

# Camp McDowell

## Primary I Camp

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### A LETTER FROM THE SESSION DIRECTOR:

Dear Primary I campers and parents,

Are you ready for Camp? The fun all starts on the banks of Clear Creek at Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell. Our camp theme for the session is “Let’s Go to the Beach—with Jesus!” Did you know that Jesus showed up unexpectedly for his disciples and cooked breakfast for them on the beach? This amazing story from John 21 invites us to be like Jesus— to “feed” and love others! We have a wonderful and talented group coming to help you have an amazing experience at camp. I know for some of you this may be your first time at camp and for others you may have been coming to camp for a long time. Whichever you may be, together we are going to learn what it means to be a summer camper at Camp McDowell so that soon you will be ready to come to camp on your own! We will follow the schedule of a normal camp session with the only difference being that your parents will get to experience summer camp alongside you. We look forward to having the chance to be with you and your family as you begin this wonderful, wonderful journey as a summer camper!

I’m sure that you, or your parents, have lots of questions so the camp staff has attached information that will hopefully answer any questions you might have. You are certainly welcome to contact camp if you have further questions. We want you to feel comfortable and have everything you need to make this camp an enjoyable and unforgettable experience. Please pack, along with everything else, a

spirit of adventure and a willingness to try new things and make some new friends!

We do need to give you and your parents some important details. Primary I will begin on Friday, May 22nd. Please arrive between 3pm and 5pm. I would ask that you honor the arrival times because the staff will be taking care of last-minute details to get ready to welcome you to camp. Our session will end on Sunday, May 24th after lunch.

We're so excited that you and your parents have decided to participate in this very special and important camp. We look forward to spending time with you and your parents as you begin your camper journey.

Can't wait to see you at "The Beach!"

The Reverend Corie Cabes  
Session Director

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Hey Everybody!

We are so excited to have each and every one of you in God's Backyard! Camp has seen some big physical changes over the last year that will affect Primary I. You may have heard a bit about the renovation of Eppes Dining Hall. While Camp and other members of our Episcopal community have worked tirelessly to have Eppes open for every session this summer, we are behind on this renovation. Due to that fact, Primary I will be having all meals (aside from our pasture party) in Stough Dining Hall up the hill. I recognize that this news may be disappointing to many. "Plan tight, but hang loose" has been a motto of many Clear Creek Summer Staffs throughout the years. This is the motto our staff, myself, & camp as a whole are holding close with this news.

We can't wait for all of you to be at Wonderful Wonderful!

Faithfully,  
Michael Gravlee  
Director of Summer Camps & Retreats

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## ABOUT

Primary I and Primary II are weekend Summer Camp sessions designed for rising 1st/2nd/3rd grade campers to attend with an adult. At Primary Camp, everyone is a camper! The children are 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, farming, canoeing, hiking and arts & crafts. Campers rotate through each activity with their 'activity group' and then choose their favorite activity 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, play basketball, try out the ropes course, 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 Chapel down the hill. Many campers find this peaceful end to a fun-filled day to be among their most cherished memories of Camp.

After worship, it is bedtime 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 the dining 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. 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. We look forward to you joining us in "God's Backyard!"

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## CHECK IN & CHECK OUT

**Please be aware that ALDOT is redoing the span of Highway 195 from Jasper to Camp's Entrance. You may need to build some extra travel time into your plans.**

**DATE/TIME: Friday, May 22nd 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

**LOCATION: Camp Store**

105 Delong Road  
Nauvoo, AL 35578

When you arrive at Camp, continue on Delong Road for about a mile. Check in will be right before the store where you will see a tent set up. The Camp Store will be the first building on your left. Please stop, stay in your car and wait for a staff member to get your cabin and activity group assignment. After that you can stop and shop in the Camp Store, drop off meds at the Health Hut, move into your cabin, and park your car up the hill. The pool will be open for swim tests and we will have arts and crafts activities available.

