



CAMP INFORMATION

*FOR YOUTH PASTORS, PARENTS,
& STUDENTS*



TO OUR PARENTS AND YOUTH PASTORS,

Thank you for entrusting our team with the care and spiritual development of your students! This is an honor and responsibility that God has called us to carry for the last 30 years that we have been hosting Youth America Summer Camps, and we do not take it lightly.

Our calling is to equip the next generation and build the local church. In your students' time with us, our goal is to provide an atmosphere in which students can experience God and be changed forever. We accomplish this through powerful worship times and Biblical teaching, both in our general sessions and in small group times.

We format our camp so that Youth Pastors and leaders can be a part of this experience *with* their students, and we believe can also have a life-changing encounter with God, especially in our daily leaders sessions.

And of course, there will be a lot of FUN! Your students will create life-long memories and friendships through the activities that we offer.

In this packet, you will find more in-depth information about Youth America Summer Camp to prepare you and your students for a week of camp. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to your Youth Pastor, or contact us directly.

We will see you soon!

***Pastors Grant and Monica Pankratz, Youth America Lead Pastors
and the Youth America Staff Team***

WHAT IS YOUTH AMERICA?

We are a ministry of our local church, Church of the Harvest, which was launched in 1987 by our founding and Senior Pastor, Kirk Pankratz. Each year since 1987, we have hosted youth summer camps, which are run by our church's lead pastors, staff, and volunteers, who are all background checked and passionate about reaching the next generation. Our campground is located behind our church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (see contact info at the end of this packet).

We also host an annual Youth America Leadership Conference and have a leadership college, Youth America College. Our heart is to equip the next generation and to build the local church!

To find out more, please visit us on line at www.youthamerica.org. You can learn more about our church at www.harvestok.com.

CHECK IN DAY

- Each church is required to schedule their arrival/check in time with Youth America for the Monday of their week of camp, which is the start day of camp (the first service is that evening). Youth Pastors will receive a camp booklet and lanyard upon arrival with a camp map, schedule, and will also receive dorm assignments at this time.
- Arrival/check in is available from **11:00a-3:00p** and will be scheduled on a first come-first serve basis. As soon as you pull into our parking lot, you will be directed to the check in station. We understand that the unexpected can occur while traveling and we will work with you should this be the case, but please give your best effort to arrive at your scheduled time. If you find that you will be late, please contact us (see contact info at the end of this document).
- ***ALL attendees (anyone that will be on our property at any time) must be registered online and paid in full before arrival. Also, all medical release information must be entered online 3 weeks before your week of camp AND the paper copy must be turned in at check in. Accommodations cannot be guaranteed if these items are not completed on time and before arrival.***

DORMS

- Each church will be assigned dorm rooms before arrival at camp by the Youth America staff team. You will receive your dorm assignments at check in. We will not assign individuals to beds, as this will be at the discretion of the Youth Pastor. The Youth Pastor will also be responsible for assigning leaders as necessary throughout the assigned dorm(s). ***Please remember that we ask for a 1 to 8 ratio of leaders to students to be factored into your registration and dorm placement.***
- Each dorm room sleeps approximately 42 people and has a community bathroom with showers, sinks, and toilets. Guys dorms and girls dorms are across from each other with a courtyard in between.
- Our priority is always to assign all of the churches guys in the same dorm and girls in the same dorm, but please understand that based on your group's size, there may be other churches with you in the dorm or your group may be split into two or more dorms. Be ready to introduce yourself to other students, youth pastors, and leaders!

ORIENTATION FOR LEADERS

- Begins at 5pm the arrival day of camp (Monday) and will be held in the Small Auditorium
- The main leaders and pastors from Youth America will introduce themselves and will host an introduction and Q & A time for the week
- All Youth Pastors and Leaders and youth leaders are required to be at this dinner while your students are at their dinner
- The role of Youth Pastors and leaders while at camp is to minister to and spend time with your youth group. Our staff and volunteers will take care of all of the work and we are here to serve you and your students while you are with us!

MEALS

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner is cooked and served at our camp. Meals typically consist of a main entrée with two sides and salad bar. Concessions are also available for an additional cost. If you have special dietary needs, let us know at check in and we will arrange for storage of your perishables as necessary. You will be responsible for preparing any special meals as needed (microwave and refrigerator available to you).

