

What Did the Kids do all Summer?

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St. John Armenian Church of Southfield, once again, hosted a six-week Day Camp with over seventy children participating throughout the summer of 2026. Our four day per week program welcomed on average, twenty to twenty-five campers per day for kids ages five through twelve.

Each camp day started with the Hayr Mer and the Armenian National Anthem lead by a camper, counselor in training or a staff member. On Monday afternoons campers enjoyed pickleball clinics hosted by City Pickle, a non-profit organization. On Tuesdays, campers loved having their own private movie shown at the Royal Oak Emagine Theater.

Most afternoons we all enjoyed walking across the parking lot to the church sanctuary for an interactive prayer and spiritual lesson with Father Aren Jebejian. The children loved learning about the mosaics, prayer life, bible stories, the Assumption of Mary, the Holy Mother God and other enriching topics.

Each camper left the experience with arts and crafts projects, Armenian dance moves, potted plants, Armenian paninis, a Detroit Tiger baseball game, bowling and so many fun memories!! We especially thank Deacon Rubik Mailian for teaching them some classic Armenian songs.

In July, fifty-four campers, nine CIT's (counselors-in-training) and eleven staff traveled to Ingleside, Illinois for a fun filled week at the Midwest Regional Hye Camp!! The children enjoyed a fun filled week of Armenian religion and heritage, sports, arts and crafts, swimming, kebob dinners, talent shows and a dance on the last night. Thank you to all those who attended the Seafood Boil or contributed to help fund the buses that took the crew and kids to camp safely!!!