

Dear Volunteer,

We are so incredibly thankful that you are willing to give your time, energy and dedication to this program. Heartland Camp could not function without your heart for the Lord and service. We are so excited to go through this adventure with you and hope you know how valued and loved you truly are.

This week will be full of exciting activities, some challenges and what we hope to be growth among all involved. Spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ is the heart of our program and we hope that through all the fun, games and crazy songs, the message of God's love and grace is the loudest and most obvious of them all.

You are a vital part of this ministry and we hope this packet helps to prepare you for an amazing camp experience. While we know nothing can ever fully prepare you for something better than actually doing it, this packet is designed to set you up for success and give you the tools to partner with our team in an amazing week of service.

If you get through this packet and have questions, ideas or inspiration please don't hesitate to contact us. Our program is sharpened and made better each year because of volunteer suggestions and questions and we are so thankful for your input.

Remember that you are dearly loved and valued. Thank you again for your willingness to go through this crazy camp adventure with us! We can't wait to do God's work with you.

Serving Together,

Heartland Camp Staff

Contact:

Phone: (816) 891-1078

Email: program1@heartlandcenter.org

Heartland's Mission and Program Goals:

Heartland Camp is dedicated to building relationships and impacting lives in a Christ-centered environment.

We strive to;

- Share the Good News of Jesus Christ in an outdoor setting
- Help lay the foundation for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Ensure that every camper understands they are loved as a child of God.

We exist because we firmly believe that God changes lives through our Christ-centered programs.

Heartland Staff Roles and Responsibilities

Staff:

Heartland Camp hires staff who are caring, committed, and prepared to provide an amazing Camp experience.

What are the expectations of Heartland Staff?

- Have a good understanding of the activities and curriculum and be capable of leading all things on the schedule.
- Be present at all planning and activities during the week and stay for their entirety.
- Be open to all ideas and suggestions to make our program the best it can be
- Insure that safety is of primary importance and be familiar with emergency procedures. Every Heartland Center staff is trained in First Aid & CPR.
- Work well with everyone involved so that all who are participating feel loved as a child of God

Volunteer Roles and Responsibilities

Volunteers:

All volunteers will be willing to fully participate in the job they've been assigned and help to ensure that the week of Camp is successful.

What are the expectations of Volunteers?

- Have read the material provided by Heartland in order to have a good understanding of the activities and curriculum and be capable of participating and leading (by choice) activities on the schedule.
- Be present when needed for communication and meetings
- Be open to all ideas and suggestions to make our program the best it can be
- Insure that safety is of primary importance and be familiar with emergency procedures
- Work well with everyone involved so that all who are participating feel loved as a child of God

Volunteer FAQs

Does it cost anything to be a volunteer?

Because we appreciate the help and your support is an encouragement to our mission, being a volunteer is FREE!

We are able to provide FREE housing and FREE meals during the time you volunteer with us.

The only costs to keep in mind are the following:

- You are responsible for the cost of getting to/from the camp.
- Any supplies you need outside of what camp can provide must be purchased on your own

What dates are available for volunteering?

We typically start camp during the first week of June and end in the first week of July. Please give us a call for more specific dates and details.

Available volunteer spaces are based on how much help is needed each day and are filled on a first come first serve basis.

You may volunteer with us for a half week through multiple weeks.

What are the requirements for volunteering?

If you would like to volunteer at Heartland Camp please review the following requirements to see if you qualify:

1. Must be 18+ years of age at the time you arrive
2. Must be 16+ years of age to serve as a Day Camp Counselor (Housing is not provided for those under 18, inquire for details)
3. Must be able to volunteer for the entire time your selected job is required

The Elements of Camp

Morning Bible Study (Camp Lingo: Morning Watch)

Our weekly theme will be developed in small groups. The children will be asked questions based on a skit or story from the morning worship. Bible study and activities are also used to help children deepen their understanding of God.

Meals

- Meals are at 8, 12, and 5:30 (Except 6:00 on Sunday nights.)
- Campers in Pete's, Highlander, and Oak Place camps generally have their meals in the Dining Hall.
- Campers in Hogans/Platform tents, and A-Frame Cabins eat the majority of their meals at their campsite.

Arts and Crafts

The campers make something each day that ties into the daily theme and provides them an opportunity to share their experiences with others

Activities

Archery, horses, swimming, Slip n' Slide, water games, gaga ball, field games

Evening Worship (Camp Lingo: Vespers)

This is a time at the end of the day used for wrapping up the day's theme. Closing Worship activities can include; celebration and praise through songs, prayer, scripture, drama and stories.

