

Camp Montgomery  
Parent Handbook  
Savannah Presbytery  
2023



**MONTGOMERY  
CENTER**

EST. 1957

# **Welcome to Summer Camp!**

Savannah Presbytery welcomes you to our second year of partnership with Camp Montgomery!

We are excited for you to explore this camp experience with us.

The spirit of camp has always been and will always remain- to give campers time together exploring God's good creation and growing in their relationships with God and with each other as a connected church.

We are thankful for the trained staff at Camp Montgomery that will lead our campers through all the relationship building activities and fun.

Peace & Grace,  
The Education Training Team  
Savannah Presbytery

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\*See the **Camp Packing List** document attached to the registration email for a printable packing list.

# Check In

**Check In: 3:30 - 4:00 pm on Monday, June 19th**

Upon arrival at Montgomery, leave your luggage in the car, and bring any last-minute paperwork, campstore money, and medications to our office by following the white “Check In” signs. You will be greeted by our friendly staff and they will get you started on the path to dropping your camper off for the best week of his/her summer! Please do not arrive sooner than 2:00pm.

## *Step 1: Paperwork*

Your first stop is in the lounge. Our staff will finalize any paperwork and outstanding payments. **Any payments paid by card during check in will be subject to a 3% surcharge fee.** You may leave any pre-written letters for your camper’s week here.

## *Step 2: Health Care & Medications*

Your next stop will be to check in with our health officer and to make sure they have all necessary medical paperwork. They will store ALL medications your camper will need to take while they are at camp. All prescribed medications must be presented in their original bottle. **Please put all medications into a ziplock bag with your camper’s name marked clearly on the outside of the bag.** This will help your check in process move quickly.

*Note: Our infirmary stocks basic OTC medications. You do not need to provide additional OTC medications that we keep stocked.*

*\*Note: If you forget to pack a water bottle for camp, Montgomery will provide one for your camper. A \$5 fee will be added to your account.*

## *Step 3: Lice Check*

Your third stop will be in the dining hall for a lice check. We will be conducting these for every camper. In the past, lice that is discovered at camp can present embarrassment for a camper. Please check your child for lice prior to coming to camp. Your camper will not be admitted to camp if there are live lice or nits evident, until they have been eradicated. This process includes eradicating the lice or nits and washing all clothes and linens in hot

water and drying those items and pillows on high heat. Here is a video to help you know what to look for when checking your child's scalp - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwwNwzZuv-g>

## *Step 3: Cabin Assignment*

Next, our staff will make sure that your camper has brought all they need to camp and that they are ready for the week. You and your camper will receive information on his/her cabin assignment and find out who their counselor will be. Your camper will receive a nametag at this station before going to their cabin.

## *Step 5: Getting Settled*

Once you have received your camper's lodging information, you can retrieve their luggage from the car and head to the cabin together. The counselor(s) will be at the cabin to meet you and answer any questions you might have. Our counselors are trained to quickly integrate campers of all backgrounds into the group and to make the transition from their parents as comfortable as possible.

***Homesickness:** Help your camper transition into their stay at camp by helping them make their bed, and giving a swift goodbye and letting them know when someone will be back to pick them up. Staying too long may lead to increased feelings of uneasiness for campers who may be feeling nervous. Summer counselors are trained to deal with homesickness as it may arise over the first night or two. Parents will be notified if their camper is having a severe time getting adjusted. Do **not** tell your camper that they can call home while they are at camp. A phone call home is chosen by a director in coordination with a parent as a last resort as it may intensify feelings of homesickness in some campers.*

# Transportation Needs?

The Savannah Presbytery has your back! If your camper, or members of your church, need help the Savannah Presbytery is dedicated to helping you. Please contact **Mary Susie, your program coordinator**, for more information. You can email: [MSusie1@savannahpresbytery.org](mailto:MSusie1@savannahpresbytery.org)

# Check Out

**Closing Celebration: 3:00pm on the last day of your camper's session**

## *Closing Celebration*

Parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors are all welcome to join us in our Dining Hall. The closing ceremony will last about 30 minutes, during which you will get a glimpse of what camp was like during the week. You will hear some of the songs that we sing, the energizers that we dance to, and the Bible lessons the campers learned. After the celebration, please check out your camper with the counselor prior to visiting the camp store.