**CHECK OUT DATE/TIME: Sunday, May 24th at 12:30 pm after lunch.** We will have a closing worship service with Eucharist Sunday morning, followed by an activity block and lunch. See the schedule below. If you cannot stay for lunch, please let us know prior to the weekend so that our wonderful kitchen team can have an accurate headcount for lunch.

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## REGISTRATION

**Each camper (big campers and little campers) must register individually as campers.** The registration fee for Primary Camp is \$200 per person (\$400 total for two people, etc.). You may submit payments in your online account, over the phone, or by post mail 7 days prior to opening day. **All balances are due Friday, May 15th, 2025.**

Online payments may be made in your Camp McDowell camper account. Access your camper account through <https://mcdowellsummercamp.campbrainregistration.com> Our system will not accept AmericanExpress cards at this time.

NOTE: If you have misplaced your password, you may request a new one on the login page.

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## COMMUNICATION (cell phone, email, device policy)

We try very hard to be “the way the world could be”. Part of this goal is getting totally unplugged for a short time and being present with those around you during Primary Camp. We ask that you either do not bring your phone with you or that you be discreet and considerate if you need to use your phone at any time during the retreat.

Urgent: Should you need to reach anyone while at Camp, please contact Summer Camps & Retreats Coordinator, Eva Byrum, at 205.387.1806 ext 112 or [clearcreek@campmcdowell.org](mailto:clearcreek@campmcdowell.org)

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## SCHEDULE

### Friday

3:00 Registration at Camp Store  
5:30 Cabin Meetings  
6:30 Supper in Stough Dining Hall  
6:45 Community Time in Rec Hall: games, welcome, staff intros, review camp rules  
7:30 Chapel: Program Intro, Singing, Compline (night time worship)  
8:00 Little campers go to cabins with cabin counselors to get ready for bed  
Big campers stay in Chapel for Big Camper meeting  
Snacks & fellowship for Big Campers following in Eppes Hall

### Saturday

7:30 Wake up bell  
8:00 Breakfast & Announcements  
9:00 Program in Rec Hall - arrive dressed for your activity  
9:15 1st Activity Period (Canoe/Pool/Hike/Arts & Crafts)  
10:30 Lemonade & Water break  
10:45 2nd Activity Period (Canoe/Pool/Hike/Arts & Crafts)  
11:55 Porch Songs  
12:00 Lunch & Announcements  
12:45 Rest time for Little Campers in Eppes Hall; Free time/rest time for Big Campers (High Ropes will also be offered for Big Campers at this time)  
2:30 3rd Activity Period (Canoe/Pool/Hike/Arts & Crafts)  
3:45 Canteen in Rec Hall (Cost of Canteen is already covered in Registration Fees)  
4:15 4th Activity Period (Canoe/Pool/Hike/Arts & Crafts)  
5:45 Walk to Pasture Party up the hill  
6:00 Pasture Party & Hayride  
7:30 Chapel  
8:00 Little Campers go to cabins  
Big Campers: optional snacks & fellowship in Eppes Hall

### Sunday

7:30 Wake up bell  
8:00 Breakfast & Announcements  
9:00 Eucharist (worship service) in Ascension Chapel down the hill  
10:00 Lemonade & water break  
10:30 Activity of your choice (Canoe/Pool/Farm/Arts & Crafts/Hike)  
11:45 Porch Songs  
12:00 Lunch & Announcements  
12:30 Go In Peace!

