

SOUTH TEXAS DISTRICT OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Church Ministries & Discipleship Department

VOLUNTEER STAFF POLICY & GUIDELINES

July 2021

The South Texas District Assemblies of God Church Ministries and Discipleship Department conducts camps each summer for boys and girls ages 7 through 12 years. Kid's Camp provides a specific and effective vehicle for the three-fold mission of the church among children: to worship God, to build Christ-like believers, and to reach the lost. **Our mission is to create an environment where children will experience God in a way they will never forget.**

GOALS FOR OUR KIDS

To fulfill our purpose as camp workers, we must be Spirit-filled and guided, love motivated, Bible-based individuals who are Christ-centered. We must remain sensitive to the Holy Spirit and take advantage of every moment to help campers develop their relationship with God and others. This can be done in part by helping to guide children

- ❖ **Spiritual** To provide the ministry of the Word of God on a child's level. To see each child receive Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior. To allow each child in a relaxed atmosphere with his/her peers to give himself in praise and worship to God and to see each child receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ **Physical** To provide opportunities for each child to exercise and be physically challenged through activities.
- ❖ **Social** To give each child the thrill of meeting new kids. To promote teamwork and unity between children and workers. To develop leadership skills among campers.
- ❖ **Emotional** To help campers develop Christ-like attitudes and be emotionally balanced and in control.
- ❖ **Intellectual** To help campers learn and apply Biblical principles to every day situations.

The PURPOSE of every camp is to provide opportunities for every child to know Christ personally as Savior, Baptizer in the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Soon Coming King. We also want to encourage each child in a Christian lifestyle of prayer, praise, Bible study, witnessing, and discovering God.

TEAM WORK

CAMP IS FOR THE KIDS! Workers should enjoy camp, but we must understand your time and effort is an investment in the lives of boys and girls. Our goal is to give each child a positive, enjoyable camping experience. The Kid's Camp staff plays an integral role in the operation of the camp because without them there would not be a camp. The key to a successful camp is the unity and harmony between the staff. **TEAM WORK** is essential as we are on God's team striving for the same goals.

Psalms 133:1 says, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

KIDS CAMP STAFF

The Camp Staff is Here to Serve because...

CAMP IS FOR KIDS!

The camp staff consists of the following:

District Church Ministries and Discipleship Director (CMD) Directs the entire camp program and represents the South Texas District Assemblies of God has the authority to make final decisions, establishes camp schedule, evangelist and staff.

Kids Camp Directors Directs the entire camp program and represents the South Texas District Assemblies of God. Has the authority to make final decisions. Aids in caring out and follows camp policy as established by the District and the District Church Ministries and Discipleship Director. She/he sees that a daily schedule is followed. She/he has authority over staff, dorm leaders and campers. A written report must be kept of all illnesses, injuries, and disciplinary actions. Serves directly under the CMD in the operation and flow of camp activities. She/he takes charge in the event the CMD must leave camp temporarily.

Camp Manager Aids in caring out and follows camp policy as established by the District and the District CMD, sees that a daily schedule is followed, and has authority over staff, dorm leaders and campers. A written report must be kept of all illnesses, injuries, and disciplinary actions. Serves directly under the camp director in the operation and flow of camp activities. She/he takes charge in the event the director must leave camp temporarily.

Camp Evangelist Provides ministry to the camper through morning chapel and evening services.

Camp Administrator Works for the District Church Ministries and Discipleship Director. Manages the camp office and registration.

Head Dorm Leaders Works under the camp directors. Head Dorm Leaders oversee all dorm leaders in assigned and specific areas. They also handle minor needs or complaints, help with disciplinary needs, keep everybody on schedule and evaluate the effectiveness of individual dorm leaders. They are responsible for inspection of dorms each morning, gives "Wake Up" call each morning and enforce "Lights Out" each day & night in individual dorms. They will check out all dorm leaders on last day after assuring each respective dorm has been cleaned and paperwork is completed.

Dorm Leaders Works under the head dorm leader. Oversees and is responsible for a small group of children (no more than 10), providing spiritual, physical, and emotional care from the time children arrive in their care and until they are properly checked out of camp. A Dorm Leader must be at least 18 years of age. (Detail job description on pg. 3)

First Aid Attendant Staff Oversees the medical details at check-in, dispenses of all medications as needed, has the power of decision (with the Kids Camp Director/Church Ministries and Discipleship Director) as to when a doctor is needed.

