

SUMMER CAMP 2024

Hello Parents and Campers!

Thank you for partnering with the Student Ministries of Palm Valley Church for Summer Camp 2024. Hundreds of hours of preparation and prayer have already gone into this event, and we believe Summer Camp will be a catalyst for life change in our students.

This packet of information has been designed to help you and your student prepare for the big day - July 23rd - when we depart, via charter bus, to Camp Tejas in Giddings, Texas. Included in this packet are the following useful tools:

- Parent information, frequently asked questions, a packing list and health information form(s)
- Camp Schedule including drop-off and pick-up times
- Behavior requirements for students

Our goal for all students is that they experience a safe, well-guided camp, where they are free to have the time of their lives and encounter Jesus in life-changing ways. For this reason, every student attending will be assigned to a small group with about 15 of their peers. Each of these groups will be overseen by two of our well-qualified volunteers or staff members. Groups will eat, pray, play, and room together during the week. This will give them the security of close supervision and the opportunity to build friendships within their group.

If you have any questions or concerns about Camp, please contact the Student Ministries staff at Palm Valley Church, or visit the website at: www.palmvalleychurch.com/youth.

We are looking forward to a great Camp!

Student Ministries Staff

956.585.3203

youth@palmvalleychurch.com

CAMP DAILY SCHEDULE:

JULY 23

6:00 a.m. Departure from The West End, Mission Campus

12:30 p.m. Arrival at camp Tejas/Orientation

1:00 p.m. Lunch

2:00 p.m. Afternoon Recreation

6:00 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Service

8:30 p.m. Group Time

9:00 p.m. Evening Recreation

11:00 p.m. Lights Out

JULY 24-26

8:30 a.m. Breakfast

9:15 a.m. Morning Service

10:30 a.m. Morning Recreation

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Afternoon Recreation

6:00 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Service

8:30 p.m. Group Time

9:00 p.m. Evening Recreation

11:00 p.m. Lights Out

JULY 27

6:00 a.m. Breakfast

7:00 a.m. Load up and departure from Camp Tejas

1:00 p.m. Arrival time at Palm Valley Church

PACKING LIST:

- ☐ Bible (labeled), pen or pencil & notepad
- ☐ WATER BOTTLE
- ☐ Casual clothes
- ☐ Clothes for mud games/other activities, including modest shorts
- ☐ Modest bathing suit
- ☐ Swim shorts (guys & girls)
- ☐ Tennis shoes that can get dirty
- ☐ Sleeping bag or blanket & sheets for a twin bed
- ☐ Pillow
- ☐ Towels (at least 2) & washcloth
- ☐ Toiletries - soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, hairbrush, hair dryer, comb etc.
- ☐ Laundry bag for dirty clothes
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Bug spray
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Spending money (optional)
- ☐ Necessary medications (must be checked with the nurse)

The camp is staffed with two nurses and a fully stocked medical station. All medications **MUST** be turned in to the Nurse's Desk the morning of departure and will be returned upon arrival to PVC at the end of the camp session.

Please be sure to adhere to the following guidelines: All medications (prescription and over-the-counter medications) must be brought to the Nurse's Desk at check-in the morning of departure. Over-the-counter medications must be in their original, unopened packaging and prescription medications must be in their original prescription containers. This rule applies to all medications except for emergency medication allowed by Texas state law: an inhaler or EpiPen. However, written approval is required for any student who will be carrying an emergency medication. Written approval can be obtained from the camp nurse departure morning. You can expedite this process by pre-filling the medication form(s) and bringing a printed copy with you to the Nurse's Desk on departure morning. All medication will be returned at the end of the camp session.

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

- No clothing with vulgar or suggestive slogans
- No water guns or water balloons
- No valuable items such as jewelry or electronics (PVC will not be held responsible for theft, loss or damage of valuables)
- No prank or gag materials
- No firearms, fireworks, tobacco, electronic cigarettes, vapes, drugs, alcohol, knives, or weapons of any kind*

*Campers bringing these items to camp may be sent home at the cost of the parent.

POLICY/FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

BEHAVIOR POLICY:

Students must obey staff instructions at all times. Students must stay with their assigned group and leader during group times. Students are not allowed in or near the cabins of the opposite sex. No public display of affection is permitted. Students must remain in their cabins once evening activities have finished. No firearms, fireworks, tobacco, electronic cigarettes, vapes, drugs, or alcohol are permitted at camp. Foul language, fighting, or bullying will not be tolerated. The leadership of Palm Valley Church Student Ministries will handle behavior problems. All parents and students must understand the importance of these guidelines and remain committed to keeping them. The consequences for misbehavior may include the student being sent home early from camp at the parents' expense.

