JUNIOR CAMP 2026
Parent Notes

Co-Directors
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Harpeth Hills Junior Camp
July 12-17, 2025
Hy-Lake Christian Camp
For completed 4th, 5th, 6th Graders

Hy-Lake Christian Camp is located near McMinnville, TN on the Caney Fork River. It is about a two-hour drive from church to camp. This is a beautiful camp, nestled in the trees beside the river. It has been part of the Harpeth Hills experience for years, and we are thrilled to return this summer.
For many, it is the first time away from home for an extended stay. Junior Camp has a high staff to camper ratio, and we recruit outstanding counselors to interact with students during the week. Every child is unique, and sometimes the camp schedule needs to be adapted or modified. We would love to visit with you if you have questions.
It is heartwarming to see God work in the lives of these children as they spend a week immersed in God's teachings, in community with friends and fellow believers, and away from the distractions of media and life in general.

- Cost $300
- Applications due May 10 (after May 10 you may be added to a wait list with a late fee of $50)
- Campers are allowed to invite ONE guest
- Bus transportation available $30 (round trip) or $15 (one way)
- After completing the online registration, email a current headshot (photo) of your child to julief@harpethhills.org
- If the camp fee is a stretch for your family, please let us know as scholarships are available
- Contact Lacy Janssen (lacyj@harpethhills.org) or Jennifer Coats (jenniferc@harpethhills.org) with questions

The Staff
Junior Camp staff is a group of parents and adults who have a special love for 4th, 5th, and 6th Graders. They appreciate the uniqueness of this age group, they love their sense of humor and recognize the wide range of maturity levels in the group.

Junior Camp counselors are college students/young adults who spend the week mentoring our campers. We have at least 2 counselors per cabin, and we keep cabin sizes small to allow plenty of individual attention. Our counselors have liaisons who are devoted to pouring into them throughout the week so they can pour into our campers. Counselors have a huge impact on a child's experience at Junior Camp.

Safety
• Staff and Counselors are SAFE approved and selected by the camp advisory council.
• Junior campers are always with a counselor or adult staff member.
• 2 adults (counselors and/or staff) are in every cabin.

Cabin Placement:
Much prayer goes into cabin placement. Each camper is placed with at least one friend in his/her cabin and is in a cabin with kids in the same grade level. HH members are allowed to invite one friend with them to camp.

Nurse
Nurse's cabin on site is open 24 hours a day to take care of bumps, bites, and tummy aches. We have several nurses and a doctor on our staff each year. Many of our illnesses are homesick related, so a hug, a popsicle, and a little air conditioning usually heal most campers.
Please send any medication that your child is on in a labeled bottle/bag, just enough for the week. Deliver all medication (prescription and over the counter) on Saturday to the church with your child's luggage**. If your child has medication that will be administered at camp, we ask that you call the head nurse to give proper instructions and to clarify any questions they may have. Contact Melissa Logue (615-351-8856) if your child will be taking any medication at camp.**

Adaptations to the schedule
If your child needs an adjusted schedule because of illness, physical limitations or special needs, please contact Lacy or Jennifer so that we can plan ahead for the changes.

Before you leave home

Be confident in your child's ability to succeed at camp. Comments like "If you get homesick, call me and I will come and get you" set up a child to expect to be homesick. Instead, assure them that the week will be great with comments like "I can't wait to hear all about the week when you get home," and "The counselors and staff members are there to help you with anything you might need." Your attitude toward camp will be their attitude toward camp.

Let kids know the expectations in advance. We expect them to clean up their space and their bed every day and to participate in all activities. We expect them to help clean in the mess hall and the bath house. Make sure they know this going in!

If they have issues at camp, remind them that their counselor is there to help. The counselor is the first person to go to for all camp issues. Lacy and Jennifer, as well as other staff members are also available to help work through and process any issues that may come along.

If your child is a rising 7th grader, encourage them to step up and be a leader. There are few opportunities to be the oldest, so embrace this time! We will use this group to help counselors with song leading as well as several special activities that have been created just for these campers!

Schedule

• The schedule for the week is designed to be busy enough to keep kids on the move without wearing them out.

• Most nights, campers get around 8 hours of sleep, provided your child goes to bed at the designated time!

Food

• Food is healthy but kid friendly. Fruit and salad are available at almost every meal.

• Canteen is stocked with water, sports drinks, caffeine free drinks, and a wide range of candy. Campers may choose a drink and one candy at scheduled canteen times.

• Please **do not** send snacks from home! We have several food allergies and want to monitor the food at camp to keep camp safe for everyone. We also have no control over when and how much is consumed in the cabin.

Super Sports

Each day campers will enjoy different sports at junior camp. Our goal for this activity is to allow kids to develop relationships, to model Christian sportsmanship, and to have fun. We are not a sports camp. Our Super Sports model is designed to reduce negative competition and to allow more socialization among the campers, staff, and counselors. It is a time where everyone, from the very athletic to the not-so-athletic, is encouraged and cheered. All campers are encouraged to participate in Super Sports.

