

Welcome to the Hopewell Experience!

We are excited that you have chosen Camp Hopewell for your child's day camp experience. This handout will help prepare you and your camper for their time here at camp. Please read all of the information carefully. If you have any questions, feel free to call us.

Camp Hopewell
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662-234-2254
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Learn about and familiarize yourself and your camper with Hopewell

Help your child discover what Hopewell is all about. Get to know or talk with other children who have been to Hopewell or will be going. Have your child come with a friend, if possible. Visit Hopewell and schedule a tour of camp to see program areas and meet the staff.

Prepare for going to Hopewell

Your child will be in a cabin/age group with Camp Counselors and other children his or her age. Each person will contribute to group living by keeping track of personal belongings, hanging out wet towels and bathing suits, helping with setting and clearing tables at mealtime, and other tasks. Prepare your camper to expect to compromise and make group decisions with other campers.

Form to be completed prior to arrival

1. Camper Health Form – These include the up-to-date health history, immunization record, and signed release for emergency treatment and participation in camp activities. This form is to be filled out online, if you are unsure if it has been completed or not, feel free to contact our registrar.

This form is to be completed one week prior to your child's arrival at camp. Having this form completed in advance allows for better preparation and a more efficient registration day. All camp fees are to be paid in full by May 19, 2019. If this will be a problem, contact our registrar to make arrangements.

Camper Health

For health and safety, we must have an up-to-date health history, date of last tetanus shot, and a signed release for emergency treatment for every camper. If your child is generally healthy and not under the continuing care of a physician, documentation of a medical exam is not required. If your child is of fragile health and/or under the continuing care of medical professionals for a condition requiring medications, special technology, treatment, or management...attach a health exam record from a physician with health care recommendations and instructions.

Separate all medications from other belongings so they can be turned in to the Health Care Manager at registration. All prescriptions must be in their original container with clear instructions for dispensing them. The resident Health Care Manager will dispense medications according to doctor's orders. All campers will see the Health Care Manager or Camp Nurse during registration with a parent for a health screening. If your child is on medication for ADD/ADHD, please talk with a Director before taking the child off the medication while at camp.

Non-prescription drugs that may be administered in our Health Center by the Health Care Manager or the Camp Nurse include: Acetaminophen (Tylenol); Ibuprofen (Advil); Antacids (Tums, Pepto Bismal); Imodium AD; Allergy/Sinus medication (Benadryl, Sudafed, Tylenol Cold); Cough Syrup (Tussin); Antibiotic Ointments; Hydrocortisone Cream; Cleansers (Alcohol, Hydrogen Peroxide); and eye drops. If there are any restrictions for your camper, please note this on the health form.

If your child develops a condition while at camp that needs the attention of a doctor, we will notify the parent or guardian.

How To Pack

For Day Camp, your child will need to bring a bag or backpack labeled with his/her name that contains a change of clothes, including shoes, a bathing suit, towel, water bottle and sunscreen. Do not send new or valuable items, such as personal sports equipment that you do not want to risk getting lost or damaged. Please know that Hopewell cannot be responsible for loss or damage to any personal items brought to camp. Also, do not bring electronics (MP3 players, games, cell phones, etc.). Pocketknives or other weapons are not permitted at camp. Campers are not allowed to have pets, alcohol, drugs, tobacco or e-cigarettes at camp. Please do not send cash with your camper. Make a store deposit for camp spending, if you like. Items found left at camp will be held for **three days**. You have until then to make arrangements to pick up lost items. Any items requested to be mailed will be done at the expense of the person making the request. Unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

When You Arrive

Registration begins at 8:45am. If you arrive before this time, please wait at the pavilion. You can then pick up your camper's name tag, meet your camper's counselors, and visit the Camp Nurse or Health Care Manager with your camper for the health screening. Your camper's group assignment will be on their nametag. Please leave your child with his/her counselor at the pavilion area after completing registration. If a camper has not arrived by 9:15am, a call will be made to determine if/when the absent camper will be brought to camp.

Each day of camp, please bring your child to the green pavilion at 8:45am to be dropped off for camp. Your child's counselor will be there to greet them each day.