- Must have emergency transportation available at all times
- Requirements: a physician, registered nurse, licensed vocational nurse, or a person with an American Red Cross Emergency Response certificate or its equivalent
- Must be on campground and on call at all times
- Must have first aid kit that meets the Texas State Guidelines
- Must keep a bound medical log, supplied by Hill Country Camp
- Must have a copy of all camper's health records

Recreation Staff Directs the recreational activities of the camp, oversees all team competitions, maintains accurate team scores and running totals on a daily basis. They take care of all equipment. Recreation team must have at least five lifeguards. All recreation staff will have evening Snack Bar and clean up duties nightly.

Snack Bar Staff Operates snack bars in afternoon and evening sessions and keeps them clean. They attend morning chapel to oversee the children.

Lunch Room Staff Prepares cafeteria for all three meals each day and cleans. They help in evening Snack Bar.

SOUTH TEXAS DORM LEADER MINISTRY DESCRIPTION

The conscientious **DORM LEADER** who wants to fulfill his/her responsibilities becomes a vital influence over his/her campers. His/her responsibilities are continuous and ongoing. The DORM LEADER must:

- Arrive at camp no later than noon on the first day of camp; secure his/her room assignment at the staff registration table and gather your assigned campers and stay with them until camp is concluded.
- **BE FRIENDLY AND GENUINELY INTERESTED IN EACH CAMPER.** Learn the names and personalities of your campers. Introduce the campers in your room to each other.
- Be alert to special needs of your campers, such as, learning difficulties, homesickness, shyness, low self-esteem, and recent tragedies – divorced parents or death of a loved one.
- Be fair to all. Do not show favoritism.
- Know where each camper is -- **AT ALL TIMES.**
- Help campers keep your area clean.
- Give no medication to any camper. They must go to First Aid Station to receive medicines.
- **Must** attend all events with your group.
- Campers are not to be sent on errands anywhere inside or outside the buildings unless accompanied by or under the direct observance of Dorm Leader.
- Bed-wetters should be watched closely. Take the soiled bedding to the head dorm leader. Do not embarrass or bring attention to the bed-wetter.
- Make sure each camper is assigned a bed. No sharing bunks.
- When in the dorms, the door should be left open at all times.
- Chapel is our main event. Sit with your campers. Help them to be attentive. You have the right to relocate any camper who creates a disturbance. Set an example of worship and be available to pray with your campers at the altar.
- Mealtime is a time to sit with your campers. Set a good example by praising the cook's efforts.
- Campers should be assigned a buddy and must stay with them. Campers must check in and out of swim areas with Dorm Leader. Do not leave the swim area if you do not have all your campers.
- Work in full cooperation with HEAD DORM LEADER.
- Ask for help before a situation gets out of hand.
- Respect camp policies.
- Refuse any requests for transfer to another room. Refer problems or request to the HEAD DORM LEADER.
- Express your needs or problems to proper authorities, not to the campers or other dorm leaders.
- If controversial questions arise, such as doctrinal views, movies, public vs. private school, etc., refer campers to their local pastors for guidance. Some matters vary from church to church.
- No one is to offer himself or herself as a professional counselor with a camper. From the beginning to the end, the dorm leader's chief duty at camp is to oversee a small group of children and to help each gain the maximum benefit from camp.
- wear your name badge at all times and keep the parking pass in your car or van window.
- Dorm Leaders with cell phones and laptops should put them away while on the campgrounds. We discourage campers being made aware of dorm leader's cell phones, or being allowed to use a cell phone or laptop. All telephone calls by campers should be made with approval of the camp management at a phone designated by the director.
- Respect rest time and lights out.
- Quiet time is after lunch and is much needed. Camper and dorm leaders are to be in their bunks. No one has to sleep, just be quiet.
- Lights out before bedtime is a great time to recap the day's activities and to have a short five-minute devotion and prayer. Be firm but fair as you get your campers to settle down to sleep.

