



# 2024 SUMMER YOUTH WEEKS



## ADULT LEADER/CHAPERONE GUIDELINES

*Please give a copy of these guidelines to each adult from your church that is going to camp.*

### INTRODUCTION

Summer Youth Weeks generate years of memories for those who participate. For most students and adults, the week is a “mountaintop experience” that challenges and strengthens their walk of faith. For a few, however, the week is one of frustration, strained relationships and that “I don’t want to go back” attitude. What makes the difference?

The difference between a good experience and a bad experience at camp is directly related to preparation prior to the week and participation during the week. Let us share some ingredients that may help this be a positive experience for you and your church group.

**Pray:** Pray for yourself, leaders and students.

**Identify:** Identify the needs of each student.

**Work:** Set goals for what you want from camp.

**Communicate:** Communicate rules and responsibilities.

**Assign:** Assign one adult eight students to pray for and develop.

### TWO DIFFICULT ISSUES

***Each church and their corresponding chaperones need to be prepared to implement the following:***

1. **Dress Code:** You are assigned the task of enforcing the camp dress code. This area unfortunately causes conflict between churches and students all summer, especially when one church decides not to abide by the dress code. Please check the dress code and make sure your students comply with the guidelines before they arrive at Hatch Auditorium.
2. **Seating Chart:** We ask that the main leader joins us Monday at 6:30 p.m. in Classroom Building room 101 for additional rules and information. The leader will also be given the Hatch seating chart, and your group must sit in the designated area. We are using a computer program that has formulated the seating chart for your group. For this to run smoothly, be respectful and only sit in your number of assigned seats per row. Other groups may fill the rest of the seats in your row. Your group will be moved around Hatch during the week. Please look at your seating chart and know where your seats are located.



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Our BeDoTell (BDT) staff will be on hand to assist your group as you enter. Remember, we are in partnership with you, so please work with us. It's amazing how fast a negative spirit can ruin the atmosphere and even the attitudes of an entire group. When you arrive at Hatch, please line up in the Parade Grounds. The BDT staff will call you when it's time to enter Hatch. Ask your group to arrive together, enter together and sit together. Thank you for your help in making the services — and entrance to the services — a pleasant, God-honoring experience for everyone.

## **LEAD ADULT CHAPERONE, YOUTH DIRECTOR OR YOUTH MINISTER: PRE-CAMP**

1. Before going to camp, plan to have at least one meeting with all students and adults who will participate in the Youth Weeks camp, as well as parents.
2. Share the pre-camp devotion together. This can be found in the Church Group Devotional Guide.
3. Prepare the items you will need to take to camp, including what you will need for small groups and church group devotions each night. A list of supplies is given in the Leader Guide and Church Group Devotional Guide. You may wish to include a snack for the devotion time. Consider bringing water and coolers for your group — it's hot at Caswell! Finally, print a copy of the "Monday Quiet Time" for each person to complete on the trip to camp.
4. Discuss responsibilities and expectations, including behavior and appropriate dress, with all participants.

## **A. ADULT EXPECTATIONS**

1. There must be one adult chaperone, age 21 or older, for every eight students of the same gender. A group of male and female students must have at least one male and one female chaperone. The chaperone(s) must reside with the group and supervise the group's participation/activity on and off campus.
2. All adult chaperones attending camp must have completed the background check procedure as outlined in the Background Check Policy on our website at [bedotell.com/summer-youth-weeks](https://bedotell.com/summer-youth-weeks).
3. Adults should act like adults. They should model the behavior and participation that is expected of the students in worship, study, play, eating and in the residence building.

## **B. ADULT RESPONSIBILITY**

1. Assign each adult to specific teenagers they are responsible for during the week. For



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example, one female chaperone will be assigned up to eight girls. Make sure you have assigned places to meet before each activity in order to keep up with your students.

2. Church groups will sit together in their assigned areas during morning and evening programs in Hatch Auditorium.
3. The behavior of your teenagers is your responsibility. Please ask them to be quiet. If need be, ask other students who may be a distraction to your group to be quiet as well.
4. Please help us enforce the appropriate dress policy at all times. This is a Christian camp, and we want to ensure that our clothes are modest. Each student should have received a list of appropriate dress attire.
5. Be an encourager. Discover special things about the students from your church, and then let them know you appreciate that special part of who they are.
6. Know who in your assigned group has made a personal commitment/profession of faith in Jesus Christ.
7. Pray daily for each person under your responsibility.

## **C. SMALL GROUP STUDY LEADERS**

We have discovered how wonderful it is to keep youth groups together for small groups. Small groups will be led by you, your adults, or college students who came with your group. Small groups can be held in the same space you were assigned for church group devotions. Examples of small group teachers are college students, pastors, adult volunteers or someone over the age of 18 who will commit to study and take responsibility for leading your group. The Leader Guide will be provided on our website, and we ask that you provide the daily supplies for the small groups so students can actively participate. The small group handouts are located in their Student Workbook, which they will receive on Monday night.

### **Where can I get the small group study materials?**

This is available on our website, [bedotell.com/summer-youth-weeks](http://bedotell.com/summer-youth-weeks). Scroll down the page to download a copy of the small group study. If you have trouble downloading the material or do not have access to the internet, please contact the Student Ministry Office at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5566 or [Youth.Disciplemaking@ncbaptist.org](mailto:Youth.Disciplemaking@ncbaptist.org).

### **Do I have to get the supplies and bring them to camp?**

Yes. The daily supplies needed are listed in the Leader Guide.