## *Checking Out your Camper*

After our closing celebration, you and your camper will pick up his/her belongings and sign out with the counselor. We take the safety of your camper very seriously. We require that an authorized person with a photo I.D. (designated and authorized on the medical form) sign out the camper they are picking up. If the person that is here to pick up your camper is not on the authorized list, we will ask that they return to the office so we can contact the camper's parent/guardian to verify the individual picking up the camper.

## *Early Pick-Up*

We do not encourage campers to leave camp before the closing celebration. The last few hours in their small groups are spent doing closing activities that will end their experience as well as it started. However, if you feel that your camper needs to leave early from camp, please contact the office as soon as you know the date and time of the pick-up. We will plan to have your camper and their belongings at the office when you arrive.

# A Day at Camp

**A typical day at camp might look like this.**

## **MORNING**

**7:15** Rise and Shine

**7:40** Morning Watch

**8:00** Breakfast

**8:45** Cabin Clean Up

**9:15** Energizers

**9:30** Activity Block 1

**11:00** Activity Block 2

## **AFTERNOON**

**12:15** Lunch

**1:15** F.O.B. (Flat On Bed)

**2:25** Canteen

**2:45** Activity Block 3

**4:00** Activity Block 4

**5:30** Get Ready for Dinner

## **EVENING**

**6:00** Dinner

**7:00** Vespers

**7:45** Night Block

**9:00** Back to Cabins, Evening Prayer

**10:30** Lights Out! Good Night!

**Activities may include:** Bible Study, Behind the Boat, Canoeing, Swimming, Archery, Rockwall, Low Ropes Course, Hiking, Arts and Crafts, Team Building Activities, Field Games, Challenge Course Highs, Workshops, Field Games, Blobbing, Campfire, Flying Squirrel, Eating S'mores, Rec Time, Labyrinth, Prayer/Meditation Trail, Zip Line, Frisbee Golf, Kayaking, Fishing, Boulderling, Energizers, and Stargazing.

# Important Information

## *Parent Communication*

Email will be our primary communication with important information as camp approaches and throughout the week with any camp-wide updates. Please check your email daily while your child is at camp. Parents will be contacted by phone for individual issues that may come up while your camper is with us.

## *Phone Calls, Cell Phones, & Homesickness*

Please do not tell your camper that they can call home while they are at camp. Cases of homesickness will be cared for on a case-to-case basis in coordination with the parent if a child is having a particularly difficult time or is requesting to call home. A director will always call home before deciding to let a camper call home. *Encourage your camper to talk with their camp counselor about any personal issues that arise while they are at camp so that all needs can be addressed.*

**Cell phones and smartphones are on our “Do Not Pack” list.** Please help protect your camper and others by keeping their phones at home. We are unable to monitor cell phone use while they are at camp. Any phones brought to camp will be confiscated and stored in the office until you pick up your camper on the last day of camp. **If your camper will be traveling with their phone to use in the car, please ask them to put it in their suitcase, turned off once they arrive at camp.**

## *Summer Camp Store*

Each day of camp, your child will be able to browse Montgomery’s new Camp Store with camp souvenirs and trinkets. **We suggest between \$5-\$30 for a camp store credit for campers to spend.** Your camper will have an opportunity to bring you to the camp store at the end of their camp stay if you would like to shop with them. **Any remaining credits at the end of the summer will be donated to our camper scholarship fund!**



## *Sending Mail/Email*

It is great for campers to receive letters from home. We highly recommend that parents write and send mail early in the week or the week prior to their arrival. **You can bring mail to check in and leave it with a staff member** in the lounge to give out on days you designate. If mail arrives before a camper, we will hold it for the week your camper will be here. If a letter arrives after the closing day of camp, we will forward it to your home address. Please do not send any food for your camper.

Address mail to Montgomery's address with:

Camper Name - Cabin #

C/O Montgomery Center

88 SE 75th St.

Starke, FL 32091

**You can email your camper through [Office@MontgomeryCenter.org](mailto:Office@MontgomeryCenter.org).** Emails will be printed each morning. Campers will not be able to view HTML greeting cards or email responses to you. Mail and e-mail are delivered each day at lunch. **Subject line: Camper Name - Cabin #**

**Campers sending mail:** Please help your camper affix stamps on their envelopes prior to coming to camp with their return address on the top left. The office cannot mail out anything not properly addressed/stamped.

