

Hello Mount Shepherd Families,

Welcome to the Mount Shepherd 2023 summer program! We are ecstatic to offer summer camp to your child this summer. This ministry is a special privilege and honor. We are excited to work with you in the coming months and weeks to prepare for the best week of the summer. Please take time to **review the materials in this packet**. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out to us. We view this camp experience as a *partnership* with you to assist you in the excellent work you're already doing as a parent. We want to be good partners. And this packet is a starting point for that.

As you know, summer camp has the potential to transform lives forever. Mount Shepherd has had the unique opportunity to offer this kind of transformation for more than 60 years. Beyond ensuring the safety of your child and providing exciting experiences, we strive to cultivate a community where your child feels like they **belong** and where they can grow in **self-confidence**. We institute practices that encourage self-reflection and personal growth.

All of this is fundamental in us accomplishing our Christian mission. At camp your child will experience Christian community--sharing prayers before meals, singing campfire worship songs, hearing devotions from our college-aged staff, and learning and growing through adventure experiences. We are intentional to create a space where your child will be invited into a deeper relationship with God. At the same time, we are careful to create a space where no child is shamed or scared into making decisions. We offer graceful invitations to learn more about the God revealed in Jesus Christ.

Allow me to end this letter by offering gratitude. All of the magic at camp happens because of the hard work and dedication of our staff. If you call or email our office, you'll likely encounter Cindy Hayes. Cindy is a phenomenal resource for communicating with us ahead of camp. And of course, our summer camp has been shaped by our program team of David Walker, Kelly Walker, and Austin Hadden. They have created and refined an excellent program. Lastly, our summer staff are a collection of young people from across the state (and world!) who will spend the summer in service to our families! I thank God for them and their good work!

Grace and peace,
Josh Britton
Executive Director, Mount Shepherd



Parent Packet 2023

In order to ensure a smooth check-in, all waivers/agreements, health information, and the camper intakes must be completed 14 days prior to your camper's session. All forms can be accessed through your camp account, which can be accessed through our website. If you have any questions about this please contact us at office@mtshepherd.org

General Information

Registration Procedures:

Camp Mount Shepherd only accepts online registrations. Registrations are accepted and camp sessions are filled in the order registrations are received. If your choice of camp is full, please see our waiting list policy below.

Discounts & Final Payment:

Final payments are to be paid by the first day of your campers session. You can pay this through your camp account or you can pay on site day of by credit card, check, or cash. If you are waiting to receive a scholarship from your church please be sure that it makes it to camp before the first day of your camper's session. The early registration 5 % discount for summer 2022 is for all of our programs. The discount begins November 22, 2022, and ends January 31, 2023 at 11:30 pm EST.

Cancellation Policy/Refund Policy:

Before a cancellation takes place our goal is to reschedule a camper for a different session. There are no refunds for cancellation if it occurs within 14 days of your scheduled camp session. Also, there is no refund for late arrival, early departure, or no-show. The full amount paid will be lost. The exceptions to this are: Sudden illness or injury; Death in the family. Emergency and medical cancellations will be reviewed by our office and a response will be determined in a timely manner.

Cancellations and withdrawals must be put in writing to be accepted by sending an email to office@mtshepherd.org.

For cancellations 15 days or more before the first day of your camper's session, the refund will be the balanced paid, minus the nonrefundable deposit. Once a camp session begins, there are no refunds. Campers who are sent home during camp due to illness, inappropriate behavior, or homesickness are not eligible for a refund.

**The camp director reserves the right to dismiss any camper whose conduct becomes in any way detrimental to the best interests of other campers. No refunds will be given in these cases.*

Waiting List Policy:

If your camp of choice is full, you may elect to place your child's name on a waiting list. To do so, you must go through the registration website that can be accessed through the camp website. If a space becomes available, our office will contact you and you will have 48 hours to register your camper for the open spot. If you are not interested any more we ask that you let us know.

Cabin Mate Policy:

If you would like your child to be placed in a cabin with a friend please email your camper's name along with their friend's name to our office at office@mtshepherd.org Your camper and their friend will need to be signed up for their camp session in order to request the same cabin. Please note that this is a request. We will do our best to make it happen, but in some instances it might not be possible. All requests will need to be made 7 days prior to your camper's arrival.

Arrival/Transportation/Safety:

Please have all forms completed on your account 7 days prior to your campers session start day. This will allow for the fastest possible check-in time. Any forms that are not completed will need to be done the day of arrival. Check-in begins with our welcoming you in your vehicle and directing you to the drop-off area.

Check-in times are as follows:

Overnight, Adventure, & CIT: Sunday 3- 5pm

Day Camp: Monday- Friday 8-9 am

Mini Camp 1: Sunday 3-5 pm

Mini Camp 2: Wednesday 2-4 pm

Arriving by car for all overnight programs:

The address for camp is: 1045 Mount Shepherd Road Ext. Asheboro, NC 27205

A Mount Shepherd staff member to welcome you and direct you to the parking lot once you reach the camp entrance. Once you have parked, we request that you leave your luggage in the car until you know where your camper will be staying for the week. Please be sure to bring any medicine (prescription or over the counter) with you to check-in. The nurse will log the medicine and keep it in the nurse room.