## **D. SMOKING**

Each church may have a policy in place regarding underage smoking and tobacco use. Please be aware that underage smoking is illegal. We remind you that Fort Caswell is a smoke-



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free campus, and that includes no vaping. The policy states, “Smoking is prohibited in any building on campus.” We further request that any adult smokers do so in designated areas only. Please refer to [fortcaswell.com](http://fortcaswell.com) to find those locations.

## **E. CELL PHONES**

The use of cell phones is up to the discretion of your church. However, please make sure they are not brought to worship or small group study. This may mean you have an adult chaperone collect them as you enter worship or small group study.

## **F. NO CAMP NURSE**

We do not provide a camp nurse. Your church may decide you want to bring someone from your church who is a nurse or EMT to help with your participants. There are several quick care facilities nearby, and Fort Caswell’s director will mention these at the 6:30 p.m. leader meeting on the Monday of camp.

## **G. APPROPRIATE DRESS**

1. Please review the dress code guidelines, available with camp materials received from our office and online at [BeDoTell.com/summer-youth-weeks](http://BeDoTell.com/summer-youth-weeks).
2. When not at the beach or pool, wear cover-ups over one-piece bathing suits or tankinis. Please, no two-piece bikini bathing suits.
3. Do not wear T-shirts or other clothing with offensive language, advertisements or pictures.
4. Remember that the evening service is worship, so dress appropriately. This means no short shorts, tank tops or one-shoulder/halter/strapless tops, including tops of dresses.
5. Spaghetti straps are to be 2 inches wide.
6. Shorts must be fingertip length. Measure this by putting your hands down by your sides and making sure that your fingertips touch the fabric.
7. No bare feet in the cafeteria, Hatch Auditorium or the Classroom Building.
8. Please remember to monitor your group so others will not complain to camp staff.

## **H. AFTER HOURS**

1. The program schedule is designed to give you adequate time to have church group devotions, clear the campus and get ready for bed before lights out at 11:45 p.m.
2. Church group devotions should be over by 11 p.m. Groups assigned meeting places for



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devotions outside their sleeping areas should move quickly at 11 p.m. to their housing.

3. Camp staff will expect the campus to be completely cleared shortly after 11 p.m. If lights remain on after 11:45 p.m., this will be an indication that you need help and someone will check on you.
4. Doors to the Classroom Building will be locked at 11:15 p.m.
5. It is your responsibility to know where your students are, even after hours. Before the fact, please decide on appropriate discipline for this trespass and communicate it to the group before the first night (or even better, at the pre-camp meeting) and be prepared to take action as needed.
6. If you are staying in the barracks at Caswell, please help us enforce the lights-out and quiet time rules. If your group is not trying to sleep, others who are will be affected. Meet all the adults staying in your barrack section and work together. Teamwork among the adults will go far in helping all enjoy camp to the fullest.

## I. MORNING QUIET TIMES AND CHURCH GROUP DEVOTIONS

Materials for morning quiet times, small group studies, morning celebrations, evening worship sessions and church group devotions are all related and focus on the camp theme.

1. Morning quiet times should be completed before coming to Hatch. Please help students find the time around your breakfast schedule to do these. They are located in the Student Workbook. There is a quiet time for Monday that we provide for you to copy and allow them to do on the trip to camp or to find a place once they arrive at camp.
2. The church group devotion is not an afterthought at the end of the day. Rather, this material brings together what has happened during the day and provides an opportunity for reflection and personal or group application. We encourage you to use the devotional material prepared. You may choose to lead this time yourself or ask one of the adult chaperones or a college student to be responsible for this material. Either way, it will require that you familiarize yourself with the material and prepare for this before leaving for camp. **(Note: The church group devotion material includes a list of items to bring with you to Caswell.)**

## J. POST-CAMP

What happens when you return home is just as important as what happens at camp. Please begin planning now for how you might follow up on what happens in the lives of your students at camp.

1. Pay particular attention to those students who make decisions concerning their Christian



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faith. Find ways to help them apply their camp experiences to their everyday lives.

2. We provide a sample worship/sharing outline that can be used on your return to allow students to share at home what they learned at camp.
3. There are 30 additional quiet times included in the Student Workbook to help students continue to make their time with God a daily reality. Studies have shown that it takes 21 days of repetitively doing a task to make it a habit. We want to help our students make daily quiet times with the Lord a habit!
4. On the last day of camp, if you have students who have made professions of faith or feel called to ministry, you will be given resources that will help in their continued spiritual growth.
5. Commitment cards will be given to you on the last day of camp for you to follow up with the individuals from your church who make decisions and commitments.

## **K. ONE DISTURBING NOTE — PLEASE READ!**

Every year there is a waiting list for Summer Youth Weeks. Space is reserved for those who participate in the program and take care of the facilities. Meaning, if a church group consistently or flagrantly disregards the guidelines, they will be denied a reservation the following year.

## **L. MOST IMPORTANTLY**

1. Bring a good attitude, openness to hear God's voice, flexibility and a prayerful spirit.
2. God is going to do a mighty work. Be prepared to pray daily for your group members.
3. Before camp, find out all you can about where your students are spiritually.
4. Upon your arrival, let us know the names of those who have not committed to a personal relationship with Christ. Tell us who will need our special attention and prayer. The BeDoTell Team has prayer times at 8:15 a.m. and 6:15 p.m. every day and wants to pray for your group specifically. One of our BDT team members will text you for prayer requests.

These are the ingredients for a successful camp experience. We pledge to do our part in preparing for a good experience, and we trust you will do the same. By working together, we can ensure a good growth experience for all participants.