Small Group Camping:

Heartland camps functions in small groups. Each counselor is in charge of 6-7 campers and is paired with another counselor of 6-7 campers. These 12-14 kids and 2 counselors are a family group. **Every volunteer will be paired with a Heartland staff and participate in activities together throughout the week.** We choose small group camping based on Jesus' model of having a small group of disciples. Throughout the week campers are able to be known and to know the others in their group.

Chain of command:

Each camper is supervised by counselors, who are supervised by a program assistant, who is supervised by the program director(s).

-All Back-up Staff (volunteers and activity leaders) as well as Lead staff are supervised by the program assistant(s), who are supervised by the program director(s).

Typical Weekly Schedule:

Sunday:

1:00 Volunteer Orientation
2:00 Staff and Volunteer Meeting
3:00 Volunteer Directors have a brief meeting with their counselors and then counselors move into cabins as all others help set up for registration
4:00 Camper Registration Begins
6:00 Dinner
8-9 Evening Worship Services

Monday-Thursday:

8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Morning Bible Study
10-12 Activities (Archery, Horseback Riding, Ropes Course etc.)
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Rest Time
2-3:30 Craft Time (Counselor Break Time)
3:30-5 Swimming
5:30 Dinner
6:30 Evening Activities
8-9 Evening Worship Services

****Wednesday-** If you are an Explorer (youngest campers) director or volunteer counselor you should arrive at 5:00 PM for a short orientation with our program director during our dinner. Please plan on eating with us that evening.
-Explorer Campers arrive after dinner on Wed. at 7pm

Friday:

8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Morning Bible Study
10-12 Activities (Archery, Horseback Riding, Ropes Course etc.)
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Rest Time
2-3:30 Craft Time (Counselor Break Time)
** Counselor breaks – our staff counselors will take 2 hours of break per day. They work a long summer and this is one way to keep them fresh. They will take this break during activities that are led by other staff members (crafts, activities, etc.) This will ensure that there are always at least 2 adult leaders with each group at all times.**
3:30-5 Swimming
5:30 Campers Check-out
7-8:30 Staff Meeting/Dismissal until 2pm on Sunday

****Schedules will vary depending on the type of camp you are participating in****

Volunteer Packing List

- __ Joy of Christ and love of kids
- __ Prayer
- __ Bible
- __ Notebook
- __ Pen/Pencil
- __ Backpack/Small bag to carry Bible, notebook, curriculum, first aid stuff, etc. when counseling
- __ Sleeping bag/sheets/blanket (You may consider sheets/blanket for your bed in Oak Place [staff housing] and a separate sleeping bag to take when you counsel-just a suggestion)
- __ Pillow
- __ Towels (bath and beach)
- __ Toiletry articles (shampoo, soap, etc... whatever is needed to keep clean and beautiful!)
- __ Battery operated alarm clock to wake you up when counseling in the Wilderness or Highlander camps unless you have a watch that works
- __ Flashlight
- __ Insect repellent
- __ Sunscreen
- __ Water bottle/Camelbak/canteen
- __ Rainwear
- __ Tennis shoes
- __ Sandals with backs only (wearing flip-flops is discouraged because the terrain is so hilly and plus you can not run very well in them! You may wear flip-flops on your time off or if life guarding)
- __ Swimsuit (Please keep these modest-Men: no speedo bikinis, Women: only a one piece or a modest tankini, absolutely no bikinis!)*
- __ Outdoor clothes: shorts, t-shirts, tank tops, jeans, etc.*
- __ Work clothes: jeans, long sleeved shirt, hard shoes or boots
- __ Hat (if you like)
- __ Health form if not already turned in
- __ Items to enhance the program such as musical instruments, costumes, props, sports equipment, fun/crazy items, etc...
- __ Bible study/devotional materials if you have them.
- __ Drinks and snacks to keep in House of Faith for your time-off

* Clothing: When considering clothing please keep in mind that this is a Christian camp and we want to keep it modest. Tank tops are fine, but please no bare midriffs or revealing cleavage. As leaders of the camp we need to set examples for our campers. With poor body image, eating disorders, and sexuality issues so prevalent in today's society we can set the example of being "in the world, but not of it". Thanks!