Safety Information:

- In camp speed limit is 10 mph
- Traffic flows through one entrance and exit. Please be aware of other families.
- Mount Shepherd is a tobacco free; no smoking is permitted.
- If someone other than yourself (camper parent/guardian) will be picking up the camper at the end of the week, that person must be listed on the pick-up authorization list. They must also show a photo ID at the time of pick-up.

Arriving by Plane:

If your camper will be arriving by plane please contact the office at 336-629-4085 as soon as you start making travel plans. Mount Shepherd staff will do their best to accommodate and provide travel for your camper to and from the airport. In saying this, camp cannot promise that a ride can be provided for your camper. If a ride is provided an extra fee will be charged to the campers account. The fee will be mileage to and from the airport along with a 2-person staff fee to remain in compliance with our policies.

Late Arrival Policy:

If you know in advance that your camper will be arriving later than normal check-in time please email office@mtshepherd.org to let us know your camper's name and planned arrival time. If you are stuck in traffic on the day of check-in or something comes up and you need to check in later, please call us at 336-629-4085 and leave a message with the estimated time of arrival and your camper's name.

Departure/Check-Out:

Those picking up campers must be on the pick-up authorization list and must present a photo ID at the time of check-out. If the person that comes to pick up your camper is not on the list or is unable to show a photo ID, they will not be allowed to pick-up the camper. To add people to the pick-up authorization list please visit your camp account.

If you are unable to pick up your camper before the end of check-out at 3 pm you have the option to pay an additional \$20 per camper towards childcare. You can choose this option while registering your camper. You may also call the office and we can assist you in adding this to your account.

*If your camper will be picked up early please notify us on the day of check-in.

Check-Out times are as follows:

Overnight camp, CIT, and Adventure Camp: Friday 1-3 pm

Day Camp: Monday – Friday 4 -5:30 pm

Mini Camp 1: Wednesday 9-11 am

Mini Camp 2: Friday 1-3 pm

Camper Mail

There are a few ways to send your camper mail during their stay. Please note your options below.

Bringing mail during check-in: You may bring your camper's mail when you check them in. Please have the camper's name and day of the week you would like them to receive it. We will sort all mail to ensure they receive your letters.

Sending through Camp Account:

- Once your camper's session has started you are able to send them emails. The email you will need to send them to is campmailbag@gmail.com **They cannot send emails back.**
- Emails are, generally, delivered at lunch and dinner. In the subject line put the camper's name, cabin and their cabin name.
- If you have more than one child attending camp at the same time you will need to send the letters separately.
- Avoid the use of graphics and backgrounds in the message portion of your email. Pictures/photos will not be printed.

Sending a letter by US mail:

- Please mail a few days before your campers arrival. Mount Shepherd's address is:
Mount Shepherd Retreat Center
1045 Mount Shepherd Road Extension
Asheboro, NC 27205

We do encourage you to send letters instead of packages. If you choose to send a package we ask that you limit it to one per camp sessions. **Do not send** candy, baked goods, or packaged food of any kind. Food and sweets of any kind attract critters and will have to be confiscated.

Letters From Your Camper:

If you would like your camper to write home be sure to include a self-addressed stamped envelope with them along with stationary.

Phone Calls

If a camper requests to call home we allow them to use our office phone or our camp cell phone. If you have any questions or concerns you may call us at 336-629-4085 during 9 am-4 pm Monday- Friday. If you have an emergency after hours please call 336-301-2484.

Additional Policies

1. **Inappropriate Items:** Should there be any reasonable or probable cause, for health and safety of all campers and staff, your camper may be asked to inventory his/her belongings in the presence of administrative staff.
 - a. Campers are not allowed to have cell phones at camp. We ask that they stay at home. If a camper brings a cell phone it will be kept in the camp office for the duration of the week. If they would like to call home they are welcome to use the camp office.
2. **Visitors** must check-in/out at the office and are required to wear a visitor's pass.
3. **Regarding Friendships:** Mount Shepherd emphasize friendships at camp rather than "relationships." We do not allow PDA (public/private displays of affection) that go beyond friendship. Campers will be dismissed for inappropriate sexual behavior.
4. **Bullying:** Camp Mount Shepherd has a zero tolerance policy towards bullying. In the event that a camper has been bullying, parents will be contacted and the camper will be sent home.
5. **Dress Code:** Please take note of the following policies.
 - a. Nothing with slogans promoting alcohol, sex, tobacco, drugs, profanity, or death themes.
 - b. Females must wear a one-piece bathing suit. Boys must wear swimming trunks, not jammers or briefs.
 - c. Shirts, pants, and shoes are to be worn at all times unless campers are at the waterfront or pool area. At no time should underclothes show.
 - d. Closed toed shoes are required for some activities. Campers will not be able to participate in those activities if they do not have the closed toed shoes.
6. **Graffiti:** We reserve the right to charge a fine or request clean-up for any violations.
7. **Discharging a fire extinguisher:** Doing this unnecessarily is very dangerous. There will be a fine charged for this act and the camper may be dismissed.