Mail

Mail call is a big deal at camp! Please write to your camper prior to camp and get it in the mail early. Mail cards even as early as Friday and they will receive mail on Monday. Remember we come home on Friday so **Wednesday is the cut off to mail letters**. Address:

Camper's Name
Hy-Lake Christian Camp
555 Hy-Lake Lane
Quebeck, TN 38579

An alternative being offered again this year is to bring letters to your child on Saturday, July 11 when you bring your luggage. A tub will be under the brown awning for drop off. Please have your child's name on the outside of all packages and envelopes as well as the day that you would like them to be delivered (Mon-Thurs). We will do our best to get them out on time!

Calling Home

• **Cell phones and any type of device (smart watches, iPads, Kindles, etc.) are not allowed**. This helps us to be aware of homesick children who are frequently calling home. You may call Jennifer at 615-406-6954 or Lacy at 615-557-2407. If you have a concern about your child, please let us know. We can often love a child through an afternoon or evening of homesickness if we are aware.

• Please don't "require" or encourage your child to call home. Frequent phone calls often lead to homesickness.

• Children are welcome to use Lacy and Jennifer's cell phones to call home if necessary, which is usually rare. If a child asks to call home, we will usually try texting back and forth with you first to get a comforting message from home. Sometimes a familiar voice makes the homesickness worse, but a text is just perfect. Campers are usually so busy with various activities that they don't think about calling home. This is a good thing. ☺

Conversations from home

• If your child does call home, ask them about the best part of the day, their favorite meal, or their afternoon activity. Be positive! Find out what game they played in Super Sports today. Be reassuring!

• Often parents unintentionally upset children with some of their questions or comments.

• Please **DO NOT** include the following in your conversation!

"We ate at your favorite restaurant tonight and then went to the movie."

"I miss you so much. I have been so sad and lonely since you left."

"I am counting the days until you come home."
"Are you homesick? Do I need to come and get you?"
"Is anyone talking to you?"
"Do you have any friends?"
"Are you feeling left out?"

Bus Transportation

Bus riders need to meet at the HH church parking lot at 2:15pm Sunday afternoon, July 12. Buses will leave by 2:30pm, no exceptions. If your child misses the bus, you will be responsible for providing transportation to camp. Bus riders will return at approximately 4pm on Friday. We have a limited number of seats on the bus, so if your plans change and you need to be removed, please let Jennifer or Lacy know ASAP. Cost is $15 each way.

Drop Off /Pick Up

The camp gates will open at 4:30pm on Sunday afternoon. If you arrive early, we will ask you to wait in your car either outside of the gate or on the blacktop if traffic backs up. After you drop your camper at the Welcome Party at the pavilion where your child's counselor will be waiting, you may park on the blacktop. You are welcome to walk your child to his/her cabin but need to leave camp by 5:00pm. Shuttle service will be available if necessary. Campers not riding the bus home on Friday are to be picked up at the blacktop at 1:30pm.

Friday Morning Worship

Camper's families are invited to worship with us on Friday morning. Worship will be led by the campers. Gates open at 11:15am. Worship begins at 11:30am.

Luggage

LUGGAGE MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE CHURCH ON SATURDAY, JULY 11 BETWEEN 12 – 1 pm. Luggage is transported to camp & placed in cabins for counselors to "set-up" before your child arrives on Sunday. This helps the transition process on Sunday. Please note the packing instructions for bedding to ensure your camper's bed is already made and ready for him/her before they get to camp. Mesh bedding bags are available for purchase for $10 at the Check in Desk while supplies last.

When you drop off luggage on Saturday, **orange duct tape will be available for you to mark anything that will come home in your personal vehicle**. This includes fans, bags, and trunks. **Anything not marked with orange duct tape will come**

back to church on the truck! Tape will be available in the cabins on Sunday as well. Please make sure the person dropping off luggage knows how the luggage will get home.

TYPICAL DAILY SCHEDULE

7:45	**Wake up**
8:15	**Breakfast & clean cabins**
9:00	**Verse Jam**
9:15	**Travel to Super Sports**
9:30	**First Game**
10:00	**Second Game**
10:45	**Devo**
11:15	**Quiet Time**
11:35	**Manna Time**
12:30	**Lunch**
1:30	**Rest time**
2:00	**Afternoon Activities: Crafts, Gorge, Tubing & water activities at the dock, Water Obstacle Course**
3:ish	**Afternoon Canteen**
5:00	**Clean up**
6:00	**Dinner**
7:00	**Devotional**
8:00	**Evening Activity**
9:00	**Canteen**
9:30	**Cabins**
10:00	**Bedtime**