Departure

Each afternoon, you may pick up your child beginning at 3:45pm at the pavilion. Pick up lasts until 4:00pm. Parents will need to sign out their camper each day. Any parent/guardian who arrives after 4:00pm will be charged a late fee. Please be on time for departure. Children who are left after the scheduled pickup time have feelings of insecurity about their departure. Also, camp staff will be doing additional duties after campers depart and will expect a prompt departure of their campers. On Friday, the last day of camp, parents may check out their camper at the pavilion beginning at 3:30pm. You will need to sign-out your camper, pick up their medication, if any, camp photo, if one was purchased, and any arts and crafts that they have from the week. Please inspect the lost/found table for your camper's belongings. Also, discuss your child's experience with his/her counselors and the directors. We are anxious to share our adventures with you!

If someone other than the parent who registered and brought your child to camp will pick up your child, we must have written instructions identifying the person to whom we may release your child. Proper ID is required to pick up all campers. All campers must be picked up by 4:00pm on the last day of camp.

If a situation arises that requires a camper to be picked up early, please notify the camp office at 662-234-2254. Any parent arriving for an early pick-up must report to the camp business office. (St. Andrew Presbytery office up the road from camp)

While Your Child Is At Camp

Your child will be eating a well-prepared lunch and one afternoon snack while at camp. Please let us know of any dietary needs of your child. Campers will participate in Bible Studies in the morning. If inclement weather should occur at any time during your child's stay at camp, staff will follow the safety procedures established and taught to them at Camp Hopewell. Your child may participate in strenuous active games, indoor and outdoor activities, such as swimming, games, archery, and other such activities as scheduled. Please let us know of any restrictions that your child may have in any activities typical for camp.

Frequently Asked Questions About Hopewell

How is the health of my child cared for?

A health history is required for every camper and a health screening is done after arrival at camp. All medications brought to camp are kept safely in the Health Center and dispensed by our Health Care Manager. A physical exam by a physician is recommended but not required. Our Health Care Manager works under the direction of our camp physician who is on call. Baptist Memorial Hospital is only 15 minutes away. Basic accident and illness insurance is carried on all campers. All camp staff is certified in first aid and CPR. Parents or guardians will be called in the event of any illness or injury that warrants the attention of the doctor.

How are staff selected and supervised?

All counselors are 18 years old or older. Most have completed one or more years of college. All have a firm Christian faith. All prospects complete a written application, are interviewed by a director, and undergo a background check. For some positions, like lifeguards, we require proof of certification and require a skills test performed at Hopewell. For other positions, such as Challenge Course Lead, we require special training and review skills on our course. All staff is required to attend two weeks of counselor's training. Our ratios for staff supervision of campers are as follows: Ages 6-9 is 1:6 (staff to camper) and ages 10-16 is 1:8. A director is at camp during all camp sessions. Staff is observed daily. The directors conduct formal performance reviews.

Are scholarships available?

Many churches support the camp experience by paying some or all of the fee for their members. Hopewell has a scholarship fund to give additional support when needed. Call or write to request a scholarship application.

May I visit?

Experience has shown that visits during camp can detract from the child's experience and often will trigger missing home in other campers. We ask that parents and friends not plan on visiting during camp. If a visit is necessary, please make arrangements through the directors before arriving at camp. Upon arrival, all visitors must check in with the camp business office (1/2 mile up the road from camp) to sign a register and receive a visitor's pass. Anyone on the campsite without a pass will be immediately escorted to the office.

Can my child take swimming lessons?

Swimming instruction is not a part of our camp program. Campers will be taught safety procedures for the swimming areas. They will also be orientated on swimming procedures, but will not be given formal lessons as for certification. A "Swim Check" is performed for each camper at the beginning of their first swim time to assess their abilities to insure a most safe and enjoyable experience for them.

Camper applications are accepted without regard to ethnicity, race, church denomination or religion, on a space available basis in the order they are received with deposit. We will discuss with parents the best way to serve a child with disabilities.

Camp Hopewell is a ministry of St. Andrew Presbytery PC(USA).

