

About St. Matthew's Day Camp - 2025

Please note: this is an overview of our regular camp program. While we intend to keep everything as similar as possible, some program adjustments may need to happen throughout the summer due to our temporary location. We will share information with parents regarding any necessary changes to events as details are finalized.

Mission Statement

The Summer Day Camp serves the children and families of the Parish and of the surrounding community. The camp provides a diverse recreational experience through a safe and structured program that emphasizes friendship, caring, self-esteem and fun. It provides both campers and staff the opportunity to enjoy the Parish grounds and the company of one another, and to develop physical, social, and personal skills in a Christian setting as a complement to their family upbringing and formal education. In addition, Day Camp provides opportunities for the development of leadership and guidance skills among the high school and college-aged staff.

Camp Groups

Each camper is placed in a camp group according to age and gender. Each group is assigned a counselor and a co-counselor. Campers work with their counselors to choose a group name, and the groups each design and silk-screen their own group t-shirt. Counselors and campers stay together in their groups for the entire program. The teamwork and friendship that develops within each group is the reason the Day Camp has been so successful for more than seventy years.

What to Wear

Camp is an extremely active and messy outdoor experience. You can expect your camper(s) to come home very messy and tired. Please do not send your child to camp wearing any clothes that should not get dirty. Shorts, a t-shirt, and sturdy tennis shoes are ideal. No sandals or open-toed shoes should be worn. Day Camp will provide two camp t-shirts to each camper, which will be sent home once they are used for silk-screening and tie-dye projects.

What to Wear

Keep an eye on the weather; fog in the morning can be quite chilly, and sometimes we get days that are exceptionally hot. Sunscreen is very important, as the campers spend the entire day outside. We recommend waterproof sunscreen be put on at home before camp, and again throughout the day, as needed. Please teach your child how to apply sunscreen and encourage its use. All campers need to bring a bathing suit and towel for our daily swimming program.

These items, along with a lunch, are usually kept in a backpack. **Please be sure to label everything with your child's first and last name.** We tend to grow a mountain of lost and found items, which can be avoided if all items are labeled. Do not send toys, electronics, cell phones, smart watches or anything of value to camp unless specifically requested by a memo from Day Camp.

Typical Camp Day

The campers meet with their groups and counselors between 8:45 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. The campers store their lunches and other belongings in their group's buckets. There is a brief flag ceremony at 9:00 and followed by an informal chapel service, which is an integral part of the Day Camp program. Chapel includes songs, prayers, and a skit to illustrate the "Thought for the Day". The entire chapel is prepared and performed by one of the camp groups. It is important that all campers arrive on time to camp. Campers who arrive late disrupt the chapel service.

There are several activities, which we call resource programs, that are scheduled for each group during the week and include Swimming, Arts and Crafts and Music. Each counselor plans additional activities that are appropriate for their particular group. Our counselors are walking encyclopedias of creative games and activities. Some of the more common games we play are Capture the Flag, Tag, Wild Kingdom, Dodgeball and a variety of sports. Groups also sing songs, perform skits, hike, bake cookies, tell stories, or just hang out together.

Day Camp wraps up each day at Big Tree, which is the time when the entire camp gathers together to enjoy skits, songs, and our weekly Big Spin. At 3:00 p.m., the campers and counselors walk together to carpool pick-up.

Lunch

Campers should bring a good, healthy lunch to camp each day. The lunch should include a drink in a non-breakable container. Please keep in mind that refrigeration is not available for camper lunches. There is no established snack break, so we encourage campers to eat a hearty breakfast. Most groups eat lunch around 11:30 a.m. The Parish of St. Matthew's is committed to caring for the environment. We encourage families to pack lunches that produce as little trash as possible. Periodically, a camp group will schedule a barbecue, and you will be asked to pack a hot dog or hamburger for your child. (Refrigeration is provided for barbecue lunches.) Ketchup and mustard are available, as well as s'mores for dessert. It is a good idea to stock up on hot dogs or hamburgers at the beginning of camp, so a barbecue does not require a last-minute trip to the store.

Swimming

The swimming program is supervised by counselors, co-counselors and certified lifeguards. All campers are expected to be in the water for instruction during each swim session. If there is a medical reason why your child should not swim, please send a note to camp with your camper. We ask that campers and families commit to participation in the swimming program. Swim time is designed to be fun as well as improve skills. Free swim is provided occasionally.

Trips

Groups typically enjoy a limited number of off-campus trips. For the older groups, we offer beach trips while the younger groups may schedule outings to make pizza or take a hike. Detailed information about each trip is shared ahead of time.

Overnights

Overnights are available to our campers in Groups 5-8. Campers stay at camp after carpool and participate in arts and crafts, swimming and games, and then enjoy a barbecue dinner. After dinner, campers and their counselors watch a movie together, while the rest of the staff works to stage an incredibly elaborate, fun and secret adventure. The adventure changes every year, and it is not uncommon for the staff to start planning before Christmas! The evening ends with hot chocolate and a campfire. The campers and counselors “sleep” in sleeping bags on the field. A hearty breakfast is provided the next morning. Parents can pick up a very tired, but happy camper the next morning at 8:45 a.m.

