

**YOUTH AMERICA SUMMER CAMPS**  
**BUILDING NEXT GENERATION CHURCHES AND LEADERS**  
**TAKING GROUND 2016**

**YOUTH PASTOR AND LEADER**  
**PRE-CAMP INFORMATION**

THINGS TO DO & KNOW  
PRIOR TO CAMP ARRIVAL & CHECK-IN

Carefully read this information, as it is **VITAL** to your registration process. If you have any questions regarding registration please call the Youth America Communications Director Lindsey Baldwin at 405.229.2242 and/or email at [lindsey.baldwin@harvestokc.com](mailto:lindsey.baldwin@harvestokc.com). We are committed to serving you with excellence.

# PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

## 1. Deposits/Medical Release Forms

- If you have not completed and submitted these already, submit your deposits and/or balance payment. It is imperative you submit your entire groups' completed Medical Release Forms with the financial balances on the date due. ***Retain a copy of each form and payment you submit for your records.***
- Keep in mind, if you have missed your deposit or balance deadlines you will be subject to those fees.
- Make sure your student to leader ratio is at least 8:1 (8 students for every 1 leader)

## 2. Setting Up Your Check In Time

- Set up your arrival time with the camp communications director by emailing [lindsey.baldwin@harvestokc.com](mailto:lindsey.baldwin@harvestokc.com) and/or call us at 405.229.2242.
- ***You must set a registration appointment prior to your arrival at camp***
- These appointments are set up between **11:00AM and 3:00PM**. We will NOT register anyone before 11:00AM or after 3:30PM so be sure to schedule your travel arrangements accordingly.

## 3. Notify Youth America Communications Director of Any Changes

- Notify our Camp Communications Director of any changes to your group including the following areas
  - Change in total number of registrants including leaders
  - Change in total number of males and females
    - Keep in mind that late fees and cancellation deadlines (details can be found at [YouthAmerica.org](http://YouthAmerica.org))
  - Change in arrival time for Check In

## **CHECK IN PROCESS ON YOUR ARRIVAL DAY**

Please note that all arrival times are by appointment only. Registration will NOT begin until 11:00am. *Please do not arrive prior to this time and expect to begin registering. Our facilities will not be available to you before then.* There will be no registration appointments set after 3:00pm. If an emergency occurs and you will not arrive within your scheduled time please call the Youth America Communications Director at 405.229.2242 and communicate your new expected arrival time.

### **Checkpoint 1 – *Located at the front drive of property***

- Upon arrival to the campus, the Youth America Welcome Team will greet you
- He or she will ask for your male/female ratio. This ratio should be all individuals, leaders, and campers, who have actually arrived with you
- Once they have your ratio they will instruct you to Checkpoint 2

### **Checkpoint 2 – *Located in the Lobby of the main building***

- A Welcome Team member will assist the Youth Pastor/Head Leader to the registration table to begin process.
- The Youth Pastor/Head Leader will meet with the Youth America Finance Department and pay final balances (if needed).
- After settling any outstanding balances (if needed), the Youth Pastor/Head Leader will then check in their group
  - Youth America Communications Director will verify all group information and medical release forms that have been submitted
    - Please have a copy of medical release forms available
  - The Youth Pastor/Head Leader will receive an envelope with camp manuals, schedules, and other important documents.
  - The Youth Pastor/Head Leader will then take a picture and then be escorted to lower campus by one of our Welcome Team members to meet back up with their group.
- Also, a Welcome Team member will distribute the proper wristbands to your students and leaders on the bus/van.
- After all students have wristbands, and if registration ratios are accurate, the students will be escorted to the dorms to unload luggage
  - Students should visit the Cliffhanger or Gym to sign up for Sports and Talent competitions

### **Checkpoint 3 – *Located in front of the Guard Shack***

- A Team Games leader will be covering all materials pertaining to Sports and Talent Competitions
  - Each student must sign up in the Youth America Gym and/or in the Cliffhanger for Sports and Talent Activities at camp.

## Checkpoint 4 – *Located in the Cul-de-Sac*

- A Team Games leader will be covering all materials pertaining to our Youth America Store and Paintball.
  - Our Youth America Store is located in the Main Auditorium of the main building. This is available throughout the week to grab our latest YA apparel.
  - The Paintball field is located just beyond the Rock Wall. You can purchase tickets in our Camp Office located in the Cliffhanger.

