

Overnight Camp



Parent Handbook 2023

About the Camp

Dear Parents,

We are extremely excited to host our 10th annual Chaldean Youth Camp (CYC) at Our Lady of the Fields Camp and Retreat Center. CYC aims to give campers the special opportunity to interact with others across the diocese while participating in activities that will form them into virtuous Catholic leaders in an engaging environment. The purpose of the camp is simple: fun and fellowship with faith. This year, we are excited to be serving elementary, middle, and high school campers. We are thrilled to be utilizing the campgrounds for a myriad of activities, such as the ropes course and kayaking.

Our camp is staffed with amazing student and adult volunteers as well as professionally certified staff members. We will have a nurse and camp ranger on-duty throughout all camps to ensure safety and security on the campgrounds. Our volunteers go through an extensive training orientation to introduce them to the different types of activities the campers will be partaking in, which includes problem-solving, leadership training, and teamwork exercises to ensure our leaders are prepared to handle your campers.

The program is designed with activities, sports, spiritual talks, and of course, food! The campers will receive a traditional meal structure of breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Snacks will also be provided in-between meals. Depending on the day, food may be catered from an outside venue or may be made in-house. We are proud to say that CYC is a nut-free camp, and all children with nut allergies are able to safely consume all the meals provided by us.

Finally, our goal at CYC is to combine our faith and culture to bring out the best in your child's experience. Through the grace of God, we hope to build community, camaraderie, and faith. The Chaldean Youth Camp Committee has been working hard in preparation for this year's camp. We are eager to bring Christ to the kids!

Thank you for registering your camper!

–The Chaldean Youth Camp Committee

General Information

WHO: Children entering grades 7 to 10.

WHAT: Chaldean Youth Camp is a summer camp program containing a variety of traditional camp activities such as sports, team building activities, campfire, and indoor games, while at the same time promoting the values and ideals of the Chaldean Catholic Church. The program is designed within the Catholic Church structure giving your child the opportunity to meet new friends within the Chaldean community, while participating in activities that will form them into virtuous Catholic leaders in a fun and engaging environment.

WHERE:

Our Lady of the Fields Camp and Retreat Center
Church Side: 1391 Kellogg Road, Brighton, Michigan 48114
Camp Side: 7000 McClements Road, Brighton, Michigan 48114

WHEN:

Girls Overnight Camp: August 7-9
Boys Overnight Camp: August 9-11

CONTACT US:

Emergency Phone: **(248) 325-8175**
Email: Info@ChaldeanYouthCamp.com
Website: www.ChaldeanYouthCamp.com

*Emergency Phone is only to be used during camp hours, on camp days, **for emergency purposes only**. Email inquiries will receive immediate responses. We monitor the email inbox 24/7.

Our Staff

At Chaldean Youth Camp, we choose our staff carefully and intentionally based on our mission, which is directed towards loving Christ and discovering one's true self-identity. Each year, we have a number of faithful laity from our parishes throughout our diocese working to provide a fun and safe environment structured around our Catholic faith for your child. All staff has taken the "Protecting God's Children" program and have successfully completed our mandatory retreat orientation which exposes them to the different types of activities and situations that may manifest themselves in the camp. We have student and adult volunteers as well as professionally certified staff members on the campgrounds at all times. Children are never left unsupervised, and we take great pride in our policies and procedures for our volunteers to ensure that our campers are never left unattended.

Camper Dress Code

At Chaldean Youth Camp, we take our dress code seriously. Any camper who chooses to violate the dress code will be asked to change their clothing or will be required to wear camp-issued clothing. This policy stems from our goal of creating a positive environment that reflects our Christian identity while providing our youth the liberty of dressing modestly.

- Shorts are only allowed if they come down to the knees. (Ex: Basketball shorts)
- Sleeveless Shirts (tank top, spaghetti straps, tube tops, etc.) are not allowed.
- Any clothing that displays vulgar messages or profanity is not allowed.
- Gym shoes only. (Flip flops can be worn for showering)
- All types of jewelry are not allowed.
- Any tight clothing is not allowed.

Please also note, your child will receive a camp t-shirt upon their arrival (complimentary with registration).

What to Bring

The following is a complete list of all the items a camper will need for their overnight stay. Chaldean Youth Camp does not provide laundry service. Please label your child's belongings to prevent them from being lost. Pack the following items in one large duffel bag as luggage is not permitted on the bus due to room constraints. Please also note that all baggage and personal belongings are subject to search at any point during the camp.

- 1 blanket
- 1 pillow
- 1 twin size sheet (or sleeping bag)
- 1 pair of flip-flips
- 1 pair of tennis/gym shoes
- Multiple pairs of socks
- Multiple pairs of underwear
- Multiple pairs of shorts and t-shirts
- 2 pairs of pajamas
- Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc.)
- 3 towels
- 1 light jacket
- Hat or sun visor
- Hair ties (for girls)

List of Prohibited Items

In order to provide a safe environment for all of our campers, we ask for your cooperation in keeping harmful items away from our camp. Upon arrival, a staff member will go through an inventory of your child's items. This will ensure each camper returns home with all of their belongings. Counselors will also take the necessary precautions regarding items that are prohibited.

- Cell phones
- Smart watches
- Tablets or other smart devices
- Any food or drinks
- Walkie-talkies
- Jewelry
- Any compressed spray bottles (Deodorant, Body Spray, etc)
- Laser pointer devices
- Bikes or scooters
- Inappropriate books and magazines*
- Cigarettes or other tobacco products*
- Electronic cigarettes or vape products*
- Any type of illicit drug or paraphernalia*
- Any type of weapon*

If a camper is found in possession of any item indicated with an asterisk (*), camp staff reserves the right to call the authorities and will call parents to arrange an early departure for the camper. If a camper is found with any of the other items, camp staff will take away these items and keep them until departure.