Financial Assistance

As a part of our mission, Mount Shepherd is committed to making camp possible for ALL children, regardless of financial resources. We encourage camp families to reach out to their local church to request financial support. In order to qualify for a scholarship you must register your camper and pay the deposit fee. The application for scholarships must be filled out while registering your camper.

Camp Store

Visiting the camp store is a fun and exciting experience for campers. All campers will visit the store at least twice during their week at camp. The camp store has items ranging from \$1 to \$30. Items sold include: t-shirts (short & long sleeve), sweatshirts, Nalgene water bottles, bandanas, snacks, drinks, toiletries and more.

Camper's purchase items from the store with their store cards. Each camper's store money is kept on their own store card. Money can be added to a store card during the registration process or during check-in. All money collected for a camper's store card is recorded and maintained by a senior staff member. We highly encourage that campers do not keep cash in their belongings. This is to ensure that their money is not lost or stolen. If your camper has \$1 or more on their store card at the end of their camp week, we will refund them during check-out. If they have less than \$1, we transfer the money to our scholarship fund.

Store purchases can be made during check-in and check-out, but payments must be made using cash, check, or credit/debit card. The camper's store account is not available during those times.

Emergency/Sickness

Our practice is to contact parents or guardians when there is concern about a camper's health and/or when a situation is not progressing as expected. In the event of an emergency and/or accident, parents or guardians will be contacted immediately. If your child is taken to a medical facility

Lost & Found Policy

Camp Mount Shepherd is not responsible for items left behind, lost, or stolen. Parents are encouraged to label all clothing and personal items with the camper's full name. All items found during each session will be placed in the designated lost and found area. The lost and found items will be available during check-out. All items are held for 14 days. To claim an item you may call our office at 336-629-4085. Parents will be responsible for the cost (shipping and handling) of mailing any items. Any items not claimed after that time will be donated to a charitable organization.

Packing Lists/What to Bring: Please refer to the session that your camper will be attending.

Overnight Campers, Mini Camp, 6th Grade Camp, CIT:

- Prescription Medications (Pack separately and label to give to nurse upon arrival)
- 6 clothing outfits (including underwear and socks). Labeled with your campers first and last name.
- One pair of long pants
- Jacket/ sweatshirt
- Pajamas
- 2 pairs of shoes (Tennis Shoes/ water shoes)
- Swimsuit: Females must bring a one piece
- Rain gear
- School backpack (optional)
- Pillow & Sleeping Bag
- Twin sheets and a blanket (optional)
- Towel (bath and swimming)
- Bible (labeled inside) and pen, pencil, notebook/journal
- Soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush
- Deodorant
- Reusable water bottle (the camp store sells these: \$15)
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Sunscreen and bug spray
- Plastic or mesh bag for dirty/wet items
- 5 face masks (just in case!)

Optional Items:

- Camera
- Paper & self-addressed stamped envelopes for letters
- Favorite book (for reading during rest time)
- Camp store money (about \$20 to \$25)

Day Campers:

- School-type backpack
- Water bottle (the camp store sells these: \$15)
- Change of clothes
- Sturdy shoes
- Bathing suit (daily swim time) (Females: one-piece)
- Towel
- Flip flops to wear to the water and back
- Lunch Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (Lunch will be provided by Mount Shepherd Mondays + Fridays!)
- Sunscreen
- Rain jacket
- Camp store money (about \$20 to \$25)
- Face mask (just in case!)

Adventure Campers:

- Bible, notebook, pen/pencil
- Clothing that can get dirty
 - o Shorts & long pants
 - o Shirts (short & long sleeve)
 - o Extra socks
 - o Extra dry clothes
 - o Sweatshirt, sweater or jacket
 - o Rain coat with hood or cap
 - o Bathing suit (females: 1-piece)
 - o Sturdy closed-toed shoes or boots
 - o River sandals (sandals with a heel strap) or old tennis shoes that can get wet
- Mesh or plastic bag for wet clothes
- Personal Items (toothbrush/paste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, cup)
- Towels and washcloths
- Insect repellent (if desired)
- Sunscreen SPF 15 to SPF 30
- **Backpacking Pack** (REI, Gander Outdoor, and Walmart are great places to look for this. Please call our camp office if you have questions or need assistance. 336-629-4085)
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping foam pad (if desired)
- Flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries
- Plastic bowl and reusable silverware
- Reusable water bottle (the camp store sells these for \$15)
- Camp store money (about \$20 to \$25)
- 5 face masks (just in case!)

Personal Property and Things to Leave at Home:

Camp Mount Shepherd prohibits the use of the following items and are not responsible for loss, damage, or theft. Please leave the following items at home:

- **All electronics. This includes cell phones, tablets, and any other handheld devices**
- Skateboards
- Personal sports equipment
- Clothing that promotes alcohol, drugs, or profanity
- Matches or lighters
- Knives, firearms, or other weapons
- Walkie talkies
- A negative attitude
- Expensive camera, jewelry, or watches
- Food, candy, or gum. **No snacks or drinks will be allowed in the cabin area.** This is to keep critters out of camper living spaces.