

michigan nextgen



Youth 2025 CAMPS



IN A YEAR

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INTRO TO YOUTH CAMPS



Michigan Youth Camps are more than just a summer escape—they're a life-changing experience where young people can grow in faith, build meaningful friendships, and make unforgettable memories.

Away from the distractions of daily life, youth have the chance to encounter God in fresh and exciting ways through dynamic worship, engaging Bible studies, and thrilling outdoor adventures. Camp provides a safe, encouraging environment where they can ask big questions, deepen their relationship with Jesus, and develop the confidence to live out their faith boldly.

Beyond spiritual growth, youth camps foster independence, resilience, and leadership. Through team challenges, shared experiences, and mentorship, campers gain practical skills that shape their character and future. They return home energized, inspired, and equipped to make a difference in their schools, churches, and communities.

As pastors and leaders, we have the incredible opportunity to guide the next generation toward an experience that strengthens their faith and prepares them for the road ahead.

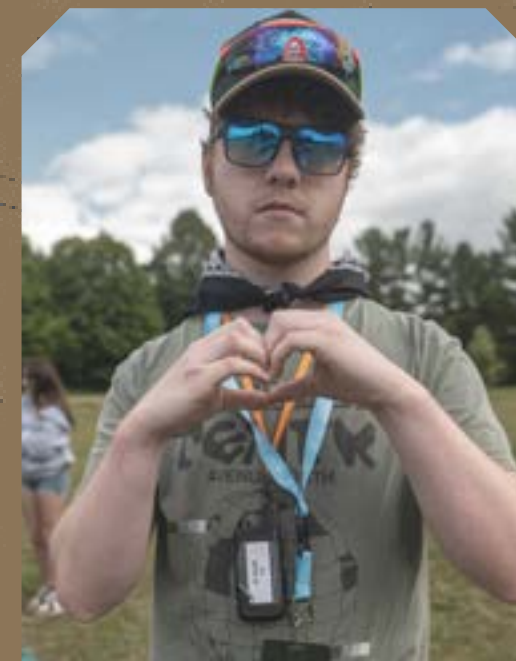
DECEMBER-JANUARY

internal camp planning

- Check the Student Ministries camp page/ calendar for camp dates
- Talk to your lead pastor/leaders/parents to figure out which camp would be best for your group.
- Start creating internal resources to promote camp, (i.e. camp testimonial videos of your own students)

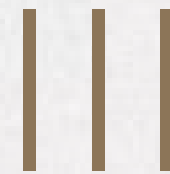
“Bring leaders who will set the bar high for excitement and engagement. Start pouring into those leaders now to share your goals and expectations for camp.”

“Call another youth pastor and have them talk you through their experience, then try to go to the same camp as them!”





“You cannot invite and communicate enough. Postcards, texts, emails, promo videos during service, all these things help get the kids excited about attending.”



FEBRUARY

start camp promotion

- February 1st- start promoting camp with students in your Youth ministries. (visit agmsm.org/camps for promo materials)
- Create a simple interest form to help gather more accurate numbers for group reservation

MARCH

group reservation/staff applications

- **Group reservation open March 15th-April 1st**
- \$25 per student to hold spots.
- Be practically prophetic; be realistic to the size of your group but believe for a few more.
- Set up admin account(s) (for you, your admin, or a key leader) and communicate with the MSM office."
- **Staff applications open.**
- Staff fee is \$50.00 to be paid per person. If your church will be covering the cost for your church's leaders, make sure to communicate that with MSM office to have a staff code created.



"Start the fundraising and registration process as early as possible!"

"You can send out mass emails inviting families to sign up their students for camp...but I get the BEST traction from personal touches!"

“Hand pick your leaders & don’t be afraid to ask parents! I did this last year & the team was AMAZING not just for me but for our students too!”

“If you’re trying to build a camp culture in your youth group, even getting just one or two students from your group makes a difference. They experience God and will be your biggest advocate next camp season.”