Oversees and is responsible for a small group of children, providing spiritual, physical, and emotional care from the time children arrive

SPECIAL ISSUES REGARDING CAMP POLICIES FOR ALL STAFF

1. No swearing or improper body language. No bathroom photography or bathroom humor.
2. Fireworks, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or weapons are not allowed and will be removed and destroyed or turned into the proper authorities.
3. Except for law enforcement officers, no personal shall carry or possess a weapon of any kind on Hill Country Campgrounds or its facilities while attending a Hill Country Camp Children or Youth event.
4. All dorm leaders/staff will be cautious to verbally address campers with dignity –slurs or derogatory statements, including language such as stupid, dumb. **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. NO PRANKS ARE ALLOWED!**
5. No “Wedgies” (pulling another’s underwear by the elastic upwardly) or “Swirlies” (putting another’s head in the toilet and flushing the toilet). Do not even use these as a threat or in a “joking” manner. Pillow fights, towel popping, and shaving cream pranks are prohibited by staff and campers.
6. The use of Duct Tape on any child or his/her belongings is not allowed.
7. No telling of ghost stories or any other type of action that would invite fear.
8. Dorm Leaders/Staff are not to roughhouse or horseplay with campers. All staff should act to halt any activity that places persons or property at risk.
9. Never should a worker be alone with a child.
10. No child should be allowed to sit on the lap of an adult or another child.
11. Every child and adult is to take a private shower. Adults should be fully dressed in the view of others. A shower schedule will be provided by your head dorm leader.
12. DORM LEADERS/STAFF ARE NOT, AT ANY TIME, ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE CAMPGROUNDS unless given permission by the **camp director**. This includes during your break. Should you need special supplies during the week, notify the head dorm leader.
13. Do not allow a child to leave the campground, even with a parent. This must be approved by the camp director.
14. Do not allow throwing of objects, moving of furniture, blocking of door or windows.
15. If anything is broken, the person or persons responsible will be billed for damages.
16. No graffiti – this includes names, pictures, and slogans anywhere on the camp property.
17. No golf carts or cars on the basketball court or grassy areas.
18. PRIVATE OR CHURCH VEHICLES WILL NOT BE USED AT ANY TIME DURING CAMP TO TRANSPORT CAMPERS TO AND FROM CAMP EVENTS AND /OR ACTIVITIES WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE CAMP DIRECTOR OR CAMP MANAGER.
19. Only those assigned to kitchen or snack bar or those with a red dot are allowed in kitchen area.
20. Avoid romantic pursuits with other dorm leaders and staff.
21. Spend altar time praying with your assigned campers and not with the other adults.
22. Report injuries to camp director or first aid.
23. The South Texas Assemblies of God believes that the only scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2; I Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 5:22-23) Furthermore, the South Texas Assemblies of God believes that Scripture commands that there be no intimate sexual activity outside of marriage. We, also, believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God’s gift of sex. We believe God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Genesis 26:8-10; Hebrews 13:4; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:9-10; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8).

ALL STAFF MUST HAVE AN ANNUAL BACKGROUND CHECK, HAVE A LETTER OF REFERENCE, AND TAKE THE TEXAS STATE APPROVED “SEXUAL ABUSE & CHILD MOLESTATION AWARENESS” TRAINING AND TEST.

HOW TO DISCIPLINE

Every child needs guidelines and boundaries. In fact, children desire to have them. Sometime during the first day of camp, meet with your campers as a group to go over camp rules and pool rules.

Discipline should be training toward “self-discipline” and is something you do FOR a child and NOT TO a child. Be sure to let him know that his/her actions are inappropriate for the situation, but he/she still has value as a person. Avoid “putting a child down”.

The need for discipline is often the result of low expectations on the part of the dorm leader. Set your expectations HIGH and you will be amazed at the results. Be creative in your discipline as each camper and each new situation is unique. However, the following guidelines must be observed.

- Effective discipline explains what the child has done wrong and offers alternative avenues of behavior.
- No child is to be punished physically in ANY way or isolated. This includes washing out mouths and/or abusive physical exercise. Do not swat, slap, pinch, shake, grab a child, improperly touch or pull a child’s ear. No physical discipline including: pushups, running laps, towel popping, shaking, or anything that may cause injury. Every camper deserves respect despite his/her behavior. It does not matter what the child has said or done. NO TOUCHING!
- NEVER deprive a child of food or sleep.
- No group punishment, when a few have broken the rules.
- Be firm as necessary, but do not yell at campers. Do not lose control of yourself. If you need assistance, call on the head dorm leader or camp director.
- Do not subject a camper to ridicule or threat. No sarcasm, humiliation, name calling or other “put downs.”
- Make sure that you make an honest effort to get to the bottom of an argument or fight. Talk to both parties and let each one present his/her side without interruption. In many cases, both are in the wrong. PRAY with the children.
- Keep fighters away from each other to allow the dispute to cool down.

CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS

TEXAS FAMILY CODE REQUIREMENTS

The following policies and procedures are necessary to assure the welfare of children and young people and to safeguard the District and each worker.

The Texas Family code requires any person “having cause to believe that a child’s physical or mental health or welfare has been adversely affected by abuse or neglect MUST report the case to any local or state law enforcement agency and to the Texas Department of Human Resources.”

1. If a worker observes or suspects abuse, he is immediately, but privately and confidentially, to report it to the STXAG District Church Ministries and Discipleship Director. Failure to report child abuse or neglect is a class B misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment of up to 180 days and/or a fine of up to \$1,000.
2. If a worker has concerns about a child or youth, or about behavior by another worker, he is to discuss those concerns privately and confidentially with the STXAG Church Ministries and Discipleship Director.
3. Never should a worker be alone with a child.
4. Every child and adult is to take a private shower. Adults should be fully dressed in the view of others. Your head dorm leader will provide a shower schedule.
5. No child should be allowed to sit on the lap of an adult or another child.

DISCIPLINE OF DORM LEADERS/STAFF MEMBER

1. A dorm leader or staff who is negligent will receive a firm warning from the CAMP DIRECTOR or HEAD DORM LEADER.
2. After a warning, if a dorm leader or staff continues to willfully break the rules, he/she will be asked to leave the campground by the CAMP DIRECTOR.
3. Any incident of abuse will constitute reason for immediate dismissal and will be reported to the proper authorities.
4. In the case of #2 or #3 above, a letter of explanation and regret will be sent to his/her pastor, immediately following the camp. Future involvements in any District-sponsored event will rest with the STXAG District Church Ministries and Discipleship Director.

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF ACCIDENT OR ILLNESS

Dorm leaders or staff may encounter times when a camper has become ill, suffered a minor injury, or a serious accident.

Regardless of the illness or injury, take time to pray for the camper. If serious seek assistance immediately!

MEDICINE

No camper will be allowed to stay at camp without a signed medical release form. *Any medication brought* from home, in its original container with a valid prescription attached by the camper OR STAFF, is to be given to the FIRST AID ATTENDANT on the first day of camp. The camper is to go to the first aid station each day at the necessary time to have the medication administered under the observance of the CAMP FIRST AID ATTENDANT. Do not discuss any medical concerns for a camper or staff with others.

Medication will be returned by church on the last day of camp. Expired medications are not permitted.

ILLNESS

If a camper becomes ill, TAKE him/her to the FIRST AID ATTENDANT. If the FIRST AID ATTENDANT prescribes over the counter medications or treatment, follow the instruction for follow-up care. If the child requires a visit to the doctor the child's parent will be called and must pick up the sick child. Make sure everyone wears sun block and drinks lots of liquids to prevent illness.

SERIOUS INJURY

- Administer immediate First Aid.
 - Do not move the victim.
 - Clear breathing passage – if applicable.
 - Stop any bleeding with direct pressure using a clean cloth, shirt, towel...
- Keep the injured person warm and quiet.
- Send someone to get CAMP FIRST AID ATTENDANT /CAMP DIRECTOR, while you remain with the injured camper.
- Be available to the CAMP FIRST AID ATTENDANT and CAMP DIRECTOR should they need your help.
- Keep other campers calm and away from the injured camper.
- Do no more than the above First Aid while you wait for the CAMP FIRST AID ATTENDANT to arrive.

HEALTH POLICY

Due to very close living conditions, major disruptions occur when there is a health problem. Students or staffs with contagious health problems, i.e. impetigo, head lice, fever, rashes, persistent vomiting, etc. will be sent home.