## Checkpoint 5 – *Located at the Volleyball Court*

- A Team Games leader will be covering all materials pertaining to Concessions and Food Trucks.
  - Our Concessions and Food Trucks are located in the Cliffhanger.
  - Concession is opened everyday from 12-5 pm and every night after service.
  - Food Trucks are located in the front of the Cliffhanger and opened each night.

## Checkpoint 6 – *Cliffhanger Cafe*

- At Checkpoint 3, there will be a team ready to welcome you and help get all of your groups luggage unloaded in the appropriate dorm.
- Once all luggage is unloaded, your groups vehicle(s) can be driven back to the parking lot on the EAST side of the main building (back parking lot).
- Please be as prompt as possible when unloading luggage due to other groups in line behind you.

# ORIENTATION FOR LEADERS & STUDENTS

### **All Leaders Orientation Dinner**

- All Leaders Orientation Dinner begins at 5pm and will be held in the Small Auditorium
- This is a time when the Leadership team of Youth America will introduce themselves and go over the basics of summer camp.
- All Youth Pastors/Head Leaders, and youth leaders (black wristbands) are required to be at this dinner

### **Student Orientation**

- Orientation will be covered in the main auditorium before service begins and it is required for everyone (students and leaders) to attend.

# YOUTH AMERICA TEAM GAMES

Youth America team games are your groups opportunity to participate in a camp wide team competition, strengthening your youth group, building lasting relationships with the other churches on your team, putting into practice the values of teamwork and servanthood, not to mention winning BIG points all along the way. Teams will be made up of your group plus others; working together the whole week.

- **Team Rallies** are a time when all of the students on a team gather together to go over how to win points. Each team will gather in a specified location.
  - Team Rallies begin at 4pm on Monday after groups unload their luggage and sign up for Sports and Talent Competitions
- Teams earn points by...
  1. Room Inspections
    - Each day, rooms will be inspected for cleanliness
  2. Servanthood
    - It's a Youth America tradition and a Godly discipline to find ways to serve your leaders. There will be opportunities all week to serve Youth America staff/interns and even others for HUGE points.
  3. Team Spirit
    - A spirit of unity is key to students becoming open to the things God is so ready to do in them. All week, whether through service or in the afternoon activities, points will be given for showing team spirit and unity. The more people serving the more points you get.
  4. Morning Slam
    - Strategically placed between morning sessions each day, this exciting game experience will be full of crazy-fun moments students will never forget!

## **AFTERNOON GAMES AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Afternoon Games**

- Afternoon Games are a fun opportunity for students to take advantage of, as well as a chance to earn big points for your team
- From 3-5pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday we will have optional games to be a part of
- Each person from your team that comes out to participate will earn points. So the more people, the MORE POINTS and the more fun!

### **Swimming Pool**

- Youth America has a Jr. Olympic sized swimming pool that will help you stay cool during your stay with us
- Open each afternoon and most nights
- Pool attire will be monitored (See Camp Expectations)

## **Sports Competitions**

- ***You must sign up for all sports competitions immediately upon your arrival***
  - All sports sign-ups forms will be available when you arrive at camp in the Cliffhanger AND Gym
- All sports competitions are single elimination; they will begin on Tuesday afternoon, with final tournaments on Thursday afternoon or evening.

### **Categories of Sports Competitions**

#### **Basketball (3 on 3)**

- High School Boys (Grades 10-12)
- Junior High Boys (Grades 7-9)
- High School Girls (Grades 10-12)
- Junior High Girls (Grades 7-9)

***\*No leaders may participate in basketball competitions***

#### **Volleyball (6-8 Person)**

- Volleyball Teams may have 1 Youth Pastor OR Leader play per team
  - Volleyball Competitions are co-ed and all ages together
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- Groups of 0-20 may sign up for a combination of four basketball teams and two volleyball teams. For every additional 10 youth in your group, you may add 1 additional basketball team. For every additional 20 youth in your group you may add one additional volleyball team.
  - The definition of a group is a church or churches that register together under one name. Sister churches will not be considered as one church group, unless they are registered accordingly.
  - Sports Awards will be given for first, second and third place winners on Friday morning during the closing session.