## *Roommate Request*

An intentional part of programs at Montgomery is to provide opportunities for campers to develop relationships with people from other areas and backgrounds. However, we understand that campers may want to experience camp with a friend or family member. Therefore, roommate requests can be made no later than 2 weeks prior to the start of the camp session. **One roommate request may be made, but no more than two. Roommate requests are not guaranteed,** particularly if there is an age gap. Please email [program@montgomerycenter.org](mailto:program@montgomerycenter.org) if you have any major concerns. Cabin assignments are done the week prior to each camp session.

## *Health Information*

Montgomery cares about the safety and welfare of your camper. Please visit our website to view our current health policy. You must complete a Medical Form for each camper online within the registration portal. Your camper cannot be checked into camp without one completed and signed. **Please refer back to Step 2 in the check in process regarding medication at camp. All forms must be turned in at least two weeks prior** to the first day of camp, when possible.

Our health officer or a Director will contact you by phone if your child becomes ill or is injured while at camp. Arrangements can be made on a case-by-case basis if your camper's illness or injury requires them to leave campus for any amount of time.

## *Lost and Found*

Please mark all items brought to camp with your campers name to include sunscreen, water bottles, bug spray, clothes, shoes, etc. When you arrive to pick up your camper, please locate the lost and found table in the dining hall to claim items your camper lost during the week. Make sure to check each bed cubby or under your camper's bed as you leave the cabin. Sometimes things roll off behind the bed after they have been packed up. All items left at camp will be donated or thrown away after two weeks. Items claimed can be picked up at camp no later than two weeks after the final session or you can request an item be mailed. You will be responsible for postage to mail an item home.

## *Emergencies*

We will contact you if there are any concerns with your child. If there is an emergency, please call our office. If you are calling after office hours (9am-3pm), there will be a secondary number you can call at the beginning of our voicemail message.

Our office is open from 9 to 3, Monday through Friday. For non-emergent all-hours communication, feel free to send an email to the email address below.

Montgomery's Phone number: (352) 473-4516

Front Office: [Office@MontgomeryCenter.org](mailto:Office@MontgomeryCenter.org)

# About Montgomery

The staff at Montgomery is dedicated to serving our families with opportunities to experience a Christian camping program centered on the love of Jesus Christ. With over 65 years of summer camp ministry, we are committed to continuing the legacy that Dr. E. F. Montgomery Sr. began years ago. In 1926, he wrote, *"A week at camp is not time to be thrown away. There is room for physical training - the making of a better body. There is room for character building - the making of a better person. But there is more still. There is an opportunity to develop those best and deepest instincts of the soul. A child's soul is most responsive at camp. There he hears the call of the Infinite, and his heart answers back to the Great Spirit of the out-of-doors."*

At Montgomery we will focus on building lasting friendships, providing a wide selection of activities on the 167 acres of beauty, and kindling the fire in each person's soul through intentional outdoor worship.

Physical & Mailing Address:

Montgomery Center  
88 SE 75th St.  
Starke, FL 32091

Website: [www.montgomerycenter.org](http://www.montgomerycenter.org)

Facebook: Montgomery Center (Business Page - MontCenter)

Instagram: [camp\\_montgomery](https://www.instagram.com/camp_montgomery)

*"Welcoming all people to experience Christ and creation in ways that deepen faith and strengthen relationships."*



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## Camp Packing List – Overnight Camp 2023

<p><i>Clothing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Casual Camp Clothes (shorts, t-shirts, long pants, etc. Enough for 1 or 2 extra days)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Swimsuit</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bandanna/Hat</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Socks &amp; Underwear</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Light Jacket/Sweater</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rain Gear/Umbrella</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Closed-toed Shoes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sandals</li> </ul>	<p><i>Personal Items:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Soap &amp; Shampoo</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush &amp; Toothpaste</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bath Towel &amp; Washcloth</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Beach Towel</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bug Repellent</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Required Medications in a Ziploc Bag with name</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Backpack/bag for day use</li> </ul>
<p><i>Bedding:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pillow</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping Bag and/or</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sheets &amp; Blanket for twin bed</li> </ul>	<p><i>Other:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Water Bottle!!</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bible</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Notebook</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pen/Pencil</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Addressed &amp; Stamped Postcards/Envelopes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Camera</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Musical Instrument (if you have one)</li> </ul>

### *Do Not Bring*

Alcohol, Drugs, Weapons, Knives, MP3 player, Earbuds or Headphones, Personal gaming system, Portable electronic devices, Food/Gum/Snack/Drinks, Money, Cell phones, Smart Watches, Pets, Jewelry, and other valuables.

*Do not bring anything you would be sad or upset about being lost or damaged.*