

About St. Matthew's Day Camp

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 sixty-five 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.

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.

What to Wear

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 on Founder's Meadow before the groups walk together to the outdoor chapel area. The day begins with 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 includes 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, Fooseball, 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 each day. If there is a medical reason why your child should not swim, please send a note to camp with your child. 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

Each group enjoys a limited number of off-campus trips. For the older groups, we offer beach trips while the younger groups may schedule outings to places like Palisades Pizza, Will Rogers State Park, and the fire station. Groups may also hike in the local mountains.

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 Big 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

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. The instructions are included in this mailing. All families who participate in the Day Camp are expected to abide by the rules of this system. We will create an All Camp Roster during the first week of camp and share it with families who want to form carpools. We encourage everyone to carpool in order to reduce traffic. Please carefully read the Mandatory Carpool Procedures below and then sign in the indicated place on the Registration Form.

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 on Big Field. 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 canned goods for the Westside Food Bank.

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

MANDATORY CARPOOL PROCEDURES

Please read carefully, and then sign the indicated place on the Registration form.
**Your child's ability to attend Day Camp is contingent upon you,
and any driver picking up your camper, following these procedures at all times.**

Summer at St. Matthew's is a very busy time. Having so many quality programs at St. Matthew's at the same time requires that everyone involved work together and cooperate as a team. An example of this teamwork is the carpool system that was designed by the Day Camp, Summer School, Parish Day School and Parish. We would like to thank everyone for cooperating with the carpool system.

- **During morning and afternoon carpool, all cars enter at the upper gate.** Please follow the signs to join the Day Camp carpool line on the left side of the loop road. Cars will drive around the road and enter the parking lot where campers will be safely loaded and unloaded by Day Camp staff.
- **During camp hours, the loop road will be closed to all traffic.** THE GATE WILL CLOSE AT 9:00 IN THE MORNING. Please be sure your campers arrive by that time. THE GATE WILL NOT OPEN UNTIL 2:40 IN THE AFTERNOON. Please do not arrive for carpool until after that time. It is essential that we do not block traffic on Bienvenida.
- **Please be courteous and drive slowly at all times on the Loop Road.** We share this road with the summer school carpool in the morning and afternoon so Day Camp cars need to stay to the left. Drivers must not be on cell phones while driving.
- **Under no circumstances should a driver park on Bienvenida and walk in to pick up their children.** In addition to being a violation of our Conditional Use Permit, it is dangerous to load a car on Bienvenida and it undermines the system that we have in place. If there is a need to rush a child to an appointment, please call the Day Camp office to arrange an earlier pick up. **All early pick-ups must take place before 2:30 p.m.; after that, families must use the carpool line.**
- **Do not park on Bienvenida below or above the St. Matthew's property.** If you need to pick up a camper early, drop off a camper late or need to visit camp during camp hours, please park in the lower church lot and walk to the camp office. The lot below the Parish Center is one of our program areas and will not be available.
- **Parents may not park at a friend's house and walk to pick up children at any time.** If you live near St. Matthew's and plan to walk your camper home during the summer, please send a note to the Day Camp office on the first day of camp. You will be asked to sign out with a Program Director at dismissal each day.
- **We may have to alter the usual procedures from day to day due to unforeseen circumstances.** Please pay careful attention to any changes that occur, and respectfully follow the directions of the sextons, school staff and Day Camp staff.

Please be respectful of the staff in the parking lot at all times. They are there to ensure campers' safety and that each person follows the carpool procedures correctly. **If the person dropping off or picking up your child does not follow these procedures, your child will not be allowed to attend the camp program.**

**We appreciate your patience and cooperation.
Thanks to all for helping carpool run smoothly and safely!**

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 2024 - Tentative

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
June 17 First Day of Camp	18	19 Juneteenth Holiday NO CAMP	20	21 Camp in Session
24	25	26 World Day	27	28 NO CAMP
July 1	2 Costume Day	3	4 Fourth of July Holiday NO CAMP	5 Camp in Session Olympic Day
8 sdrawkcaB !yaD	9	10 Boys Beach Day (Groups 5-8)	11 Boys Overnight (Groups 5-8)	12 Overnight Pick-Up 8:45 a.m. NO CAMP
15	16 Tournament Day	17 Girls Beach Day (Groups 5-8)	18 Girls Overnight (Groups 5-8)	19 Overnight Pick-Up 8:45 a.m. NO CAMP
22	23 Family Night	24 Thanksgiving Day	25 Last Day of Camp	26 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