It will be the parent's responsibility to provide transportation home if necessary. It is recommended that these situations be monitored before leaving for camp. Camps may have random or complete health checks before registration takes place. Please help us avoid embarrassing or upsetting situations of having to either not admit or send a camper home. **Insurance:** In case of medical treatment and/or expense, the camper or staff's personal medical coverage will be the primary carrier. Staff needs to make sure insurance information is complete on application. If no insurance is available, then the South Texas District Council Insurance and the church that you attend with insurance will be secondary to the camper/staff's personal coverage. There is **no** coverage provided for illnesses. Expense occurred due to illness will totally be the camper's parent's or staff's responsibility.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM

In the event of an emergency or circumstance, which may jeopardize campers, workers or property, the camp director, other staff or the camp caretaker will sound an emergency signal. Alerts and warnings will be sounded on portable air horns. The director/staff will keep an emergency horn with him/her. Signals will be given and all workers and campers are to respond as follows:

- Rapid beeps sounded on the air horn means everyone go to the tabernacle. (Beep, beep, beep, beep, beep, beep ECT...) It will sound like TAB...TAB.....TAB.....
- A continuous blast sounded on the air horn means everyone go to their dorm and take cover. (BLAST _____) IT WILL SOUND LIKE DORMMMMMMMMMMMM.....

If lightning occurs the lifeguard will order all swimmers out of the pool. Recreation team will give instruction to dorm leaders and campers.

RECREATION

- When you arrive at camp, you will receive a team color assignment Your group **cannot** change their team color.
- You will help to coach your team during the recreation period every day.
- Please demonstrate lots of enthusiasm and good sportsmanship, setting a Christian example at all times.
- Some campers will be very competitive and athletic, while others will prefer shade tree conversation during games. Try to involve every camper as much as possible; this is a chance for them to learn teamwork, cooperation, leadership, and new physical skills.
- Win or lose, you can show the kids how to have fun as a group.
- Cooperate fully with umpires and scorekeepers. Their word is **final**.
- The RECREATION TEAM will announce running totals every day. Be ready to yell and cheer even if your team is not winning.

How Should I Dress?

- Campers/staff will need to bring two changes of clothing per day. It is suggested that due to the terrain and summer heat, children and staff wear clothing that protects the body and arms from the sun's heat. Clothing that is durable, cool, comfortable and modest. Recreation at camp is messy! Keep this in mind when you are planning what clothes to bring. You will want to bring casual/play clothes and shoes for the daytime activities.
- Shoes must be worn at all times—Due to the camping terrain, sandals are not a good choice.
- Daily clothing for campers and all staff should include the following: No short shorts, no short skirts or abbreviated attire.
- Modest swimwear (a one-piece is suggested). Also, a swimsuit cover-up must be worn by girls **and** boys outside of the pool fence. Cover up should include a shirt and shorts.
- Mark clothing and other articles with the child's name when packing for camp. The Church Ministries and Discipleship Department **will not** be responsible for lost or stolen items.

Other Items to Bring to Camp

- A Bible, pen or pencil and note paper
- Towels, wash clothes, a pillow and twin-size sheets or sleeping bag
- Toiletries, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, spray on sunscreen, spray on bug repellent, and lifejacket.
- **Snack Bar and Camp Store:** Campers will want to bring \$5 to \$10 per day for spending money. T-Shirts will be \$15. Camp store sells items such as backpacks, flashlights, and small toys. Snack breaks will be taken throughout the day and snacks are available for sale from the snack bars located throughout the camp. Meals are provided in the tuition and water is always available. A missions offering (BGMC) will be received on the last night of camp. Children may or may not donate. Please advise them before camp. **Please have money and all medications out of luggage and have it ready to turn in upon arrival at camp.**
- **Kids in Ministry:** Come prepared to present your ministry in "Kids in Ministry" by bringing your music and props. Some good suggestions of "Kids In Ministry" to do at camp are singing, human video, drama, sign language, object lesson, short sermons, Bible memorization, instrumental or choir.
- We strongly recommend that children **do not** bring any type of electronic, such as: cell phones, tablets, games, etc.

CAMP CLEANLINESS GUIDELINES

Neatness and cleanliness should be the aim of each room, not only for inspection, but all day. These guides will help you in your room cleanup each morning. Urge your campers to work together all day to keep your room looking nice.

- Beds neatly made.
- Suitcases closed and lined up.
- Personal articles are to be put away. (Clothes, shoes, hairbrushes, etc.)
- Bathroom picked up and trash can empty.
- Sweep all floors every morning.
- Dorm Leaders complete items on checkout form on final day of camp.

