the camp run smoothly behind the scenes. There will be people assigned to the Craft Shack, Sugar Shack, activities, lifeguards, nurses, cleaning, maintenance, water distribution, and other assignments. These are very important roles. A camp cannot operate without the support staff!!!

Reminders to all Staff

Spend time with the campers - This camp is a time of ministry to the children. It's not a time to hang out with the counselors although there will be some time for that. You must sit by your campers at meals and meeting times. It is important to know them on a personal level so that it can help in your ministry to them. Remember the best thing you can leave them is a relationship with Jesus.

Details of your personal sins - In the past, we have had some problems in this area. A counselor was telling the campers sins he had committed in his life in a bragging way. Children will sometimes think, "well he made it through ok, so maybe it's not that bad." As a general rule, it is not good to tell the children some of the sins you have done in the past. There might be certain times to discuss with them sins and how they have affected you, letting them know there are consequences to their actions. Be very cautious in this area, so not to promote sin but to be led by the Holy Spirit in what you tell the children. Also, we don't want them to think that we are perfect either, but that we all sin no matter where we are at in our walk with Jesus.

Counselors make a difference at camp - If you want the children to have fun and be spiritual... it's up to you, not the directors. We will do everything we can to provide a fun, godly atmosphere, but you must do your part. Make a difference at camp by leading your campers down a great path of spirituality and fun.

Counselors that take charge – We need counselors that will take charge of a situation. If something needs completed, do it or direct the children to do it.

Counselors will be responsible for prayers before each meal instead of having one prayer for the entire camp before the meal. The counselors/campers are responsible for cleaning their table and benches after every meal.

Tell them about God during the camp – Make God real to them by witnessing and sharing stories about God. They will see the faith and trust in God from your own walk with God.

Skits - Each cabin should come up with something to do in the Talent Show together. It is a great bonding activity!

Teaching Responsibility – Please help the campers keep track of their camp notebooks and Bibles and remind them to bring them to the teaching times and during the 5:00 game.

Counselors should not be alone with someone of the opposite sex, whether counselor or camper - unless you are in a visible, public area. We don't know the all of the children's backgrounds and we don't want them to accuse anyone of doing anything wrong. We do know that some of these children have been sexually abused and we must be very cautious. Be careful and be led by God on this one.

NO late-night activities - We want everyone to have a good time but we all need sleep for this camp. Remember why we are here. One purpose of the camp is to have fun but the main focus of the camp is to get the life-giving message of Jesus in the lives of the children through personal time, Fam times, and class time, both of which the children must be conscious for.

Curfews – We will have a "lights out" time at night and a curfew where no one talks. At night, we will come by each cabin and check to make sure everything is going ok and that the campers are sleeping or close to sleeping.

Campers that have asthma - If the camper has asthma, make sure you obtain an extra Asthma inhaler (we are requesting they bring two). The extra inhaler should be with you at all times.

Relationships – Obviously, there will be no counselor/camper dating relationships. We are here to minister to the children not to date them. If you are dating another counselor, please stay focused on the goals of the camp (to minister to the children and build relationships with them, not with each other). There will be plenty of time after camp for our own personal relationships. In other words, camp is not a time to hang out with other counselors instead of ministering and hanging out with children attending camp.

Ghost Stories - Please do not share scary stories or ghost stories with the children. The whole idea of the camp is to lead them in a relationship with God. After a powerful night of praise, prayer and ministry, this can take away from the goals of the camp. Some of the children are scared enough because they have never been away from home. Let's stay focused on planting Jesus seeds.

Praying – When a camper shares with you their problems or of the bad things that have happened to them, listen and then take it up to God in prayer immediately. You may not know what to say but just give it over to God. It accomplishes several things. First, it is released to God to let Him deal with the situation. Secondly, it teaches them the power of prayer.

Full participation in all activities - As mentioned before, participate in the activities with the children and let the child in you come out.

Counselors will not be able to drive their cars to and from bathrooms and cabins. Once the counselor has arrived, he must keep the car in one place. Some of the kids might try to jump on the back of a vehicle when taking off. This could be a dangerous situation that we would like to avoid. The only exceptions are the directors who need to use vehicles to help facilitate the running of the camp.

Camper problems - Potentially, some of the campers might tell you about sexual abuse, rape or something that needs to be shared with law enforcement. Also, do not make any promises that you can't keep. Remember, if sexual abuse or rape is shared, you must notify the police in this situation. This should be handled very carefully. Please contact Dale Hite so we can pursue the right route.

Problem children – Please let your mentor know of any major discipline problems. We might need to shuffle a few children around, discipline them, or take them home. This is very important. **WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PROBLEM CHILDREN ASAP** to deal with the situation. Please notify Dale or your mentor.

Keeping the schedule - We need your help in maintaining a schedule. We will have a firm schedule, please lead your campers to the correct place at the correct time. That includes getting up in time for breakfast, etc.

Teachings

Many of the campers may not have ever attended a church and their knowledge of Jesus, salvation and basic Christianity might be limited. We will have Christ-centered teaching where the campers will learn the Gospel and Bible teachings. There will be morning lessons and sometimes review sessions.

Worship/Music

We will have a praise band lead us in worship.

Activities

We will try to have a combination of sports and non-sport activities. We want full participation of the counselors so that you can bond with the children and make it a successful camp. Bonding is very important so you can minister and make friends with them. The counselors can make the camp exciting and fun but it takes involvement. Some of the children won't participate or want to participate if the counselors are not involved.

Emergency Medical Procedures

If there is a medical emergency please contact Dale Hite, the camp nurse or an adult staff member immediately (even for a fever or non-life threatening ordeal). The camp nurse will take any of the campers or counselors to the hospital if needed. If an ambulance is needed, call 911 only if Dale or the camp nurse are not available. Dale Hite or the camp nurse will make that decision on whether to transport the children to the hospital via car or ambulance. If it is a fall and there is a potential back or neck injury DO NOT MOVE THE CAMPER. TAKE ALL MEDICAL CONDITIONS SERIOUSLY. CONTACT DALE HITE OR THE CAMP NURSE IMMEDIATELY.

If there is a any type of sting, like a wasp, bee, scorpion sting, or snake bite, contact the nurse immediately. If you notice any change of a camper's behavior and you think it could be medically related, contact the nurse immediately.

Questions:

What do you do if there is a bee sting or an insect bite?

What if there are two people in the cabin that are fighting constantly. What is the appropriate course of action?

What if there are certain campers that are no obedient? What is the appropriate course of action?

What if a camper makes you promise not to tell anyone. What should you say?

What is your response if some one asks you why you believe in God?

What should you do if a camper tells you about abuse at their home?

