

Parent Information Packet 2020

Director's Note:

Hello Families!

We are *thrilled* that you've chosen Camp Mount Shepherd for an unforgettable summer experience. We are so proud to serve your family. We hope this week of camp brings new skills, new friends, new confidence, and a new identity in your camper. We have been offering life changing camp experiences to young people for more than 50 years, and we are so excited to continue this legacy in 2020.

We like to say, "what happens at camp *doesn't* stay at camp," because camp has such an impact. A recent study of Christian camps found that camp has lasting impact on how campers treat their families, how they engage with nature, and how they engage in Christian practices like prayer and bible reading.¹ We hope that a week away at our camp provides an authentic community where your camper feels like they belong. We hope that they are encouraged, and we hope that they leave this place feeling better about themselves.

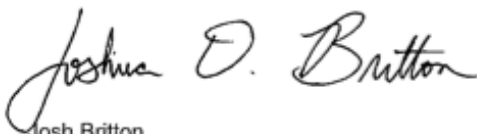
Our program is accredited through the American Camp Association, which means that we meet the highest industry standards of safety and program quality. We work to ensure that we have appropriate policies and training in place to meet these standards.

We are also a Christian camp, meaning that we intentionally discuss matters of faith. We pray before meals, we sing worship songs at our campfires, and our counselors lead devotions in cabins. At the same time, we are intentional to not shame or scare any campers who may not believe the same way we do. We are gracious in our invitations, and we work hard to make camp an emotionally safe place for everyone.

Mount Shepherd is excited to welcome you this summer. And in order to ensure the best possible experience, we ask that **you review this packet carefully**. This will help your camper arrive at camp as prepared as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to our office at 336-629-4085. Or you can always email me at josh@mtshepherd.org. I'm happy to talk. And we are passionate about making sure that we remove any barriers we can for your child to come to camp.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joshua D. Britton".

Josh Britton
Executive Director, Camp Mount Shepherd

¹ Sorenson, et al. 2019 *Power of Camp Study*



In order to ensure a smooth check-in, all waivers, health information, and the Early Dismissal Policy must be completed 14 days prior to your camper's session. All forms can be accessed through your account on Ultracamp. If you have any questions about this please contact us at office@mtshepherd.org

General Information

Registration Procedures:

Camp Mount Shepherd only accepts online registrations. Registrations are accepted and camp sessions are filled in the order registrations are received. If your choice of camp is full, please see our waiting list policy below.

Discounts & Final Payment:

Final payments are to be paid by the first day of your campers session. You can pay this through your Ultracamp account or you can pay on site day of by credit card, check, or cash. If you are waiting to receive a scholarship from your church please be sure that it makes it to camp before the first day of your camper's session.

The early registration discount for summer 2020 is reserved for the overnight and adventure programs. The discount begins October 1, 2019, and ends December 31 at 11 PM. The discounts are as listed below:

- Overnight Elementary & Middle School Camp Early Bird Rate: \$425
- Overnight High School Camp Early Bird Rate: \$445
- Adventure Camp Early Bird Rate: \$599

Cancellation Policy/Refund Policy:

Before a cancellation takes place our goal is to reschedule a camper for a different session. To cancel a reservation, please call our office at 336-629-4085. For cancellations up to 15 days prior to the first day of your camper's session, the refund will be the balanced paid, minus the nonrefundable deposit. There will be no refund for cancellations within 14 days of your campers session.

Once a camp session begins, there are no refunds. Campers who are sent home during camp due to illness, inappropriate behavior, or homesickness are not eligible for a refund

**The camp director reserves the right to dismiss any camper whose conduct becomes in any way detrimental to the best interests of other campers. No refunds will be given in these cases.*

Waiting List Policy:

If your camp of choice is full, you may elect to place your child's name on a waiting list. To do so, you must call the camp office at 336-629-4085 and request to be added to the 2020 summer waiting list. Please tell the office administrator your child's name, address, the week of camp, the program (overnight, day camp, etc.), and a number at which you can be reached.



If a space becomes available, you will receive a phone call and you will have 48 hours to let us know if you want the spot or not. If so, we will open the spot online so that you can register for it through Ultracamp.

Cabin Mate Policy:

If you would like your child to be placed in a cabin with a friend please email your camper's name along with their friend's name to our office at office@mtshepherd.org

Arrival/Transportation/Safety:

Please have all forms completed on your Ultracamp account 14 days prior to your campers session start day. This will allow for the fastest possible check-in time. Check-in begins with our welcoming you in your vehicle and directing you to the drop-off area.

Check-in times are as follows:

Overnight, Adventure, & LIT: Sunday 3pm-5pm

Day Camp: Monday- Friday 8am-9am

Summershine: Monday 3pm-5pm

Arriving by car for all overnight programs:

The address for camp is: 1045 Mount Shepherd Road Ext. Asheboro, NC 27205.

