

# Camp McDowell - What is Primary Camp?

Primary I and Primary II are weekend Summer Camp sessions designed for rising 1st/2nd/3rd grader campers to attend with one adult.

Primary Camps are generally held the last weekend in May and the first weekend in August. At Primary Camp, everyone is a camper! The children the “little campers” and the adults are the “big campers”. Big and Little campers experience and participate together as campers while our enthusiastic staff members take care of the details.

Primary Camp activities include swimming, hiking, canoeing, and arts & crafts. Campers rotate through each activity with their ‘activity group’ and then choose their favorite to do again on Sunday morning! Primary Camp, like all Summer Camp sessions, also includes a spiritually-themed program which is age-appropriate for the little campers and entertaining for the big campers.

During “rest time” after lunch on Saturday, the little campers are invited to stay in Eppes Hall with our staff. This gives our big campers a little free time to rest on their own, explore Camp, read, etc. On Saturday night, all campers go to a cookout on the ball field (“Pasture Party”) complete with games, watermelon, and a hayride.

Both nights come to a close with group worship in the “old” Chapel. Many campers find this peaceful end to a fun-filled day to be among their most cherished memories of Camp. After worship, it is bed time for the little campers, and any big campers who are ready for sleep! For those big campers who choose, their little camper may go back to the cabins with the cabin counselor (a college-aged Summer Staff member) while the big campers enjoy snacks and fellowship with other adults in Eppes Hall.

The adult that attends with the child may be a mother, father, godparent or other relative or special friend. All campers stay together in Summer Camp cabins (down the hill) along with other big and little campers, dorm-style. As noted, a college-aged cabin counselor (Camp McDowell Summer Staff) also stays in the cabin. For little campers and big campers of opposite genders (such as a son attending with his mother), the cabin counselor will serve as the little camper’s parent while in the cabin.

Primary Camp is a wonderful and rare opportunity to enjoy quality time with your ‘little’ camper, as well as a little time to yourself, in the setting of Christian Camp community. Come join us in “God’s Backyard”! You will be glad you did!

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