CELL PHONE POLICY:

Whether or not your student takes a cell phone is your decision. Cell phones can be a major distraction. Students do tend to benefit more from camp if they disconnect from friends at home and focus on growing closer to God. Cell phones are allowed at Camp Tejas with restrictions and at your own personal risk. If cell phone usage becomes inappropriate, excessive, or disruptive, the phone will be collected and returned at the end of the camp session. Please note that phones do run a high risk of being lost or damaged at camp. Also, reception at camp is not dependable. PVC will NOT be responsible for theft, loss or damage of phones.

LOST ITEMS POLICY:

If students do not return home with all their belongings, we will have a lost and found box at the West End the first weekend they return home from camp. Items will be kept for one week following camp, then will be washed and donated. It is suggested that you label all items with your camper's name.

HEALTH INFORMATION:

We have two nurses on site 24 hours a day in a well-equipped facility. We hope that your campers will never need to experience our Nurse's Station, but if they need us, we are here to help them! We will promptly contact you if there is an issue that affects your child's camp experience.

HEALTH FORMS:

If there are changes to your child's health condition or medications after registration has been completed, please contact our office at 956.585.3203 or email us at youth@palmvalleychurch.com to update the information.

MEDICATIONS:

Campers are not permitted to keep any medications in their cabins or on their person. A nurse will be available to dispense any medications as needed. All medications (prescription and over-the-counter medications) must be brought to the Nurse's Desk at check-in the morning of departure. Over-the-counter medications must be in their original, unopened packaging and prescription medications must be in their original prescription containers. This rule applies to all medications except for emergency medication allowed by Texas state law: an inhaler or EpiPen. However, written approval is required for any student who will be carrying an emergency medication. Written approval can be obtained from the camp nurse departure morning. Unclaimed medications will be

held by student ministries staff for one week and then discarded. Please make sure to let us know about all allergies including stings, foods, and /or medicines. We can provide special dietary needs for those campers who are under medical supervision or have food allergies.

PLEASE DO:

- Fill out the medication form(s), if necessary.
- Bring all medications to the Nurse's Desk at check-in the morning of departure.

PLEASE DON'T:

- Bring opened, over-the-counter, non-prescription medications.

PRICING:

How much does it cost to go to camp?

The cost of camp is \$415, and can be paid in full at registration.

If you choose the Payment Plan option, you can secure your spot with \$140 deposit and subsequent payments. If any payment is not made on time, you risk losing your spot at camp.

Payment Plan Details:

Deposit of \$140 due at registration to secure your spot.

April 14 \$140

May 26 \$135

After May 26, the total amount required in the payment schedule is due at the time of registration.

Important Notes: If any payment is not made on time, you risk losing your spot at camp. To utilize the Payment Plan, you must create a Realm account if you don't already have one. You cannot access the Payment Plan if you register as a guest.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR CAMP:

You can register for camp in-person Sundays or Wednesdays 30 minutes before or after Youth services at the West End Building or at the Edinburg Campus kiosk. Student must be accompanied by parent/guardian (if under 18 years old) and have the \$140.00 deposit.

HOW DO I MAKE A PAYMENT?

1. Payments can be received in-person 30 minutes before or after Youth services at the West End Building or at the Edinburg Campus kiosk.

2. Online Payment.

1. Log in to your Realm account
2. Click "Events"
3. Type "Summer Camp 2024" in Find Event
4. Click "Manage Registration"
5. Click "Make a Payment"

IF I NEED TO CANCEL MY CHILD'S RESERVATION, WILL I BE REFUNDED?

In the case of illness prior to departure a full refund will be given. In the case of dismissal due to behavioral problems or homesickness while at camp, camp fees will not be refunded. Camp Tejas and/or PVC will not be held responsible for travel expenses incurred in picking up the child. The camp director reserves the right to dismiss any camper whose conduct becomes in any way detrimental to the best interest of the other campers. No refunds will be given. In case of illness or inclement weather, we will refund any monies that Camp Tejas refunds. Camp Tejas and/or PVC will not be responsible for travel expenses incurred in picking up the child.

Cancellations must be requested in writing.

E-mail: youth@palmvalleychurch.com

Mail:

Palm Valley Church
Attn: Summer Camp 2024
1720 E. Griffin Parkway Mission, TX. 78572

CAMP TEJAS:

Where does camp take place?

