

Frequently Asked Questions- Kids Summer Camp

Where is the camp located and what are the facilities like? Lake Retreat is located about 1 hour south of us in the Auburn area (Ravensdale) and is on the southwest corner of Retreat Lake. All of the buildings and activities are an easy walk from the center of camp. Boys will be housed on one side of camp and girls on the other side. There is a modern dining facility, chapel and meeting rooms. The lake is staff with lifeguards and boats are outfitted with life-vests. A nurse will be on site the entire week to help with medications, illness or accidents.

What is the schedule or structure like at camp? We think that having a daily routine is important for kids so the schedule is the same each day. Basically, each day consists of: breakfast (8am), chapel, morning devotions, lunch, afternoon activities, dinner, chapel, evening activity and bedtime (10pm). Campers will be assigned to a 'cabin group' that consists of a counselor, assistant counselor and 8-10 campers. They stay in these cabin groups for the entire week...everything they do will be with these same kids. There is no 'free time' for kids to wander or be away from their group. We have a Head Male/Female Counselor to assist our counselors in whatever way they need, as well as having staff members on site from each of the 4 churches who participate together.

We haven't done many sleep-overs and our child has not been away from home much. What about their apprehension (and ours!) of being away from us for 5 days? We know how important it is for kids and parents to be comfortable with the distance and time away from each other. We encourage kids to select a roommate at the time they register and for the most part we group campers by gender and grade. This helps them make new friends while spending time with kids they already know. We want campers to have a successful experience at camp and we will do everything we can to help kids deal with any 'home-sick' issues. We can also arrange a call home if we really need to, but most kids do well with encouragement and support of friends.

We're fairly new to the church and don't know a lot of people. Who are the folks in leadership at Kids Camp? We want to really know who the leaders who serve with us at camp so we choose adults and young people who have served with us in Children's Ministry as well as some parents of campers. All of them have completed applications to serve with kids, their references have been checked and we've done a national background check. We know them, serve with them and respect them. We always encourage families to get to know their child's counselor since campers may want to stay connected after camp!

What's your policy on parents going to Kids Camp with their child? Parents can apply to be a summer camp counselor but since we have limited number of spots, this must be done early in the process. Parents will need to decide if their child would benefit from having a parent on campus or if they could grow by being on their own while in the company of friends and leaders. We are available to discuss some of the options with parents and family members.

Our child has some health issues or dietary restrictions. Can they still participate?

Normally, those do not pose a problem, but you should check with us to be sure. Camp will provide us with a menu in advance so that parents can review it and they regularly provide options for those on restricted diets. As long as we know about the health issues, they are currently being controlled or dealt with and we have all the information we need, it shouldn't prevent them from participating.

What happens if my child gets sick or injured? We have a nurse on site and, in addition to dispensing the medications that parents have sent for campers, she is always on duty for special needs. There is good radio communication among our staff, day and night. There is also a walk-in clinic nearby if we need it. Of course, if anything happened, we'd be in touch with you right away and you'd be making decisions and advising us.

This could be a difficult time away for my child. How do you feel about family members visiting camp? A visit to camp by a family member doesn't always have the positive result that parents are hoping for. It can heighten home-sickness and create another difficult 'good-bye' when it's time to leave. Occasionally a brief visit could be useful but should be discussed in advance with our leadership so the details can be arranged. We would probably suggest a short daytime visit rather than end of day.

Our child really wants to be with some of their friends, how do we arrange that? At the time of registration, campers are asked to give us the name of one other student that they would like to have in their cabin group. We do our very best to make sure that this placement can be arranged and if it cannot, we would contact you beforehand to consider other options. Since each cabin group consists of about 8 campers, we can't accommodate large groups of kids who want to be together, so we focus on that 'one friend' that will make camp meaningful.

We're concerned about the cost of Kids Camp. How do you handle the financial obligations? Canyon Hills has provided a huge benefit to families by offering a discount for siblings going to camp. This includes kids going to Student Ministries Camp and Kids Camp. The oldest child registered for one of our camps will go at full price. The next child will receive a 25% discount, the third child a 50% discount, the fourth child a 75% discount and any other kids a 75% discount! At the time of registration, a \$50 deposit will hold your child's spot and then the balance is due before we head off to camp. There are a limited number of scholarships available at up to 50% off and should be applied for well in advance of camp. We want as many kids to go to camp as possible, so please ask us about what help might be available.

More questions? Contact the Children's Ministry at 425-488-4121 or kids@chccbww.org.