Please note, anything not listed under the “What to Bring” section should not be brought to camp. Please only pack the necessary items for camp, as all other items are subject to removal before boarding the bus.

Drop-off and Pick-up

Location: Mother of God Chaldean Church – Large Hall

25585 Berg Rd. Southfield, MI 48033

Drop-off is at 1:00 PM in the LARGE HALL

Girls Overnight: Monday, August 7th

Boys Overnight: Wednesday, August 9th

Remember to be **ON TIME**. The bus will depart without your child. Upon your arrival, expect a formal check-in and luggage inventory/screening in the church hall. Please remain with your child until the check-in process has been completed. Please also remember to bring a valid form of a school-issued identification card or school enrollment paperwork. You may also access the school's online portal to verify the current grade your child is in. Failure to provide valid identification or providing a false age/grade is grounds for refusal into the camp. (You may take a picture of the identification on your phone to display for verification purposes.)

Pick-up is at 4:00 PM in the LARGE HALL

Girls Overnight: Wednesday, August 9th

Boys Overnight: Friday, August 11th

There will be a quick formal check-out. Upon bus arrival, please allow staff to escort campers into the church hall and begin the check-out process. Before leaving, please ensure your child has all their belongings. If not, notify one of the camp counselors before you leave. All unclaimed items are collected the following day and given to charity organizations. Chaldean Youth Camp is not responsible for any lost items; therefore, it is the parent's responsibility to label a camper's belongings and to refrain from packing expensive clothing or items.

Overnight Specific Information

Medication

If your child takes medication, please make sure they have enough for the stay. Please ensure the following:

- I. All medication is in its original packaging
- II. Medication is labeled with camper's name
- III. Physician's instructions must be included with dosage
- IV. Medication is placed in a plastic bag and labeled with your child's name

All medications will be kept with the camp nurse; the camp nurse is responsible for administering medication at the proper time. Emergency medication will also be administered at the discretion of the camp nurse.

Allergies

If your child has allergies, please indicate this on their registration form. If these allergies are food-related and require dietary restrictions, please indicate that as well. We will meet your child's dietary needs for all meals, and their counselors will be notified of any allergies they have.

Checking-Out Early

If you need to check-out your child earlier than the end of the session, please let the camp director know upon registration or drop-off. When registering your child, please provide the name of the person you authorize staff to release your child to in the emergency contact area of the form. We will not release your child to anyone whose name is not listed on your child's registration form. Note: No camper is allowed to leave camp grounds unless the release form is signed.

Contacting your Child

At Chaldean Youth Camp, we don't encourage campers calling parents. Only in the case of emergency do we allow campers to call parents. If you wish to call and check on your child, please send us an email at info@chaldeanyouthcamp.com. We will contact you when your child is available to speak with you. Please do not use the emergency number outside of emergency circumstances. If you do have an emergency and need to contact your child, please use the listed emergency contact number above.

Group Requests

We apologize, but due to the large number of campers, we cannot make any accommodations to ensure that specific campers are in the same group. We will take any requests emailed to info@chaldeanyouthcamp.com into consideration, but there are no guarantees of an accommodation. Please note that once camper groups are set, we cannot change them the day of camp at check-in. We ask that you refrain from arguing with our check-in staff as changing groups is strictly prohibited. Being in a group with new people is also a great way to build social skills and make new friends!

Food and Drinks

Food, snacks, and all types of beverages are prohibited. All food at the camp is supervised due to campers who have food allergies. Chaldean Youth Camp will provide your child with a typical meal schedule of breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Snacks and drinks will be provided throughout the day between meals. The meals provided at the camp will either be catered through a local venue or will be prepared fresh in the camp's kitchen by our wonderful kitchen crew! We are also proud to say that we are a nut-free camp, ensuring that your camper will not come into contact with any food that contains nuts. For any type of dietary concerns, please ensure to note this information on your child's registration form. We will accommodate any type of dietary regulations which your child is medically required to adhere to.

Grade Verification (**IMPORTANT**)

Please note that for verification reasons, proof of your child's grade is required at the check-in process. Failure to provide valid proof of your child's grade is grounds for refusal into the camp. Due to the large amount of people who want to register their children and the limited amount of space we have, we are only permitted to admit campers of the specified grade for our overnight camps. Valid forms of identification include any type of school identification card, school enrollment paperwork, or online school portal access proving their current grade. Failure to provide a valid form of identification is grounds for refusal into the camp. (You may take a picture of the identification on your phone to display for verification purposes.) **No exceptions will be made.**

Transportation Policy

Safety Rules

1. Passengers should remain seated with their hands and arms inside the bus at all times.
2. Food and drinks are not permitted on the bus.
3. Noise level should be such as to not distract the driver. There should be no throwing of objects or other disruptive behavior on the bus.
4. The campers are transported only in the part of a vehicle that is designed by the manufacturer for passenger transportation, and the number of passengers shall not exceed the manufacturer's rated capacity for the vehicle.
5. All the children must be seated and must wear seat belts where available.
6. There should be no horseplay or obnoxious noise of any kind on the bus.
7. Campers may not stand up while the bus is in motion.

Vehicle Supervision

No vehicle will ever transport campers with less than two staff members on board. At least one staff member will always be trained in First Aid, CPR, and handling of accidents involving blood-borne pathogens. One person will always have telephone instructions for reaching camp. A staff member aboard the vehicle will be one who is trained in handling campers, managing behavior, and enforcing safety rules.