

1. What are the dates for the various camps this summer? Have you added any new ones or consolidated or re-organized them any since last year?

You can find a complete list of our 2026 dates [here](#)! The session we've added this year is called Heart & Sole and is a service camp for our rising 10th-12th graders. The goal is for campers to grow in their faith while serving both at camp and with projects for the local community. Blending hands-on projects with classic camp fun, it's all about living out God's love with heart and soul!

2. What does camp registration look like to date? How many campers did we have last year and what is the projection for this year?

As of April 28, we have 620 campers registered, which is about 100 more than when this newsletter came out last month. Last summer we had 802 campers and we certainly hope to meet if not slightly exceed that same number this year!

3. Is there a theme for all of the camps? Or a theme for each of the camps? Who sets the theme (if there is one) and the schedule and activities for each camp session? Is it an individual or a team or a committee?

Our theme for this summer is "Wear Love" based on Colossians 3:14: "Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." A simple instruction, and the very thing we are called to do in the world and have the privilege of living by here at camp.

While it's me that sets the theme for the summer well ahead of hiring staff, the schedule and activities for each week are a collaboration of our whole summer camp leadership team!

4. What are the basic goals you strive to fulfill in each Camp session? Maybe another way to say it is to ask, what do you want a camper to take away from their experience at Camp Weed?

The theme I picked for this summer was actually inspired by this thought as I was thinking about how Christian summer camp is truly unique because not only are we here at camp to have a ton of fun, but we get to do it all with the love of Christ as our foundation. And it's how we approach everything here at camp and how we want to send our campers back into the world at the end of the week: wearing the love of God through their kindness, compassion, forgiveness, empathy, and the love and respect they show to their fellow humans.

5. How many different staff jobs are there, i.e. from camp counsellors to nurses to clergy deans or chaplains to resource positions (like arts and crafts)? Have you completed recruitment? What jobs are you still involved in filling?

The bulk of our staff positions are cabin counselors who also fill coordinator roles such as for arts & crafts, lifeguards, challenge course, and archery. We also have a leadership team made up of our Assistant Director, Program Director, Admin Director, and Head Male and Female Counselors and we also have 2 interns that help with a lot of the behind the scenes things. Each week we also have a nurse and deans that come as volunteers for a week at a time.

I am still looking to hire on a couple more cabin counselors for this summer! You can find info and that application [here](#)!

6. What do you look for in a camp counsellor? What skills would the young counsellor need to meet or fulfill the challenges of their work?

We look for our camp counselors to be responsible, reliable, and adaptable! We get lots of our staff that are asked by their families when they'll be getting a "real job", but I honestly can't imagine a more "real" and versatile job than being a cabin counselor. They have to be prepared for anything at any time of day, injuries, weather, schedule changes, any multitude of camper issues and they end up filling the roles of teacher, mentor, nurse, caregiver, activity leader and so much more for so many campers on a daily and hourly basis. That's a lot of experience to gain from one job!

7. Is homesickness a challenge to some first-time campers? If so, how long does it usually last? How do you cope with it and help the campers enjoy their experience being away from home?

Even just being a Sunday-Friday camp, we do certainly see a lot of homesickness, particularly amongst our younger campers, but I have certainly seen it happen in every age group at this point. Most homesickness subsides after a day or two and even more so after about the halfway point of the week, but we do also have some more severe cases occasionally. Our counselors are trained to combat it by helping campers feel more connected with camp and by reminding campers that their parents sent them for a reason...to have fun!

8. Is scholarship money readily available for campers who need it? Where do the scholarships come from?

We do have plenty of scholarship money available and are so fortunate to be able to live by the mantra of not turning away campers for financial reasons. We have oodles of donors that donate to our scholarship fund each year and that's where our offertory collections from each closing Eucharist go during the summer as well

9. How many years have you been involved in or been leading the summer camps at Camp Weed? As you approach summer camp 2026 how does this one feel in relation to the ones that have gone before it?

I began on camp staff here seasonally in 2014 and have been on the full-time staff since 2019. After all these years, I have to say the thing I've learned is not to have expectations of how the summer is going to go because the thing about camp is that plans and circumstances change by the hour, sometimes the minute! But I do feel that camp is becoming increasingly important for our youth to experience and it warms my heart to get more and more emails every year from families that begin with "My child's friend told them about this camp..." We're seeing more and more of our campers bring more and more friends every year to show them this place they've fallen in love with. That's a really cool atmosphere to experience and I'm looking forward to seeing how much more of that we get this summer!