

PARENT GUIDE



INTRODUCTION

This guide is meant to explain our new *Camp is Where the Heart Is* summer camp kit program, and the requirements for families and campers.

THEME

This summer's theme is *Promises and Parables*. Together we will explore the parables of Jesus during our twice weekly Bible studies, and the promises of God during our Morning Watch devotions on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Our hope is that during their weeks of participation that campers will grow in love for Christ.

SUMMER CAMP KIT REGISTRATION

Each Camp in the Community (CITC) site handles registrations, and any paper forms should be submitted to the site's registrar. Online forms can be found at campinthecommunity.org/ciwthi

This camp program is free but space is limited, therefore registrations are accepted first come, first serve until the camp is full. **Please see site for details on how to receive your kit.**

WHO WE ARE

CITC provides a free summer camp where children in the community can learn and grow. Typically these programs are held in-person, but this summer we have created a program called *Camp is Where the Heart Is* to provide at home activity kits that mirror what would have been done at camp. We will be sharing STEM, nature, craft, active play, self-care, and life skill activities.

WHY CAMP?

Summer camp can provide a break from the day-to-day activities of life, and gives young people the mental space to consider some of the most important issues of life. This break from the craziness of their regular routine allows campers to consider their future, evaluate unhealthy patterns, and discover the truth that God loves them and has a fantastic plan for their lives. Camp kits give young people the opportunity to build faith through shared relationships and experiences, utilize imagination and creativity, be valued for who they are, cultivate independence and self esteem, identify and emulate strong role models, and develop leadership skills.

A DAY OF CAMP KITS

The beauty of this program is that you can adapt it to meet your schedule needs. Each weekday of camp we will provide either a Morning Watch or Bible Study opportunity, two camp activities, supplemental activities, as well as weekly bonus activities. Your kit will include instructions as well as all materials needed for the activities, a USB with video content, and a login for additional online camp fun. Campers in rising 4th grade and up will be invited to join us for weekly Zoom activities online. Each week you will receive an email from us detailing the activities available during that week of camp.

ACTIVITY LEVELS

Each activity instruction sheet will include beginner and advanced levels for the activities. This allows campers of all skill levels to be introduced to new activities, and challenge themselves in new ways.

OUR AMAZING STAFF

Summer staff counselors are energetic, dedicated, Christian young adults who have committed their energy to creating and sharing great programming for your child. Before hiring our staff, they each go through an extensive process that includes application, reference checks, personal interviews, and several background checks. Each of our staff members go through an intensive training period where they are equipped to lead and serve campers.

The training they receive covers a diverse range of topics, including effective management of a small group and how to relate to the needs of individuals within that group, facilitation of all camp activities, positive discipline techniques, certification in first aid and CPR, keeping campers safe online and much more!

CITC staff is equipped with the skills necessary to create a physically and emotionally safe environment within which all campers can thrive, grow, and have fun. They are ready and excited to work with your camper!

CAMPER BEHAVIOR

Campers are expected to behave in a manner consistent with the camp's goals of providing a safe, positive, and respectful Christian community – this also applies during online activities. Staff will work with campers to handle minor disciplinary problems. The camp does reserve the right to remove a camper from the program whose behavior is consistently inappropriate. Any direct threat or harm to one's self or others will result in a camper being banned from participating in our online programs.

USE OF ELECTRONICS

Some of our activities will have both written and video instructions available. We hope this will allow campers with a variety of learning styles to be successful in this program. Camp typically encourages taking a break from electronics. Although the current times require us to use them, we have designed the program to encourage campers to spend time outdoors, and away from screens.

ONLINE SAFETY

It is our intent to keep our campers safe while interacting with us on social media, or other online components of this program. We do this differently depending on the platform, but will outline those efforts below. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us immediately.

- Social Media - Each mode of social media we utilize (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Youtube) is constantly monitored by multiple staff members. Any inappropriate comments will likely be filtered out through our automatic filters, but will otherwise be immediately deleted. Additionally, that person will be blocked at the first offense.
- Zoom - Only campers in rising 4th grade or above will be involved in camp zoom activities. We use the highest level of security available during zoom activities. This includes not sharing links to scheduled activities publicly, creating sign-up forms for participation that are emailed to families directly, only allowing those signed up to enter the virtual room, disallowing screen sharing, closing room once all have arrived, and muting participants upon entry until it is time for group discussion. During these events, one staff member will lead and the other will monitor activity. Any person engaged in inappropriate activity, as deemed by our staff, will be removed immediately and may be banned from all future zoom activities.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Items that would be prohibited in a physical camp setting are also prohibited in a virtual camp setting. Those items include: weapons, alcohol, tobacco products, illegal drugs. Campers discussing or brandishing these items will be removed from any online format where these items are being shared.

CLOTHING

During this program we may ask for campers to share photos with us of camp activities they participated in. Campers may also be visible to us in scheduled zoom activities. Because of this we ask that campers wear modest, non-offensive clothing while participating in camp activities.

RULE OF THREE

Here at camp, we take every precaution possible to minimize risks to our campers. The “rule of three” is a camp-wide policy to protect both our campers and staff members. Staff members are committed to avoiding any situation that would place them alone (one-to-one) with a camper. As a minimum, we have one staff with two campers or one camper with two staff members in every situation.

WEATHER

We ask that campers who are participating in our camp program seek permission from an adult in charge before going outside in rainy, windy, or otherwise inclement weather. We also recommend the use of sunscreen whenever outside.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

Campers will receive a starter pack at the beginning of the program. This pack will include items they will need to use throughout the whole program, and includes items like scissors, crayons, markers, pencils, etc. Each week, campers will receive additional items needed for the activities for that specific week. Campers should not need ANY additional supplies to complete regular camp activities, but may need some typical household items for some of the bonus activities.

SUPERVISION

At no time during this camp experience will the Camp in the Community staff be responsible for the supervision of your camper(s). It is expected that activities your camper participate in have been evaluated by the adult in charge, and have been determined to be a good fit for your camper. In addition, the adult will be responsible for determining the level of supervision needed for each activity.

CAMPER PERMISSION FORM

All campers are required to have a signed permission form, acknowledging that this parent guide has been read, understood, and agreed upon in order to participate in this program.