A Mount Shepherd staff member to welcome you and direct you to the parking lot once you reach the camp entrance. Once you have parked, you can either bring your luggage with you to check-in or leave it in your vehicle until you know where your camper will be staying for the week. Please be sure to bring any medicine (prescription or over the counter) with you to check-in. The nurse will log the medicine and keep it in the nurse room.

Safety Information:

- In camp speed limit is 10 mph
- Traffic flows through one entrance and exit. Please be aware of other families.
- Mount Shepherd is a tobacco free; no smoking is permitted.
- If someone other than yourself (camper parent/guardian) will be picking up the camper at the end of the week, that person must be listed on the pick-up authorization list on Ultracamp. They must also show a photo ID at the time of pick-up.

Arriving by Plane:

If your camper will be arriving by plane please contact the office at 336-629-4085 as soon as you start making travel plans. Mount Shepherd staff will do their best to accommodate and provide travel for your camper to and from the airport. In saying this, camp cannot promise that a ride can be provided for your camper. If a ride is provided an extra fee will be charged to the campers account. The fee will be mileage to and from the airport along with a 2-person staff fee to remain in compliance with our policies.



Late Arrival Policy:

If you know in advance that your camper will be arriving later than normal check-in time please email office@mtshepherd.org to let us know your camper's name and planned arrival time. If you are stuck in traffic on the day of check-in or something comes up and you need to check in later, please call us at 336-629-4085 and leave a message with the estimated time of arrival and your camper's name.

Departure/Check-Out:

Those picking up campers must be on the pick-up authorization tab on your Ultracamp account and must present a photo ID at the time of check-out. If the person that comes to pick up your camper is not on the list or is unable to show a photo ID, they will not be allowed to pick-up the camper. To add people to the pick-up authorization list please visit your Ultra camp account.

If you are unable to pick up your camper before the end of check-out at 3 pm you have the option to pay an additional \$5 per camper towards childcare. You can choose this option through your registration on Ultracamp. You may also call the office and we can assist you in adding this to your account.

If your camper will be picked up early please notify us on the day of check-in.

Check-Out times are as follows:

Overnight camp, LIT, Summershine, and Adventure Camp: Friday 1pm-3pm

Day Camp: Monday – Friday 4 pm -5:30 pm

Camper Mail

There are a few ways to send your camper mail during their stay. Please note your options below.

Bringing mail during check-in:

Sending a letter by email:

- Email address is office@mtshepherd.org
 - Emails are, generally, delivered at breakfast and supper. In the subject line put the camper's name, cabin/room assignment, and counselor's name.
 - If you have more than one child attending camp at the same time send the email to each child instead of including all children in one email.
 - Avoid the use of graphics and backgrounds in the message portion of your email. Pictures/photos will not be printed.

Sending a letter by US mail:

- Address and stamp the envelope prior to your camper's arrival. Mount Shepherd's address is:

Mount Shepherd Retreat Center
1045 Mount Shepherd Road Extension
Asheboro, NC 27205



We do encourage you to send letters instead of packages. If you choose to send a package we ask that you limit it to one per camp sessions. **Do not send** candy, baked goods, or packaged food of any kind. Food and sweets of any kind attract critters and will have to be confiscated.

Letters From Your Camper:

If you would like your camper to write home be sure to include a self-addressed stamped envelope with them.

Phone Calls

If a camper requests to call home we allow them to use our office phone. If you have any questions or concerns you may call us at 336-629-4085.

Additional Policies

1. **Inappropriate Items:** Should there be any reasonable or probable cause, for health and safety of all campers and staff, your camper may be asked to inventory his/her belongings in the presence of administrative staff.
2. **Visitors** must check-in/out at the office and are required to wear a visitor's pass.
3. **Regarding Friendships:** Mount Shepherd emphasize friendships at camp rather than "relationships." We do not allow PDA (public/private displays of affection) that go beyond friendship. Campers will be dismissed for inappropriate sexual behavior.
4. **Bullying:** Camp Mount Shepherd has a zero tolerance policy towards bullying. In the event that a camper has been bullying parents will be contacted and the camper will be sent home.
5. **Dress Code:** Please take note of the following policies.
 - a. Nothing with slogans promoting alcohol, sex, tobacco, drugs, profanity, or death themes.
 - b. Females must wear a one-piece bathing suit. Boys must wear swimming trunks, not jammers or briefs.
 - c. Shirts, pants, and shoes are to be worn at all times unless campers are at the waterfront or pool area. At no time should underclothes show.
 - d. Closed toed shoes are required for some activities. Campers will not be able to participate in those activities if they do not have the closed toed shoes.
6. **Graffiti:** We reserve the right to charge a fine or request clean-up for any violations.
7. **Discharging a fire extinguisher:** Doing this unnecessarily is very dangerous. There will be a fine charged for this act and the camper may be dismissed.

Financial Assistance

As a part of our mission, Mount Shepherd is committed to making camp possible for ALL children, regardless of financial resources. Thanks to our generous supporters, we are able to say that NO child will be turned away for financial reasons.

