

CAMP FAQ

Why Church Camp?

Vacation time and finances are limited – why should I use my resources to send my child to summer camp? Your child has many opportunities to build relationships and memories – what better place than to build those relationships that are God-centered and biblically guided.. Other activities will fade over the years, but church camp can set a foundation for eternity.

Where and When & Who?

Camp Ao-Wa-Kiya – 8401 W Thomas Pike, Shelby, MI. 49455 July 19-25, 2026

Any child who has completed 3rd-12th grade is welcome. Children who have completed 2nd grade may attend with an adult.

Kids are divided into 3 groups –

Camp 45 -Ending 3rd/4th grades JR High – Ending 5th-7th Grades SR High – Ending 8th-12th grades

My child has never left home before – I'm not sure if he's ready.

Only you as a parent will know if your child is ready, but often the child is ready to go before the parent is ready for them to leave. Our counselors are mainly parents themselves and the kids are so busy they rarely have time to be homesick. Campers must be able to shower themselves and take care of personal hygiene with verbal direction. If you're still not sure- you're welcome to come along.

Who are the counselors in charge of my child?

We take our own counselors from First Pres and some participating churches. They are mostly parents, staff, and volunteer staff that regularly work with our students. These counselors already have a relationship with your child and it deepens throughout the week. All counselors are background checked and there are at least 2 counselors per cabin. In addition to our staff, the camp also provides staff that run the recreation, meals, and waterfront areas.

My child has medical concerns.

We take a medical staff with us to camp who are on duty 24/7. We have an RN and other assistants. They deal with everything from handing out band-aids to asthma attacks. We have a full range of medical supplies and equipment at the camp as well. If there is a need we will transport children to the hospital for additional testing or care after consulting with a parent.

My child has a disability

We have worked through many disabilities throughout our years so that the child is able to participate to their fullest ability. There are many modifications that we can make to accommodate your child's physical or mental health but we have to know what those look like. If you're child needs special accommodations call Jamie Barwikowski 734-775-1836 directly and be very honest on our health form – things that trigger anxiety or things that calm your child are very important for us to know.

What if my child gets sick?

The medical staff has a designated sick room and will monitor your child if symptoms appear during camp for 24 hours. We will consult with a parent by phone and decide if the child is able to return to camp or if they need to be picked up.

My child is a picky eater – will he find something to eat?

There are a variety of options available at all meals which are served family style or buffet. Counselors sit with the campers during meals and make sure that they do eat something to sustain them throughout the week. You may also send some of their favorite foods with them. The camp works well with the parents to accommodate dietary allergies. You must fill out the online allergy form directly with the camp in order for them to accommodate.

My child still wets the bed

We have had some campers who still wear pull ups at night and are able to be discreet with these. If a child does have an accident we do have laundry facilities available where the staff will take care of the bedding. We do ask that you let us know if this could be an issue so that we can monitor and make sure that your child does not need his bedding laundered.

My child doesn't know how to swim

Swimming is a choice for the kids. The lake does go in gradually and children are able to play at the edge of the water and always keep their feet on the ground. Only children who pass a swim test are allowed in the deep end of the lake and all water sports require kids to wear a life jacket. Certified lifeguards are at every water event – even the polar bear swim.

Can my child call home and check in?

We do not allow electronics including cell phones at camp since the goal is take children away from distractions. We do post pictures throughout the week so parents can see how their child is doing throughout the week and parents may also send email messages to their children. Camp staff do have cell phones if parents need to speak to someone but cell phone coverage is spotty. Please do not encourage your child to call home using a counselor's phone as this often makes the homesickness worse.

What if I can't afford to pay for the week?

Camp is \$400. The price goes up after July 1. We do offer a payment plan where you can pay the amount over four installments. We also have family pricing. For children living in the same household the first child is full price, the 2nd child is \$300, the 3rd child is \$200 off and the 4th is \$100 and additional children are free. If that still poses a financial strain for your family we have scholarship money available to help offset the costs. You may speak to Jamie Barwikowski or Aaron Carr and complete a scholarship application.

My child doesn't have a "group" that he's friends with

We have many kids that come without a best friend but they quickly form relationships throughout the week. Many kids come from outside of First Pres not knowing anyone and leave with long term friends.