WATER SAFETY GUIDELINES Lifeguards are on duty, but all dorm leaders are to keep a watchful eye on the campers

- Lifeguards are on duty, but **all** dorm leaders are to keep a watchful eye on the campers.
- No playing with the lifeguards.
- The decisions of the lifeguard are final
- The lifeguard will require everyone to take a swim test before swimming in the deep end of the pool. If caught in the deep end without lifeguard approval, the camper will lose pool privileges for the remainder of the day or longer as the lifeguard feels necessary. Only swimmers will be allowed in the deep end. (See state guidelines for more details.)
- Everyone in the kayaks, floating slide, and lake slides **must** wear a life jacket.
- Life jackets are available at all swimming areas to be used as needed.
- Do not run the kayaks into each other or jump off them into the lake.
- Shoes, t-shirt and shorts must be worn over swimsuit to and from the pool and in lake areas.
- No one is to enter the pool without permission of the lifeguard.
- No running around inside pool fence or jumping or diving off the sides of the pool.
- No throwing or dunking anyone.
- No jewelry in the pool.
- All swimmers must shower off before getting into pool.
- Campers must stay with their buddy. Campers must check in and out of swim areas with Dorm Leader.
- Non-Swimmers are able to swim in the shallow area of the pool and roped areas of the lake. They are limited in which slides they are able to use at the lake.

CAMP RULES & GUIDELINES

- The Golden Rule is our primary camp rule. Treat others as you desire to be treated.
- No one is allowed to run, scuffle, etc., in the halls, rooms, cafeteria or tabernacle. No behavior likely to result in injury or damage is to be allowed anywhere on the camp property at any time. **All damage is your financial responsibility.** No pranks allowed!
- **NO ONE** is to enter another person's cabin when occupants are not there. **NO Boys/Men in the girl's dorms, NO Girls/Women in the boy's dorms!**
- No visitors during the week unless pre-approved by the STXAG Church Ministries and Discipleship Director. Only children's pastors and senior pastor will be approved. The phones are for emergency use only.
- **ALL campers** are required to remain with their group for all activities unless given **specific permission by the camp director.** This includes mealtime and recreation time.
- All campers are under the authority of the camp staff during their camp stay.
- **NO ONE** leaves the campgrounds without permission of the camp director.
- A banking service is provided as pre-purchased money cards. The cards are kept by the camper's dorm leader. **The remaining balance may be redeemed at the close of camp.** The camp is not responsible for money cards or cash that is lost or stolen.
- Fireworks, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, drugs or weapons are not allowed and **will be** removed and destroyed.
- Except for law enforcement officers, no person shall carry or possess a weapon of any kind on Hill Country Campgrounds or its facilities while attending a Hill Country Camp Youth or Children event.
- Campers should not bring electronic games or devices, shaving cream, expensive watches or jewelry, cell phones, laptops etc. They will be removed and returned at the end of camp.
- **No** food or drinks will be allowed in cabins, dorms, the chapel or the craft building.
- **No** fires are allowed.
- **Every child will be assigned a buddy. They must be within 20 feet at all times.**

DOCTRINE/PRAYER TIME

Be sensitive to campers from different churches that may have questions. Be faithful to our Assemblies of God doctrine. Here is a summary:

Alter Time

Help direct the children to the alters. Give them time to pray without being rushed.

A mint or a piece of gum is always appreciated when praying for others.

Pray with the kids that are in your dorm. Men should pray with boy and women should pray with girls.

Ask the child, "How can I pray with you?" Do not assume you know what they are praying about.

Pray with them and encourage them to continue to pray after you leave them.

Do not force a child to stay in the alters after they are finished praying.

Talking About Salvation

As a dorm leader or staff, you will have many opportunities to present the Gospel message to your campers. It is important that in your presentation the child understands the decision he is making to accept Jesus Christ. Use words and terms the child is able to comprehend. Allow the child the opportunity to make the commitment and be sensitive to the working of the Holy Spirit. Dorm leaders have the most contact with the children at camp. Begin praying for the children in the dorms and throughout the day. Let prayer be a natural part of the whole camp experience.

The following are some guidelines with scripture references in leading a child to Christ:

- THE CHILD MUST KNOW THAT GOD LOVES HIM / HER
- John 3:16; Romans 5:8; Deuteronomy 10:12; 1 John 3:1
- THE CHILD MUST RECOGNIZE HE IS A SINNER AND THERE IS A PENALTY FOR SIN
- Romans 3:23; 6:23; Hebrews 9:27
- THE CHILD MUST BELIEVE GOD SENT HIS SON, JESUS, TO PAY HIS PENALTY FOR SIN
- John 3:16; Romans 5:8
- THE CHILD MUST ACCEPT JESUS AS HIS / HER OWN SAVIOR AND BE FORGIVEN OF HIS / HER SIN 1 John 1:9; John 1:12
- THE CHILD MUST CONFESS JESUS CHRIST AS HIS / HER SAVIOR
- Romans 10:9, 10

Following your explanation, allow the child to pray in his/her own words to receive Jesus Christ, or lead the child in a simple prayer to receive salvation by having him/her repeat after you. Such as:

The ABCs of Salvation

A – Admit that you have a sin problem. "Jesus, I have a sin problem and I need you to forgive me."