We encourage camp families to reach out to their local church to request financial support.



In order to qualify for a scholarship you must register your camper and pay the deposit fee. Once you have registered your camper, please fill out our scholarship form which is found on our “enroll now” page on our website under the summer camp tab.

www.mtshepherd.org

Camp Store

Visiting the camp store is a fun and exciting experience for campers. All campers will visit the store at least twice during their week at camp. The camp store has items ranging from 25¢ to \$30. Items sold include: t-shirts (short & long sleeve), sweatshirts, Nalgene water bottles, bandanas, snacks, drinks, toiletries and more.

Camper’s purchase items from the store with their store cards. Each camper’s store money is kept on their own store card. Money can be added to a store card during the registration process or during check-in. All money collected for a camper’s store card is recorded and maintained by a senior staff member. We highly encourage that campers do not keep cash in their belongings. This is to ensure that their money is not lost or stolen. If your camper has \$1 or more on their store card at the end of their camp week, we will refund them during check-out. If they have less than \$1, we transfer the money to our scholarship fund.

Store purchases can be made during check-in and check-out, but payments must be made using cash, check, or credit/debit card. The camper’s store account is not available during those times.

Emergency/Sickness

Our practice is to contact parents or guardians when there is concern about a camper’s health and/or when a situation is not progressing as expected. In the event of an emergency and/or accident, parents or guardians will be contacted immediately. If your child is taken to a medical facility

Lost & Found Policy

Camp Mount Shepherd is not responsible for items left behind, lost, or stolen. Parents are encouraged to label all clothing and personal items with the camper’s full name. All items found during each session will be placed in the designated lost and found area. The lost and found items will be available during check-out. All items are held for 14 days. To claim an item you may call our office at 336-629-4085. Parents will be responsible for the cost (shipping and handling) of mailing any items. Any items not claimed after that time will be donated to a charitable organization.

Packing Lists/What to Bring: Please refer to the session that your camper will be attending.

Overnight Campers, Summershine, LIT :

- Prescription Medications (Pack separately and label to give to nurse upon arrival)
- 6 clothing outfits (including underwear and socks). Labeled with your campers first and last name.

- One pair of long pants
- Jacket/ sweatshirt
- Pajamas
- 2 pairs of shoes (Tennis Shoes/ water shoes)
- Swimsuit: Females must bring a one piece
- Rain gear
- School backpack (optional)
- Pillow & Sleeping Bag
- Twin sheets and a blanket (optional)
- Towel (bath and swimming)
- Bible (labeled inside) and pen, pencil, notebook/journal
- Soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush
- Deodorant
- Reusable water bottle (the camp store sells these: \$15)
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Sunscreen and bug spray
- Plastic or mesh bag for dirty/wet items

Optional Items:

- Camera
- Paper & self-addressed stamped envelopes for letters
- Favorite book (for reading during rest time)
- Camp store money (about \$20 to \$25)

Day Campers:

- School-type backpack
- Water bottle (the camp store sells these: \$15)
- Change of clothes
- Sturdy shoes
- Bathing suit (daily swim time) (Females: one-piece)
- Towel
- Flip flops to wear to the water and back
- Sunscreen
- Rain jacket
- Camp store money (about \$20 to \$25)

Adventure Campers:

- Bible, notebook, pen/pencil
- Clothing that can get dirty
 - o Shorts & long pants
 - o Shirts (short & long sleeve)
 - o Extra socks
 - o Extra dry clothes
 - o Sweatshirt, sweater or jacket
 - o Rain coat with hood or cap
 - o Bathing suit (females: 1-piece)
 - o Sturdy closed-toed shoes or boots
 - o River sandals (sandals with a heel strap) or old tennis shoes that can get wet
- Mesh or plastic bag for wet clothes

- Personal Items (toothbrush/paste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, cup)
- Towels and washcloths
- Insect repellent (if desired)
- Sunscreen SPF 15 to SPF 30
- **Backpacking Pack** (REI, Gander Outdoor, and Walmart are great places to look for this. Please call our camp office if you have questions or need assistance. 336-629-4085)
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping foam pad (if desired)
- Flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries
- Plastic bowl and reusable silverware
- Reusable water bottle (the camp store sells these for \$15)
- Camp store money (about \$20 to \$25)

Personal Property and Things to Leave at Home:

Camp Mount Shepherd prohibits the use of the following items and are not responsible for loss, damage, or theft. Please leave the following items at home:

- **All electronics. This includes cell phones, tablets, and any other handheld devices**
- Skateboards
- Personal sports equipment
- Clothing that promotes alcohol, drugs, or profanity
- Matches or lighters
- Knives, firearms, or other weapons
- Walkie talkies
- Expensive camera, jewelry, or watches
- Food, candy, or gum. **No snacks or drinks will be allowed in the cabin area.** This is to keep critters out of camper living spaces.