## **Talent Competitions**

- ***You must sign up for all talent competitions immediately upon your arrival***
  - All talent sign-ups forms will be available when you arrive at camp in the Cliffhanger AND Gym
- Youth America Talent is a chance for students to show off all of their skills!
- Whether you sing, dance, rap or juggle, the first place winners from each category will get the chance to perform for everyone during a Youth America service!

### **Categories of Talent Competitions**

#### **Vocal Competition**

- The Vocal Competition is a 3 round singing competition, where contestants are eliminated based on their performance
- Singers come prepared with a 30 second a capella song of their choice to perform for the judges Monday night
- Remaining contestants will then choose from a selection of 10 songs to perform for the judges later in the week

- The winner will perform during the Thursday night service
- Tracks and practice time will be provided for all Youth America Idol contestants

### **Vocal Instrumental Competition**

- Vocal Instrumental is an expression of song, performed by 1 to 6 people with live music (band or single instrument) singing and playing together
- Contestants will be judged on things such as pitch, togetherness and tuning of instruments
- The first place winner will perform for Youth America in a service.

### **Instrumental Competition**

- Instrumental is an expression of song through an instrument or instruments (this may be a band performance but no vocals please)
- Contestants will be judged on things such as togetherness and tuning of instruments. All instruments are welcome! (Guitar, Sax, keyboards, etc.)
- The first place winner will perform for Youth America in a service

### **Variety Competition**

- Variety is a chance for students to showcase their finest skills, whether they rap, juggle, dance, act, or do magic tricks!
- Contestant will be judged on preparation, confidence and performances
- The first place winner will perform for Youth America in a service
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- EACH GROUP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING ALL OF YOUR OWN MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF DRUMS AND KEYS), PROPS OR COSTUMES NEEDED FOR ANY TALENT ENTRIES.

## Guidelines and Rules of Talent Competitions

### **Scoring**

- There are seven basic areas the performer will be judged on during the performance: skill, memorization, confidence, appearance, movement, preparation, and impact.

### **Time Frame**

- Each performer should be within a time frame of 3 to 5 minutes. If the performance exceeds the allotted time, points will be deducted.

### **Age Limit**

- NO leader (anyone with a black wristband) can perform. Leaders can help a performer as long as the leader is NOT the main focus of the performance.

- EACH GUIDELINE IS JUDGED ON A SCALE FROM 1-10, TEN BEING THE HIGHEST AND ONE BEING THE LOWEST. THE OVERALL SCORE IS TOTALLED FROM THERE. THIS WILL DETERMINE WHOM WILL PLACE 1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD FOR EACH CATEGORY. EACH 1ST PLACE WINNER THAT COMES WITHIN 15 POINTS OF THE HIGHEST SCORE AVAILABLE WILL BE ABLE TO PERFORM FOR THE ENTIRE YOUTH AMERICA CAMP. IF THERE IS ONLY ONE ENTRY IN A CATEGORY, THEY MUST REACH THE MINIMUM SCORE IN ORDER TO PERFORM FOR A SERVICE. ALL MATERIAL MUST HAVE A POSITIVE MESSAGE. SCORE SHEETS AND JUDGES COMMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AND THE END OF YOUR CAMP WEEK.

### **Rockwall**

- For those athletic and brave enough for the rock wall experience, it's available each afternoon
- There is no charge for this activity

### **Paintball**

- Paintball is set-up in a designated field area with multiple obstacles and barriers
- There is a minimal cost charged for games of paintball

### **Night Life**

- Monday through Thursday following the evening service, we will have some incredible options for hanging out and having fun; like talent competitions in the Cliffhanger, basketball and free play in the Gym, Swimming, Concessions, YA Grill, and more!



# CAMP PRODUCTS

Youth America provides delicious concession food and drinks as well as the latest clothing apparel and accessories at the Youth America Store

## Concessions

- For all those students with a sweet tooth or large appetite come load up on all of your favorite treats at the Youth America Concessions
- Enjoy soft drinks, ice cream, candy, chips, nachos, and more
- Open 12pm-6:30pm and after evening services.

## Youth America Store

- The Youth America Store is your place to get all the new Youth America memorabilia including shirts, music, hats, and more
- Check it out for some daily deals!
- Open around morning sessions and evening services

# NIGHTLY SMALL GROUP INFORMATION

Each night of camp (Monday through Thursday night) before lights out, your group will split up into small groups to talk about what God did in their lives in the service that night. This is a camp element that is sure to accelerate and deepen the spiritual impact of that evening's message.