Where do I send email?

fpsummercamp@gmail.com. Please do not send links or large graphics as we print hard copies for your camper.

How many people are going?

2025

121 Campers

21 Camp 45

50 JR High

54 SR High

52 Staff including a RN

Bus

You may provide your own transportation to or from camp or you may ride with us in the church vans or a chartered bus. Space is limited on the bus/vans so you must pre-register and pay. If you choose to ride the bus/vans there will be an additional fee of \$20.00/person. If you select this option on your registration you will need to pay that fee at registration.

Camp Money

How much money does my child need? Your child doesn't NEED any money for the week. However, averages are about \$20-\$40 per child. Money is held in a camp bank account – do not send cash with your camper.. Monies must be banked 1 week prior to camp.

- Prices for junk food - \$1.50-\$3/item
- T-shirts - \$15-\$20 (1 camp t-shirt is included for everyone)

What do I do with medications?

- All medications need to be in their original bottle with the camper's name on it.
- The medication form must be completed with specific instructions for when and how these medications are to be dispensed. Send only the amount of medication needed for their time at camp.
- No child is to have medication in their possession during camp with the exception of an inhaler. This includes over the counter medications.

Dress Code

Girls - No halter tops or spaghetti-strap tops. Straps must be at least 3 finger widths wide. All tops must be long enough to be tucked in. No holes in clothing between the knees and the shoulders. Bras showing and cleavage are not allowed. Skirts

and shorts must be fingertip length. If legging-style pants are worn, shorts or a skirt must be worn over them. A one piece swimsuit or tankini is required with no holes or cut outs. Swim shorts/skirt is required to use the obstacle course. Boys -No tank tops, t-shirts/sweatshirts with sides cut out, or suggestive athletic wear. Underwear of any sort should never be showing. Shirts should be worn when not swimming. No holes in clothing between the knees and the shoulders.

What about cabins

All cabin assignments will be given to the campers when they arrive at camp. We will guarantee 1 roommate request.

Girls – 10-12 campers/room with 2 adults

Boys – 8-12 campers/room with 2 adults –

Most cabins have a separate bath house so if you are sending multiple children they will all need their own shower supplies.

Fans are ok to bring – remember – plugs are at a premium

Electronics

NO ELECTRONICS – including on the bus – phones, ipods, ipads, or other items need to be left at home.. If wearing an apple watch or similar device it needs to be set to airplane mode.

Photos and Updates

Each day we will post photos and updates on our private facebook group. Join First Pres Summer Camp to keep up to date and to watch your child at camp.

In Case of Emergency

If you need to reach us and your child – contact Jamie Barwikowski at 734-775-1836 or call the main camp line ([231](tel:2318612466)) [861-2466](tel:2318612466)

I'm interested but I'd like more Information

Visit our website at www.fpchurch.com to see video and pictures from last year. Call Jamie Barwikowski at 734-775-1836 or email at jlbarwikowski@yahoo.com and I'd be glad to talk to you about it.

How do I register?

fpchurch.com - Summer Camp

CAMP PACKING CHECKLIST

Please make sure that all belongings are labeled with the camper's name. We ask you to limit yourself to 1 bag per person plus sleeping bag & pillow. Everything must be marked clearly on the outside – garbage bags work well. If you have multiple campers please pack each of their belongings separately including toiletries.

- Sleeping bag or sheets with blanket
- Pillow
- Toiletries – Soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc. (If you are sending multiple children they will each need their own toiletries as shower times and locations may be different.)
- Towels (2) & Wash cloth
- Bug repellent
- Sunscreen
- Flash light
- Small Fan
- Large bag for dirty clothes
- Jacket or sweater for cool nights
- Pull on track pants or sweat pants
- Two pairs of shoes – one must be tennis shoes
- Bathing suit (modest one piece for girls – no bare midriffs)
- Clothes for 7 days (finger length shorts & full coverage shirts with at least 3 finger width straps, no crop tops, no pants/shorts with holes above the knees). No underwear showing.
- Water bottle with name on it
- Small tote bag or back pack to utilize each day
- Bible
- Notebook & Pen or pencil
- Rain jacket or poncho
- White t-shirt to tie dye (100% cotton)

Make sure to label all of your child's items

DO NOT BRING

CELL PHONES

Cash

Vape pens

Anything that would deter from the genuine camp experience