We take our students to Camp Tejas in Giddings, TX. For more information on Camp Tejas you can check out their website at www.mytejas.org.

What does a day at camp look like?

Each day at camp will include: worship services, Bible study/small group discussion, high energy rec games and a chance to take advantage of all that Camp Tejas has to offer such as zip lines, climbing walls, pool, etc.

ROOM ARRANGEMENTS:

How are campers assigned rooms?

Campers are assigned rooms by grade and gender.

What is the counselor to camper ratio?

We maintain a ratio of at least 1 counselor for every 8-10 students.

SUPERVISION:

Who is on "staff" during camp?

Camp is staffed with our PVC personnel, the Camp Tejas staff, trained leaders, and a nurse. Special precautions are taken during water activities and certified lifeguards are on duty.

Are campers always supervised?

Yes - counselors are present 24 hours a day.

How does PVC choose their counselors?

Each applicant is carefully screened and hand-picked by the Student Ministries Staff. We conduct national background checks as well as a Child Abuse Prevention Training Course and Exam (required by Texas Law for any adult attending a camp).

PHONE CALLS, MAIL, AND VISITORS:

May I call my child at camp?

Cell phones are allowed at camp with restrictions. Please see the "What to Bring" list for full cell phone policy. Should campers need to contact parents; calls can be made through the Camp Director's cell phone.

Can I reach someone at camp any time of the day or night in case of emergency?

Yes – The emergency number for 6th - 12th grade students is Micah Crump: 956-792-2895. Emergencies Only, please!

What do you do for homesick kids? Do you let them call home?

Yes – homesick campers are allowed to call home. Campers who become homesick and leave their camp session early are not eligible for refunds.

Can campers receive mail or packages during their stay?

No - due to the short duration of our camp stay, we do not encourage snail mail or packages to be sent to campers.

Does Camp Tejas allow visitors?

Camp Tejas restricts access to workers and campers. All visitors need prior approval by the PVC staff and must register with the main office upon entering Camp Tejas.

MEDICAL INFORMATION:

Is there a nurse available at all times?

Yes – Nurses are on staff 24 hours a day.

Which medications should my child bring to camp?

All medications (prescription and over-the-counter medications) must be brought to the Nurse's Desk at check-in the morning of departure. Over-the-counter medications must be in their original, unopened packaging and prescription medications must be in their original prescription containers. This rule applies to all medications except for emergency medication allowed by Texas state law: an inhaler or EpiPen. However, written approval is required for any student who will be carrying an emergency medication. Written approval can be obtained from the camp nurse departure morning. You can expedite this process by pre- filling the medication form(s) and bringing a printed copy with you to the Nurse's Desk on departure morning. All medication will be returned at the end of the camp session.

Do you give kids pain relievers if needed?

Yes – the Nurse's Station has pain relievers and the nurse is available to dispense medication as needed.

Does my child have to turn in his medicine even if he knows when to take it and how much?

Yes. All medications (prescription and over-the-counter medications) must be brought to the Nurse's Desk at check-in the morning of departure. Over-the-counter medications must be in their original, unopened packaging and prescription medications must be in their original prescription containers. This rule applies to all medications except for emergency medication allowed by Texas state law: an inhaler or EpiPen. However written approval is required for any student who will be carrying an emergency medication. Written approval can be obtained from the camp nurse departure morning. You can expedite this process by pre- filling the medication form(s) and bringing a printed copy with you to the Nurse's Desk on departure morning. All medication will be returned at the end of the camp session.

Are feminine products available at camp?

Yes – the nurse will have a supply of feminine products.

How close is the nearest hospital?

20 minutes.

ACTIVITIES:**What are specific activities the campers will be doing?**

Campers will be involved in a variety of activities including swimming, canoeing, basketball, waterslides, inflatable games, obstacle courses, mud games, water trapeze, zip lines, lazy river, climbing wall, etc.

SPENDING MONEY:**How much money do they need to bring?**

Spending money is optional. Most campers spend on average \$50 for snacks and souvenirs during their camp stay.

How many times are students allowed to go to the Gift Shop?

Campers are allowed to go to the gift shop during their camp session to shop for souvenirs and snacks each full day of camp.

Do students keep their own money at camp?

Yes – they will be responsible for their own money at camp. PVC is not responsible for lost or stolen money at camp.

For further questions please do not hesitate to contact the Student Ministries staff at youth@palmvalleychurch.com or call 956.585.3203