

Exploration Camp: June 8th -13th

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We at Camp Gideon are looking forward to spending an incredible week with your child this summer! Before your child arrives, there are a few details that you should be aware of:

Registration begins at **6:00pm** and lasts until 7:00pm. If you are unable to arrive during this time, please email us at thecampgideon@gmail.com and make arrangements with a leadership member. **Registration will not begin before 6:00pm.** If you arrive early, we ask that you stay out of the buildings to allow the staff freedom to finish making final preparations for the week. Feel free to explore the property or use the restrooms on the left side of the Wilson Building.

Each camper must have completed and signed Medical, Medical Treatment, and Release Forms as well as the Anti-Bullying Letter. These can be completed online through your online registration on campgideon.churchcenter.com. Please print out a completed Medical Form and bring it with you when you arrive.

PDFs of these forms can be found on our website at campgideon.org under the "Summer Camp 2025" Tab. Make sure to read, understand, and complete the forms. This is standard practice. A few points:

- Please be sure that you have completed and filled in the entire form. Leaving spaces blank severely limits our ability to contact you or get proper care for your child if a medical emergency should happen.
- Be specific about any allergies that your child has, their reaction, and possible ways to avoid reactions.
- If your child has a food allergy, please let us know before your child arrives so that we can substitute for the allergens, or bring appropriate substitutes for your child.
- Camp does not serve an evening meal the day of registration, so please plan on eating before you arrive. We will have a snack that evening, but not a full meal.

Any medication your child needs **must be in the original bottle** or, by law, we are not allowed to dispense it. This applies to vitamins as well. Please note on the Medical Form that there is permission for us to dispense basic, over the counter medicine to your child, such as Tylenol and Benadryl. Note if you do not give us permission for this.

Campers will have several opportunities to purchase snacks from our Snack Shack. To ensure that campers do not lose or misplace money brought to camp for purchases, we use a voucher system. As purchases are made at the Snack Shack, the appropriate amount is recorded and deducted from the balance of the voucher. When the camper departs at the end of the stay, any remaining balance on the voucher is refunded. Money is deposited when you complete your online registration or you can bring it in person. We recommend giving your camper \$2 per day for the Snack Shack.

Some campers may experience bouts of homesickness. Please prepare your child for this possibility and give suggestions for what he/she can do should this occur. The staff strongly discourages campers from calling home, as this usually makes the situation worse. Parents may call to inquire about their children,

but it is necessary to limit outgoing calls. Campers are welcome to send mail home, and you are encouraged to send mail through our email address: thecampgideon@gmail.com, with the subject as Camper Mail.

Rest time is scheduled each day. Campers should bring quiet materials such as paper, pencil, a book, or something they can do quietly by themselves if they do not wish to sleep during this time.

The following are some items that campers **should** bring to camp:

- Camp shoes and hiking boots; flip flops or sandals for going to and from the pool
- Modest swimwear (One piece would be best, but tankinis that cover the midriff are acceptable.)
- A sleeping bag and pillow (preferable for nights spent outside under the stars)
- Pencil/pen
- Sunscreen and insect repellent
- Water bottle
- Appropriate and modest camp clothing
- Bible and notebook
- Rain gear
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Hat and sunglasses
- Towels and toiletries

The following are some items that campers **should not** bring to camp:

- Electronics, including cell phones, iPads, etc.
- Secular music or reading materials
- No alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or related items.

Items not allowed at camp like those above will be confiscated. They will be returned upon departure.

If a friend, grandparent, or relative is planning on transporting your child to Gideon, please be sure that they are aware of the contents of this letter and have the signed and completed forms to be turned in at registration for your child to stay at camp. **Incomplete forms may make your child ineligible to stay for their week of camp.**

Parents are invited to the closing chapel at **2:00pm**, where campers present some of what they learned. Campers are dismissed after the closing chapel **no later than 3:00pm**.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Camp Gideon at **330.738.2074**, or send us an email at thecampgideon@gmail.com. For more information, please visit our website at campgideon.churchcenter.com.

We are looking forward to having your child at camp this summer, and we are praying that he or she will grow to know Jesus in a new and greater way!

**Thank you,
Camp Gideon Summer Leadership**