

Summer Youth Ministry at Covenant Harbor

Making WAVES

The goals of our Youth Camps are to love kids, share the gospel with them and encourage their growth with Christ while they build lasting relationships with staff who have a contagious faith.

These goals are consistent in each of the youth camps that we offer, though the way in which those goals are carried out varies greatly with each age group. Therefore, we have created a progressive outline of how each program fits with the others that we offer. Each program at Covenant Harbor is intentionally designed for its age group and has specific ways to meet our ultimate goals.

Why WAVES? The stillness of a pool of water is disrupted by even the smallest wave. Big or small, waves alter their surroundings. We want our campers to grow in their faith each year they attend Harbor and make a difference in the lives of their families, communities and schools back home.

Grades K – 2: **W**elcoming children into the family of Christ.
Day Camp Team 13, Kishwauketoe Pathfinder and Trailblazer

Grades 3 - 5: **A**ssisting kids in understanding who God is and how that fits with them.
Day Camp Club 46 and Pier 30 Explorer

Grades 6 - 8: **V**oicing the Truth, how to live out one's Faith.
Pier 30 Navigator

Grades 9 - 12: **E**quipping students with tools and opportunities to share their faith and serve God.
Odyssey Element, Alpha and Day Camp Counseling Team

College age: **S**upporting staff as they serve on their own.
Summer Staff

Welcoming children into the family of Christ. We will do this by focusing the Bible curriculum on basic spiritual truths that God loves them, Jesus died for them and God wants them to trust in Him. Each camper will have the opportunity to invite Christ into their lives; this will be presented in a large group, but followed up significantly by the counselor. We want our youngest campers to have a solid foundation in their faith and clearly understand these basic truths. A firm grasp of these basic truths is essential as they build on faith in Christ.

~Matthew 19:14, "Jesus answered, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these'." NIV

Assisting campers in understanding who God is and how that fits with them. We will encourage campers to take their next step of faith by looking at Biblical examples of people who chose to live for Christ. Campers will be given the opportunity to invite Christ to be their Savior. This will happen in a large group setting, giving the individual camper time to reflect and then seek guidance from their counselor or other staff members.

~ John 14:6,"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'." NIV

Voicing the Truth, how to live out one's faith as a Christian. Campers will learn that living a Christian life comes with certain sacrifices. Middle schoolers will have the opportunity to make their lifestyle one that pleases God—and to know fully what that means by learning from the greatest example, Jesus. Our staff will model their Christ-like lifestyle and Pastors will challenge campers to what a Christian truly is. Campers will have the opportunity to ask questions of our staff and make a decision if they want Christ to be Lord of their lives.

~Romans 12:1-2, “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” NIV

Equipping students with tools and opportunities to share their faith and serve God. We have several opportunities for high school students. All opportunities focus on the Great Commission, that Christ called us to “make disciples of all nations.”

- 1) **Odyssey Element.** This new, traditional, high school camp will take the junior high Navigator program deeper. Through large group Bible studies and time for personal reflection, campers will be challenged to take their faith and share it with others.
- 2) **Alpha.** Our High school camp serves campers who have a relationship with Jesus Christ. This camp will teach the campers how to make their relationship with Christ an integral part of their everyday life. They will learn how to live as a community of believers, learn their spiritual gifts and how to use them, find joy in being a child of God, serve our camp or community, and learn to be part of a team (maybe eventually on summer staff). This two-week camp is supported by a staff that is passionate about serving this age group and will create a customized schedule to meet the needs of each session and to serve the current camps in progress. Alpha will serve in our operation areas of camp: housekeeping, grounds, guest services and kitchen.
- 3) **Day Camp Counseling Team.** This program is designed to give high school students hands on camp experience while developing them as leaders and Disciples of Christ. Day Camp counselors are part of the summer staff and are trained in evangelism, child care and programming and are invested in and lead throughout the summer by trained leaders. They use their gifts and training daily in serving as counselors in the day camp program and as support to the overnight programs.

~Matt. 28:19-20, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” NIV

Supporting staff as they serve on their own. We hire more than 60 collegiate staff members each summer to serve in every area of camp from counseling to waterfront. These staff members are well-trained, invested in and supported throughout the summer by the Youth Ministry Team and summer leadership staff.

~Philippians 1:3-6, “I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” NIV