



FAQs for Parents

Why should I send my child to camp?

Summer camp is an excellent time for campers to experience the outdoors through various activities. It is the perfect environment for them to develop positive social skills, build their self-esteem, see Christian faith in action, and much more!

Why should I choose a Christian camp? And will it be fun?

On average, a child will spend about 50 hours in church during the school year. If you want your child to have a foundation of faith, it is essential for them to have opportunities to focus on their faith in a Christian community. During one week of camp, each camper is part of a Christian community with college-aged role models who want to share the love of Christ in the glory of God's Creation.

And yes, they will have a blast! And they will do it without television, laptops, cell phones or video games. They will laugh, run, swim, slide, climb, sing, and pray - all the while learning that doing each is a part of worship.

This week at camp, will be a time for your child to simply be themselves, to find their voice, and learn more about God and His Word. Campers experience spiritual development and learn accountability in all aspects of life. It is a life-changing experience your child will never forget!

What if Buffalo Mountain Camp is not affiliated with our church?

We welcome all campers and do not consider your denominational affiliation. Our mission is to offer Christ's love to all people. It is our desire for all campers to grow closer to Christ and go home with a renewed interest in Him and the Church.

When should I enroll my child for a session in the Summer Camp Program?

Enrollment is open as early as February. In fact, if you enroll your child before April 1st, you will receive our Early Bird Discount of \$15. Later enrollment is available as late as a week before the chosen session (if slots are available).

How do I enroll my child?

There are three ways to enroll your child:

Online: www.holstoncamping.com

By Phone: 423/929-9037 ext. 235 or ext. 236

By Mail: CRM P.O. Box 2506, Johnson City, TN 37605

Please note, FULL payment is due upon time of registration.

What are my payment options?

Payment can be made by check, VISA, MasterCard or Discover credit card.

When will I know if my child has successfully enrolled in a camp session?

Enrollment takes place on a first come, first served basis. If you register online or over the phone, you will know immediately. If you register by mail, you will receive a confirmation letter in the mail. Included is a "What to Bring to Camp" form that will let you know what

items your camper needs to bring. Please note, if we have your email address on file (or if you provide it), you will receive confirmation via email.

What is your cancellation policy?

A camp fee of \$50 is non-refundable. All cancellations received by 12 noon the Friday prior to the opening your camp session will receive a full refund (minus the \$50 camp fee).

Are scholarships available and how do I apply?

Scholarships are available. Simply call the office to request an application. Upon completion, submit the application to the camp office for review by the Director. You will receive a phone call notifying you of the scholarship. At that time, you will be given a registration code to use when registering your child. Your portion of the camp cost is due at the time of registration.

Can I contact my child while they are at camp?

Yes! The best way to contact your child is via email. Emails are printed out and distributed to campers each morning. Emails can be sent to:

campermail@buffalomountaincamp.org

Subject Line: (please insert name of camper and the name of the session they are attending)

We strongly discourage phone contact with campers for several reasons. We only have two phone lines that need to be kept open in case of emergency or for business purposes. Also, phone calls tend to lead to homesickness. And lastly, with 50 to 75 campers each week, it would cause phone issues.

Can my child contact me?

Campers are encouraged to write letters home. You can always send your camper to camp with self addressed envelopes and notecards.

What happens if my child gets “homesick”?

Our staffers are trained on how to handle homesickness. In most cases, the feelings are mild and short-lived. The counselors, along with the camp Director, work to ensure that each camper has a great camp experience. In the rare instance that a phone-call home is necessary, the camp staff will initiate such action.

What if my child gets hurt or sick at camp?

If your child is sick, vomits or is having problems emotionally, we will call the contact number on your camper’s health form. Camp staff are trained in first aid and CPR. Additional staffers are trained in wilderness first aid as first responders. We also recruit volunteer nurses and doctors to assist in caring for camper’s medical needs. Buffalo Mountain Camp has an emergency plan to acquire additional medical care if needed.

What if my child has allergies takes medicine or has special dietary considerations?

We want your child to come to camp despite any allergies, medications or dietary needs. For dietary needs, please contact the camp office at least one week before your child’s session so that special accommodations can be made.

If your child takes medicine on a daily basis, that medicine will be checked-in by the Camper Health Supervisor who will make sure that your child’s medicine is given when needed.

What qualifications are required of Summer Camp Staff?

We ask that each person applying for a Summer Staff position to have three loves:

- Love God and be able to share the love of Christ
- Love children and youth from all walks of life

- Love working and playing outside and sharing that passion with children who may never have experienced God's Creation.

Each staffer goes through a thorough application process which includes reference checks and criminal background checks. Before the Summer Camp Program begins, staffers go through two weeks of intensive training which includes: CPR and first aid certification, conflict management, building self-esteem in campers, how to nurture spiritual growth, and more. Additionally, staffers responsible for supervising high adventure activities (kayaking, ropes, tubing, archery, etc.) are trained and certified and meet American Camping Association standards.

What is the ratio of campers to counselors?

As a camp accredited through the American Camp Association, ratio standards are based on age. But typically, each group of campers range from six to 14 kids with two counselors per group. A more detailed description of ACA standards is available if needed.

Does my child receive a free t-shirt when they come to camp?

They sure do! Each year, campers get a conference camping shirt that has the year's theme on it and the camp's name. Other Buffalo Mountain Camp merchandise is available for sell if your camper is interested. You can check out our merchandise table when you register your camper on Sunday or come to pick him/her up on Friday before or after the closing ceremonies.

Does my child need spending money?

No. All meals and snacks are covered in the camp's programming costs. However, the camp merchandise table is open during Sunday registration and Friday before and after closing ceremonies.

What will registration be like on Sunday afternoon?

All campers must go through registration. It all begins promptly at 4:30 pm. As you enter the camp, you will be directed where to park and leave your luggage during registration in Allison Lodge. Make sure you have all information and forms ready listed on your "What to Bring to Camp" sheet. After registration, if your child is an inpost camper, you are welcome to assist him/her with their luggage. Outpost campers will take their luggage to a specified area where it will be driven up the mountain to the Outpost area. Parents and campers will then meet their counselors for the week. The first scheduled activity for all campers is at 5:30 pm. We ask that all parents leave before this time for your child to begin their camping experience.

What will my child eat? Is there a vegetarian option?

Your child will eat GREAT! And yes, there are vegetarian options. All meals are homestyle and our Hospitality staff takes great pride in making the best food for the campers. Following is a breakdown of food typically served during the week:

Breakfast - cereal, pancakes, muffins, oatmeal, and fruit

Lunch - homemade pizzas, chicken sandwiches, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, salad

Dinner - turkey and gravy, mashed potatoes, veggies, salad

Is there a time for my child to make a commitment to Christ?

For over 60 years, Buffalo Mountain Camp's focus has been to build Christian character through camping. During the week, each activity and program builds around the idea that God loves each camper and wants a relationship with him/her. Every Thursday night, this week-long theme culminates into a time of worship, sharing and commitment. It is an opportunity for your child to commit or renew his/her relationship with God. Your child will not be pressured in anyway. It is not our job to be the Holy Spirit. It is, however, our job to provide them with a time of reflection on who Christ is and how much He wants a relationship with him/her.