



Hello!

A few years ago, we launched a program called Day Camps. It's essentially a week of VBS-style programming hosted by a church and run by our staff in collaboration with church volunteers, and it's been a joy to see how the Lord has used this program to continue to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ in local communities. Campers have a blast and are able to hear the gospel and get connected with a local church. Churches are able to bless their communities with a fun, high energy outreach event. Our Summer Staff are able to build relationships with church volunteers and host homes. We've seen so much benefit from this exciting program, and now we'd like to offer it to your church for summer 2026.

Here are some of the details:

Format:

Days: Monday-Thursday
Time: 9am-3:30pm
Target grades (but we're flexible):
Students entering 1st-6th grade as campers
Students entering 7th-12th grade as the Joshua Team (student helpers)
Approximate schedule:
Morning games and cabin time
Chapel and cabin time
Lunch
Craft
Afternoon activities and cabin devotions
Closing chapel

Mission: We partner with local churches to provide a fun, cost-effective, outreach-oriented experience that enables the church to strengthen relationships with their communities and within the church.

Vision: We help churches invade their communities with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Values:

- Partnership with the church
- Discipleship within the church
- Outreach to the community
- Packed with the gospel

Closing Ceremony

Many parents enjoyed coming to a closing ceremony at the end of the week to get a taste of what their children experienced. During this ceremony, campers demonstrate what they learned during the week, the worship band plays chapel songs, church staff invite campers and parents to come back to church, and the chapel speaker recaps the chapel messages and shares the gospel with parents.

Focused Curriculum

Each year our full time staff work together to create a new theme for our Summer Staff and campers to focus on. We then write Bible studies based on that theme. In doing so, we are able to create a biblically-rich and theologically-robust curriculum for our campers to learn from. We take our role as teachers of God's Word very seriously, and we seek to honor and lead the children we serve by teaching them truth from God's Word that is both comprehensible and substantive.

What's New?

We are excited to announce that after the closing ceremony we will be setting up a mini version of our camp store! Campers will have a chance to purchase Hidden Acres items they can enjoy throughout the year.

In addition, we always bring new crafts to fit the daily themes each summer and like to keep the group games fresh with new ideas.

Investment in 7th-12th graders: Joshua Teams (JTs)

We've also noticed the benefit of including 7th-12th grade students during the week of Day Camp as assistants to the Hidden Acres Summer Staff. Here are some details:

- We ask the church to provide approximately 1 JT for every 8 campers registered, if possible.
- JTs need to exhibit the following characteristics:
 - Maturity
 - Coachability
 - Willingness to serve
- We will send staff training materials and curriculum resources to the church ahead of time, and a pastor or youth leader can lead the students through those materials to prepare them for their roles in the upcoming Day Camp.
- On the Sunday of the Day Camp, we'll arrive at the church in the afternoon and pair each JT with one of our counselors to begin relationship-building and planning for the week.
 - This time will also include site-specific Day Camp training for the whole group of counselors, JTs, and other church volunteers.
- During the week, each counselor and JT will work together to lead their campers in games, devotions, discussions, crafts, and other activities.
- JTs will assist their counselor(s) in any way they can. This could include helping resolve camper conflicts, leading discussions, asking appropriate questions, reading Scripture, sharing their testimony, removing distractions, sharing the gospel, leading in prayer, or whatever else their counselor needs.
- During the Day Camp week, our counselors will mentor their JTs to help them put into practice the training they went through with their pastor/youth leader before Day Camp.
- JTs will receive leadership opportunities throughout the week, including the option of leading a cabin devotion time and sharing their testimony.
- JTs will also debrief with our staff at the end of each day, giving their perspective, receiving feedback, and planning for the next day.

Our hope with this exciting opportunity is that these 7th-12th grade students will use their Day Camp experience to gain confidence and continue serving and discipling the children of the church.

Adult or college-aged volunteers from the church are also encouraged to participate in whatever capacity they feel comfortable. This can include helping with lunch, snacks, check-in, check-out, crafts, games, or even pairing up with a cabin group or playing in the worship band. Our goal is to partner with the church as much as possible and help facilitate relationships that can benefit long-term discipleship within the church body.

Host homes

Part of the church's responsibility is finding safe and hospitable host homes for our staff to stay with during the week. This has been one of the most rewarding aspects of Day Camp for our staff and church members. The relationships forged between host families and camp staff have been refreshing and encouraging for both the families and the staff.