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## PACKING LIST

Campers will be housed in dorm-style cabins. Beds are twin sized. Suggested containers for clothes include a large suitcase, trunk, or plastic container that can go at the end of the bed. Also suggested is a basket or bag for dirty laundry and a toiletry bag or shower caddy. All cabins have heat and air conditioning with ionizer air filtration systems. PLEASE LABEL IMPORTANT BELONGINGS WITH CAMPER NAME. *Lost and found items IF FOUND may be mailed back to campers for a fee with possible delays.*

- Comfortable, casual clothes that can get dirty ( t-shirts, shorts, jeans). Lightweight, loose-fitting clothes are best.
- Socks and sturdy, closed-toe shoes for working, playing, hiking, and other outdoor activities. Flip flops are only allowed in cabins. If bringing sandals, please bring sandals with a heel strap.
- Light rain jacket or coat
- Comfortable, appropriate swimwear (tankinis, one-pieces, or a bikini with shirt over top, swim trunks)
- Clothing appropriate for the weather
- Bedding and pillow for a twin bed
- Picnic blanket for pasture party
- Towels for bathing
- Towels for swimming
- Sunscreen
- Bug Repellent
- Toiletries: Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, brush/comb
- Underwear
- Socks
- Sleepwear
- Flashlight
- Fan (preferably one with a clip) and extension cord if needed.
- Reusable water bottle – to be filled during hydration breaks at the various activity sites each day. NOTE: Our Camp Store has sturdy, 32 oz water bottles available for purchase.
- **Outfits for dress-up themed meals:**
  - **Lunch- Crazy hats! - Wear your silliest, or favorite hat**
  - **Dinner- Pasture Party (overalls, bandannas, plaid**
  - **Breakfast- Lookalike Day - Big Campers match your little campers**
- Options for suggested quiet time each day: Bible, book to read, journal, writing supplies, pre-addressed and stamped envelopes for writing home, art supplies
- Musical instruments for free time and assisting with worship
- Any prescriptions and over the counter meds should be ready to turn in to the nurse upon check-in. See Below for more information.

#### Things NOT to bring:

- Alcohol, illegal drugs, or weapons of any kind; Fireworks or any explosive devices
- Youth may not bring tobacco, tobacco or nicotine products, or electronic cigarettes/vapes
- Snacks ARE allowed, but MUST BE IN AIRTIGHT CONTAINERS and they CANNOT CONTAIN ANY NUTS or NUT PRODUCTS. Many of our campers have nut allergies. Crumbs will attract insects in our cabins. Thank you in advance for keeping our campers with allergies safe and the cabins as bug-free as possible!

#### Additional Money (Optional):

- The fee for the session includes canteen costs. There is no need to submit extra money for canteen. Campers get two snacks each at canteen Saturday.
- We will collect an offering at our closing worship service for the Camper Scholarship Fund. Please consider making a contribution.
- The Camp Store will be open during check-out if you would like to purchase any camp gear including shirts, water bottles, toiletries, candy and more. To create care packages for your camper please order ahead of your session via the [website](#) and follow these instructions at checkout:

If you are ordering a Care Package for a summer camp session, choose "In-store Pickup." Specify in the COMMENTS on the following page this information:

1. First and last name of camper
2. Session the care package is for (i.e. Middler, Junior High 2, etc.)
3. Day you want the care package delivered (note that care packages are NOT delivered on opening or closing days of sessions)
4. How should the package be signed? (i.e. Love, Nana)

**\*\*MEDICATIONS NOTE:** For safety and per Camp's liability, all medications must be kept in the Health Hut or locked in your car (all cars are parked up the hill). Camp's liability does not allow medications to be stored where children are housed. Thank you in advance for understanding.

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## Allergies & Dietary Restrictions

At this time, our kitchens can only accommodate the following food allergies and dietary restrictions: vegan, vegetarian, gluten free, nut allergy, and dairy free. **Our kitchens cannot accommodate celiacs at this time due to the risk of cross contamination.**

If you have a food allergy or dietary restriction that cannot be accommodated, you may bring your own food from home. There will be a small refrigerator and a microwave on the back porch of Stough dining hall for any meals to be stored and heated by your camper's cabin counselor. Please send meals that can be easily prepared (nothing that requires an oven). To arrange to bring your own food for your camper, or ask any questions about this policy, please contact Eva Byrum at [clearcreek@campmcdowell.org](mailto:clearcreek@campmcdowell.org).

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Camp McDowell | 105 Delong Road | Nauvoo, AL 35578 US

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