"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." Romans 3:23/Romans 6:23

B – Believe that Jesus can forgive them of their sins. "I believe that you died for my sins."

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:13/Romans 5:8

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, God gave His Son so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost, but have eternal life." John 3:16/John 14:6

C – Confess that Jesus is the leader of their life. "I will follow you, Jesus, the rest of my life."

“If you confess (declare) with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9-10

Talking About the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Who Is The Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God -- the third person of the Trinity. He is not an “it”. He convicts or shows us that we are sinners and draws us to Jesus. (John 16:8)

When Do You Have The Holy Spirit?

At salvation, the Holy Spirit dwells or takes up residence in the believer’s heart. The Holy Spirit convicts the believer of sin and convinces him of righteousness. (John 6:44; 14:17; Romans 8:9; 1Cor. 12:13)

There is an additional and separate ministry of the Holy Spirit called the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is an empowering gift from God. It helps the Christian live a holy life, brings greater power for witnessing, and a greater joy in spiritual service. (Acts 1:8) Also, the receiver will speak in an unknown language or “other tongues” as on the Day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:4)

Who May Receive The Baptism In The Holy Spirit?

The promise of the Father is for every believer. Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost that the Baptism is for every believer in every generation. (Acts 2:39)

How Do You Receive The Baptism In The Holy Spirit?

Every believer should desire everything that God has for them. Begin by asking for this gift. Worship, praise and yield to the Holy Spirit. You do the speaking as the Holy Spirit gives you the words to say.

Talking About Divine Healing

Health is important. Many people take vitamins to be healthy. Some people go to health clubs to exercise and stay fit. Others eat the right kinds of food to remain healthy. We all want to be healthy.

God wants us to know that He will take care of us when we are sick. In the Old Testament, God provided healing to the children of Israel. He said, “I am the Lord your God that heals you.” (Exodus 15:26)

In the New Testament, Jesus went about healing the sick for the glory of God. He healed all kinds of sicknesses. Can you think of some people that Jesus healed? For example, He healed the blind man (Mark 8:22-26), the crippled man at the pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-9), and the man with palsy (Mark 2).

Also, in the book of Acts we see the apostles, through the power of God, healing the sick. Peter and John (Acts 3) healed the lame man at Gate Beautiful.

Healing is for us today as well. James 5:15-16 tells us that God heals us when we are sick. Remind the child to pray when he /she is sick and to pray for others during illness.

Talking About Christ’s Second Coming

We celebrate the day Jesus was born at Christmas. Later, He died on the cross to provide forgiveness for our sins and He went up into Heaven. Before Jesus left us, He promised that someday He would return for us.

Read 1 Thess. 4:15-17. First, there will be a loud trumpet blast and those Christians who have physically died will rise to meet the Lord in the air. Then, those living Christians will follow and meet Jesus in the air.

The Bible says that no one knows the exact day or time when Jesus will return (Matt 24:42). Jesus will also return quickly (Matt. 24:27) and we will see Him in the clouds when He comes. (Matt. 24:30)

Jesus will take the Christians to Heaven to live. We will see all of our Christian friends and family. Heaven will be a wonderful place! There will be no sickness, pain, or suffering. Neither will there be crying, sorrow, or death. We will be praising God and rejoicing in the presence of God. We must all be ready for Jesus to return again.

After Camp Follow Up

We suggest that you have someone follow up with encouragement concerning the spiritual decisions that children made at camp. MyHealthyChurch.com has booklets available for purchase that can be taken home by the child and then the parents will be more aware of what took place spiritually at kid's camp. (Now What? For kids, Salvation and Baptism in the Holy Spirit).

The Camper and Homesickness

Homesickness is a natural reaction for some campers facing a new situation. Recognize it as a valid fear of the unknown and be sensitive to each individual's expressions of being homesick. Provide reassurance by using some of the following methods...