- Small group time should be facilitated by 1-2 youth leader(s) using a small group guide provided each evening. The small group guide will take what was discussed in that evening's service and lead the students to apply the word to their lives in a very real way.
- Every small group must have an adult leader that is designated by the Youth Pastor. Groups should be between 9-18 people (including leaders). Groups should be gender based.
- Every evening after Night Life ends the whole dorm will come together for small group directions and groups will be released for small group time.
- The small group time will take place in designated open spots across the lower campus.

***Youth Pastors NOTE: Group leaders need to know who is in their group prior to camp. They must be ready to lead and facilitate their group so there is no confusion at breakout time.***

# CAMP EXPECTATIONS

Youth America expects all behavior, communication, and attire to be appropriate for a Christian environment. We ask that GROUP LEADERS ensure that the following are upheld and enforced.

## STANDARDS

- **REQUIRED ATTENDANCE**
  - All campers are required to attend all workshops and meetings. Activities and recreation are off limits during these times.
- **HONOR**
  - Honor all Youth America Staff, Dorm Leaders, Security, Referees, & others in leadership at all times.
- **NO PDA**
  - Refrain from all public displays of affection between couples, including frontal hugging, holding hands, kissing, etc.

## DRESS CODE

- **Shorts**
  - No shorter than your fingertips hanging at your side. No shorts with holes.
- **Shirts**
  - No spaghetti straps, halter-tops, tube tops, or anything that shows your midriff or bra. A rule of thumb is tank top straps must be a minimum of 1 in wide.
- **Skirts**
  - No shorter than 3 inches above the knee at any point of it's length.
- **Shoes**
  - Must be worn at all times.
- **Evening Service Dress Attire** should be casual to nice casual; we encourage everyone to dress their best.
- **Pool Attire**
  - **Female** - All bathing suits must be modest one-piece suits. T-shirts and/or shorts will be required over any immodest one-piece and any two-piece suits worn.
  - **Male** - All bathing suits must be a modest length. No Bottom cleavage showing, no speedos, and no street clothes.

**The following items are NOT to be brought to Youth America Summer Camp**

- Non-Christian materials including; music, magazines, books, and things of the like.
- Electronic Devices (iPods, mp3 players, TVs, etc.)
- Cell phones
  - We prefer all students to not have or carry cell phones. Your youth leaders will be the responsible enforcement. Youth America is not liable for any cellphone or other electronic devices.
  - LEADERS MAY HAVE CELL PHONES.

**The Following violations will result in immediate expulsion from the Youth America Campus**

- Possession of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products
- Possession of weapons of any kind (knives, guns, etc.)
- Possession of fireworks or explosives
- Entering the adjoining work property
- Departing the campus without proper supervision or permission.

## **WHAT TO BRING**

**ESSENTIALS**

- Bible
- Notebook & pen

**TOILETRIES**

- Soap
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Towels
- Flip-flops

**BED LINENS**

- Pillow
- Twin sheets & blanket OR sleeping bag

**OTHER**

- Bathrobe
- Alarm clock
- EXTRA CASH for snacks and the Youth America Store.
- ALL LEADERS BRING A BLANKET FOR SMALL GROUP TIME TO USE AS NEEDED.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

We want to thank you for your support. We appreciate your willingness to entrust your teenager(s) to Youth America. If you have any questions or concerns prior to camp, please call the Youth Pastor/Leader of your local church and they will ensure that all questions you may have are answered. If you have any questions or concerns following their departure, please feel free to call the Youth America Office at 405.229.2242.

**PARENT NOTE:** Students are discouraged from carrying their cell phones at camp. Please be sure to get the cell number of a leader.

### **Contacting your student at camp**

- It is best to get your youth leaders cell phone number before camp to contact your student
- You may also call 405.229.2242
  - If after 5pm, you may leave a message and a Youth America representative will return your call the following day if necessary.

### **Mailing Addresses and Guidelines**

- To ensure that your student receives your letter or package, please include the following information:

Youth America Summer Camp  
ATTN: [Student Name] – [Church Name] – [Church State]  
PO Box 20000  
Oklahoma City, OK 73156

If you have any further questions or concerns about your stay at Youth America please feel free to contact us!

More info at:  
[www.youthamerica.org](http://www.youthamerica.org)