Carpool/ Possible Bus Option

The Day Camp has developed a system for drop off and pick up that is designed to maximize safety, as well as to be courteous to the other people who live in the area. All families who participate in the Day Camp are expected to abide by the rules of this system.

For this year in our temporary location, Day Camp is working to organize a bus option for families. Details about the cost and routes will be shared with families when they are finalized.

SPECIAL DAYS at CAMP

There are several special days that may happen during camp. Most of these days do not require that you prepare any differently for camp. Some of these days, like Costume Day, Tournament Day, or the Overnights, do require that you pack differently for camp. Each special day will be described in the weekly camp paper and a note will be sent home with additional instructions. A brief description of each special day is included below:

Word Day: Each group creates a carnival booth. Campers bring change to spend at the carnival. The money raised goes to charity.

All-American Hot Dog Cookout: The camp provides hot dogs, lemonade and chips to everyone for lunch to celebrate our nation's birthday.

Olympic Day: A day of track and field type events. Wear athletic shoes.

Costume Day: Campers wear costumes to camp based on a theme chosen by their group. The campers come dressed accordingly and then perform a song or skit with their group in the morning. The remainder of the day follows the regular camp schedule, so please bring clothes to change into.

!yaD sdrawkcaB: Backwards Day marks the halfway point of camp. We flip our swimming, music and arts and crafts schedule. Groups that had swimming in the morning will swim in the afternoon for the remaining three weeks of camp.

Tournament Day: A day filled with wacky games, and the ever-popular All Camp Water Fight! Campers should bring a water weapon that can be filled by placing it in a bucket. No water balloons are allowed.

Family Night: Families are invited to join us for an evening of camper skits and the beloved annual camp slide show! A detailed schedule will be sent home in the camp paper.

Thanksgiving Day: Our special day to give thanks and reflect on our summer together. We collect donated supplies for one of St. Matthew's Outreach partners.

***Please be sure to carefully read the Attendance Policy and Liability Waiver below before signing where indicated on the Registration form.**

ST. MATTHEW'S DAY CAMP ATTENDANCE POLICY

St. Matthew's Day Camp develops a family feeling, which is demonstrated by the extraordinary number of campers and staff that return year after year. We feel that this is due in part to the fact that our campers and staff are together for the entire experience. During the camp session, campers learn to work and play as a group. This allows for many special relationships to develop between the campers, their peers, and the staff. We strongly recommend that your camper(s) attend the entire session of camp.

Campers who successfully complete this year's program with **no less than eighteen full days' attendance at Camp (no more than six days absent)** will be considered "returning campers" next year. **Those with more than six unexcused full or partial day absences will generally lose their priority;** vacations are not normally considered excused absences. Attending other programs is also not considered an excused absence. Campers who arrive late or are picked up early are not attending a full day of camp.

The Vestry and Day Camp Board believe that enforcement of this attendance policy is appropriate stewardship of the wonderful resource that the Day Camp offers the Parish community.

St. Matthew's Day Camp

Informed Consent and Liability Release, Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risk

I authorize my child to participate in the St. Matthew's Day Camp Program. I understand and acknowledge that summer day camp programs, by their very nature, pose the potential risk of serious injury and/or illness to the individuals who participate. I understand and acknowledge that in order to participate in these activities, I and my participating son/daughter agree to assume liability and responsibility for any and all potential risks that may be associated with participation in the St. Matthew's Day Camp Program.

Despite all the above I am freely and voluntarily signing this "St. Matthew's Day Camp, Informed Consent and Liability Release, Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risk" form to enable and authorize my child to participate and releasing and discharging the Parish of St. Matthew and its governing board, officers, agents, employees and/or volunteers from any liability for my son/daughter becoming infected or injured in his/her participation in the event or activity.

I agree to and do hereby release and hold the Parish of St. Matthew and its governing board, officers, agents, employees and/or volunteers harmless for any and all claims; demands; causes of action; liability; damages; expenses; or loss of any sort, including bodily injury or death; because of or arising out of acts or omissions with respect to the St. Matthew's Day Camp Program. I acknowledge that I have carefully read this "St. Matthew's Day Camp, Informed Consent and Liability Release, Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risk" form and that I understand and agree to its terms.

Day Camp Calendar 2025 - Tentative

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
June 16 First Day of Camp	17	18	19 Juneteenth Holiday NO CAMP	20 Camp in Session
23	24	25 World Day	26	27 NO CAMP
30	July 1 Costume Day	2	3 Olympic Day	4 NO CAMP
7 sdrawkcaB !yaD	8	9 Boys or Girls Beach Day (Groups 5-8)	10 Boys or Girls Overnight* (Groups 5-8)	11 Overnight Pick-Up 8:45 a.m. NO CAMP
14	15 Tournament Day	16 Boys or Girls Beach Day (Groups 5-8)	17 Boys or Girls Overnight* (Groups 5-8)	18 Overnight Pick-Up 8:45 a.m. NO CAMP
21	22 Family Night	23 Thanksgiving Day	24 Last Day of Camp	25 NO CAMP

Please note: This is a TENTATIVE calendar. While the beginning and end dates are set, the special days and activities may change. An updated calendar is always available online at: www.ilovedaycamp.com

***The order of the Boys and Girls Overnights will be determined in February based on the number of campers in Troop 223 participating in Emerald Bay.**