- Talk to the camper individually.
- Pray with the camper and have the camper pray.
- Read together familiar stories from the Bible, such as Jesus' calming the storm, (Luke 8:22-25) David and Jonathan's friendship, (1 Sam. 20:35-42), and Jesus' birth (Luke 2).
- Talk to the camper about his/ her interests.
- Talk about what to expect this week at camp – new friends, getting to know more about God, fun activities, etc.
- Suggest that a letter or postcard be written by the camper and mailed home.
- **Do not** suggest or promise a child they may call home.

Remember, time is on your side. Usually, by the second day, the child has adjusted to the camp setting.

OTHER CAMP INFORMATION

Kids Camp 2021 is sponsored by

The South Texas District of the Assemblies of God
Church Ministries & Discipleship Department
Rev. Tammy Calderon, Director
stxkids@gmail.com
14237 E. Sam Houston Pkwy N.
Suite 200-314
Houston, TX 77044
www.stxagchurchministries.org
713-455-1221

- The price of camp is determined when the application and deposit have been received. If we have only received the deposit, the final camp price will not be determined until we receive the application. ****No exceptions****
- A fee of \$35.00 will be accessed for each return check.
- Camp Dates and Tuition:
 - **Camp #1 – July 9-12, 2021 (Friday - Monday)**
Evangelist: Evans and Company Cost \$170 if postmarked before April 1, 2021, \$180 if postmarked April 2 – May 1, 2021 and \$190 if postmarked May 2, 2021 – first day of camp
 - **Camp #2 – July 14-17, 2021 (Wednesday – Saturday)**
Evangelist: Evans and Company Cost \$170 if postmarked before April 1, 2021, \$180 if postmarked April 2 – May 1, 2021 and \$190 if postmarked May 2, 2021 – first day of camp
 - **Camp #3 – July 19-22, 2021 (Monday – Thursday)**
Evangelist: Evans and Company Cost \$170 if postmarked before April 1, 2021, \$180 if postmarked April 2 – May 1, 2021 and \$190 if postmarked May 2, 2021 – first day of camp
 - **Volunteer Staff Tuition** – All Volunteer Staff positions **must be** approved by the Church Ministries and Discipleship Director. There is no tuition fee for staff; however, each church group is limited to **one female per seven girls** and **one male per seven boys** as dorm leaders. There are some other staff positions available for other adults who wish to attend, but they are limited. **If you bring fewer than seven campers for each staff, other churches without a staff volunteer will be in your room.** Once our limit is achieved and if there is bed space available, there will be a charge of the full camper price for additional staff. *A criminal background check will be performed on all staff.*
- **Refund Policy:** The \$100 deposit is refundable or transferable two weeks prior to camp. After this time, deposits (\$100 per camper) are non-refundable or transferable.
- **Arrival & Departures:**
 - Registration for all camps begins at **NOON ON REGISTRATION DAYS**. Camp activities end at **9:30 AM on dismissal days**. All campers must leave by 10 AM. **No lunch is served on registration or dismissal days.**
- **Directions:** From Houston, Follow I-10 West to Kerrville; Take the Harper Road Exit (#505) and follow circle exit ramp to Harper Road; turn left and go approximately 3 miles; the camp is on your right.
- **Correspondence:** If you wish to send cards or letters to campers, send c/o Hill Country Camp, 1325 Harper Road, Kerrville, TX 78028. **Send Early to be included in “Mail Call”**. Cards and letters that arrive late will be marked return to sender and placed back in the mail. To email a note – kidscamp@stxagchurchministries.org. Always use the child’s full name.
- **Phone & Visits:** Phone calls and visits are **not** allowed because it promotes homesickness and are against Texas State Guidelines. **Only Children’s Pastors and Senior Pastors will be approved for visitation at evening service only.** If a visit is necessary, arrangements must be made in advance and approved by the **Church Ministries & Discipleship Director**. If a visit is pre-approved, all visitors must obey all camp rules. The phone number for emergency use only is 830-257-5714.
- **Facebook Group:** To allow more parents, grandparents, pastors, church staff, etc. to experience camp, we will have a Facebook Group (STXAG Kids Camp 2021) open for you to join before camp begins. When requesting to join, please let us know which child/church you are connected with, so we can grant your approval. Questions must be answered to receive approval. Once camp begins, it will become a closed group for the safety of our children. You will be allowed to view all photos and grab pictures during camp.