Price

- \$30 per camper per day, or register for the whole 4-day week for \$115.
- Churches can pay as much or as little of the camper cost as they want. Discount codes can be set up ahead of time for the church to distribute as needed.

If you have any questions about bringing Hidden Acres Day Camp to your church, please email josh.constant@hacamps.org to begin the process.

Comments from host families about our staff:

- We loved them! They were so polite and friendly, and their hearts for Jesus were wonderful to have shared with our family.
- They were extremely friendly and it was sweet how they really seemed to enjoy just hanging out with our family. They were also very patient and caring with our kids.
- The girls we hosted have many great qualities but above all their love of Jesus really shone.
- Amazing- so thankful that you came to [our church].
- Both young men were quality individuals and a pleasure to have as houseguests.
- Super kind and mature. Loved our talks.
- Sweet sweet girls. Really enjoyed having them in our home.
- Courteous and friendly, we enjoyed talking with them.
- We were grateful for the opportunity to help Hidden Acres in this way.
- Really enjoyed having them with us.
- We enjoyed the opportunity to interact with these two young men and hopefully provide a comfortable and welcoming environment.
- Enjoyed having them as part of our family for the week.
- Outstanding young ladies- extremely respectful, courteous, and kind.
- Highly respectful, friendly, helpful. They mowed my lawn for me!
- Absolutely respectful, friendly and helpful. They didn't leave a mess and were easy to have.
- Great guests. They hung out with us most of the nights they were here.
- They were kind, and offered to help with dinner clean up.
- It was great for our kids (ages 12 & 10) to have an opportunity to get to know these counselors better and see an example of God working in the lives of young adults.

What other pastors and church volunteers are saying about Hidden Acres Day Camps:

Any comments about our staff?

- They were enthusiastic, hard working, good at getting to know kids, caring, humble.
- Solid. Our context is different than most campers at HA.
- They were patient with the students, kind, thoughtful, super helpful. They displayed servant hearts and the love of God.
- They brought an energy and excitement that added a different and better element to our summer program.
- Counselors always make camp! Relationships create movement!

Would you say the Day Camp had any impact on your ministry and your community? If so, in what ways?

- Yes - Relational unity between Sunday and Wednesday night groups. Developing leaders empowered. Gospel proclaimed. Importance of the Scriptures communicated.
- Kids were loved on each day (who don't attend any church) and that will change how they care for friends in their school classroom, and at home. Who can tell?
- Yes, memories were made, seeds were planted, hearts were encouraged!
- Yes - broke up the normal routine of the kids. Instead of seeing the same teachers they saw new, energetic counselors which helped the overall summer program. Parents seemed very pleased with what was going on.
- Yes, I love that our people were allowed to work alongside your counselors. There were opportunities for discipleship on many levels. It also created momentum for other events we're doing!

In what ways did you see God at work during your week of Day Camp?

- I saw kids feel safe and become a part of a group here on our turf. I saw kids loved in Jesus' name. I heard laughter. I saw creativity through art projects. Kids sang. Beauty and goodness abounded.
- Counselors really cared for kids in ways they needed. God used their gifts to serve kids and each other, and it was visible. God provided all we needed at our church to give kids a summer camp experience right here in our town.
- Counselors investing in students. Kids reading the Bible for the first time. Kids that normally don't feel like they fit in told me that they wished it could go for another week. Parents came at the end of the week to hear about what their kids learned and were invited to attend church.

What was the best thing about your Day Camp experience?

- Relationships between counselors and campers.
- Seeing kids relax with counselors, and try things for the first time. Seeing the JOY on their faces when they watched and then rode the little trikes! Having kids crack open a Bible and read verses for themselves.
- Seeing all the students together, singing worship songs, playing & having fun!
- The chapel programs were amazing. The messages spoke on the kids' level and were clear.
- Families that don't attend our church have attended church/events after camp!

If another church leader was considering bringing Hidden Acres Day Camp to their church, what would you say to them?

- If you want a quality, cost effective, kids-loving staff to come to your church, sign up for Hidden Acres Day Camps!

- I would highly recommend them to do so!
- Do it!

Anything else you'd like to say about your Day Camp experience?

- Thank you for this ministry. I hope and pray that it will take off because I think a lot of rural churches could use this program.
- I've only heard positive feedback! This really helps us create opportunities for relationships that extend past a week of camp that we couldn't pull off ourselves. These relationships create opportunities for discipleship, which is what we're about!