TEAM GAMES

Youth America team games are your group's 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!

FREE TIME GAMES & ACTIVITIES

Amenities

- 62 Acre Campus
- Jr. Olympic size swimming pool
- 40 ft. Rock wall
- Paintball
- Indoor basketball gym
- Outdoor basketball courts
- Sand volleyball
- Dodgeball

Afternoon Games

- Earn big points for your team, have fun with friends, and make new friends!
- From 3-5pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Not mandatory, but highly encouraged.
- Each person from your team that comes out to participate will earn points. The more people, the MORE POINTS and the more fun!

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.

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
- Cost is \$10 to play and \$5 for refills

Night Life

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

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 ENTRY

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.

CAMP PRODUCTS

Concessions

- Sodas, ice cream, candy, chips, nachos, and more (prices vary by item)
- Open 12:00pm-6:30pm and after evening services.

Youth America Store

- Shirts, music, hats, and more (prices vary by item)
- Open around morning sessions and evening services

NIGHTLY SMALL GROUPS

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 in your dorm. 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.
- 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 **YOUTH PASTORS/LEADERS** ensure that the following are upheld and enforced.*

STANDARDS

• **REQUIRED ATTENDANCE**

- All campers are required to attend all workshops/sessions/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 his or her 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, etc.
- Electronic Devices (iPods, mp3 players, TVs, etc.)
- Cell phones
 - We prefer all students to not have or carry cell phones, but we ultimately leave this up to the Youth Pastor to decide whether or not phones will be allowed for his or her group. **Your Youth Pastor 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.

PACKING LIST

*We have a small shop on site to purchase forgotten toiletries.
Please label all student luggage! We are not responsible for lost or stolen luggage*

ESSENTIALS

- Bible
- Notebook & Pen

TOILETRIES

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

BED LINENS

- Pillow
- Twin sheets & blanket OR sleeping bag

OTHER

- Bathrobe
- **EXTRA CASH** for snacks and the Youth America Store. We recommend bringing around \$40 for concessions and store
- **ALL LEADERS BRING A BLANKET FOR SMALL GROUP TIME TO USE AS NEEDED**
- *We highly recommend not bringing electronic devices, as Youth America will not be held responsible for theft.*
- Pastors/leaders survival kit
 - Eye mask
 - Ear plugs
 - Extra sheets to hang around bed
 - Portable fan

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR PARENTS

If you have any questions or concerns prior to camp, please call the Youth Pastor/Leader of your church and they will ensure that all questions you may have are answered.

Contacting your student at camp

- It is vital that you get your youth pastors/leaders cell phone number before camp in the case that you need to contact your student while they are at camp (*we discourage cell phones at camp, but ultimately leave it up to the Youth Pastor of each group to decide if they are allowed or not*).
- This will be the most efficient and quickest way to reach your student in case of emergency. If you call the Youth America line, we will be following the same process: look up your Youth Pastor's phone number and call them. For this reason, we ask that you please reserve the Youth America line for emergencies where you cannot reach your church leaders directly.
- Your student will be very busy while at camp, so please refrain from frequently contacting your student if possible. This is an important time for your student to break away and refocus, so reserve contact for emergencies if possible. Your student will be able to freely contact you via a youth pastor or leader's phone if they have the need to do so.

Youth America Contact Information

In-Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00a - 5:00p

- **Website:** www.youthamerica.org
- **Phone:** 405.229.2242
 - You will reach our automated voicemail system. Please leave a message if we don't answer right away so that we can return your call as soon as we are available.
- **Email:** info@youthamerica.org
- **Physical Address:** Church of the Harvest. 6800 N Bryant Ave, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73121
- **Mailing Address:** Please note that we cannot guarantee that your student will receive the package before they leave from camp to head back home, as we are at the mercy of the post mail system. **WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR FORWARDING MAIL AFTER THEIR DEPARTURE FROM CAMP.** Keep this in mind when sending post mail.

Youth America Summer Camp

ATTN: [Student Name] – [Church Name] – [Church State]

PO Box 20000

Oklahoma City, OK 73156

SNEAK PEEK

