

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

STUDENT AND PARENT
PRE-CAMP INFORMATION

THINGS TO DO & KNOW
PRIOR TO CAMP ARRIVAL

Carefully read this information, as it is **VITAL** to your student's summer camp experience.
If you have any questions regarding summer camp please contact your Youth Pastor.

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 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 nick-knacks
- 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.

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 there 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.or email info@youthamerica.org
 - 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 contact your Youth Pastor!

More info at:
www.youthamerica.org