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APRIL

recruiting students and & volunteers

- Group enrollment starts April 1st!! The MSM office will send you a church code to be used for your students based on the number of spots you reserved.
- Announce camp at your church’s main Sunday services and have a meeting to inform parents and potential volunteers.
- Distribute flyers or digital materials explaining the camp and its benefits.
- Identify and recruit volunteers.
 - 1 leader for every 10 students
- Distribute your church code to parents and students to use to start enrolling in camp. It’s vital they use your church code so they are recorded under your church and put on your team at camp.
 - The distribution of your church code is your responsibility!
 - The code is only good for the total number of spots reserved.
 - The code should not be shared outside your group.

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May

lost valley leader training
MAY 31ST 10AM-3PM @ LV GROUNDS
 all leaders **MUST** attend this training

final deadlines/parent communication

- Staff applications due May 15th. (forms, references, etc.)
- Group enrollment ends May 23rd.
- Set up your Church Payment DONOR account
- Have a Church enrollment day (prior to the 23rd): bring the computers, iPads, etc. Provide hands-on help with enrollment.
- Communicate with MSM office if you need more camp spots or if you aren't using all your spots.
- Develop a communication plan for parents to provide updates leading up to camp.
 - Contact MSM staff to help with a parent night over Zoom or conference call for questions.
 - Confirm registrations with parents, ensuring all necessary forms are completed. (health, emergency contact, etc.) Have parents review the Forms and Documents page of their accounts to determine what forms have been submitted and what is still outstanding. (Church Admin accounts will also have the ability to see all submitted and outstanding forms using your church reports in Campsite).

“Set realistic financial goals. So instead of saying you owe \$250 by “this date”, have them turn in half by a certain date and half by another date.”





“Have a camp hang out the month before camp (we typically do a pool party or park meet up). This allows all the kids to start building bonds ahead of time. It also helps the more timid or new kids feel comfortable when they arrive to camp.”



JUNE

CHURCH PAYMENT DUE JUNE 15TH!!!

faholo leader training
JUNE 14TH 10AM-3PM @ FHL GROUNDS
all leaders **MUST** attend this training

important communication with parents

- **Send informative letters to parents detailing camp specifics, including departure/arrival times to and from church, packing list, “do not bring” list, and behavior expectations.**
- **Hold an informational meeting for parents to ask questions and address concerns.**

PRECAMP - JULY

final volunteer information & coordination

- Conduct a final volunteer gathering to confirm logistics, schedules, and roles for the camp.
- Ensure all volunteers have necessary training on camp and emergency procedures.



“Ask questions if you don’t understand something. When you’re prepared, you can ensure that your leaders, parents and students are prepared for camp too.”

“Pray before, during and after. Have a servant’s heart to do whatever is needed, Have fun, Keep it clean and Jesus-centered, Students- no phones (they end up connecting so much better with others, the services, etc. without the distractions of their devices), Provide notebooks and pens for note-taking, and video tape testimonies before leaving camp.”



CAMP WEEK

game on.

- **Be prepared.** Come to camp prayed up and familiar with the schedule.
- **Be attentive.** Camp is a grind, but we must stay attentive to the needs and concerns of our students.
- **Be expectant.** Expect for God to move and be ready to lead your students through those moments
- **Be flexible.** Things happen at camp and schedules can change. Be gracious and flexible with the directors team as they work through potential challenges.

Post-Camp

follow-up with the church

- Send out thank-you notes to all volunteers and parents.
- Share camp highlights, photos, and student testimonials to celebrate successes. (What gets celebrated gets elevated)
- Request feedback for improvement and to assess the impact of the all-inclusive camp experience.

“If fundraising was done by the church to help the students get to camp, we always have the kids include a, ‘THANK YOU for sending me to camp!’”

“Give an opportunity for testimonies when you come back from camp. This has been huge for us, last year we took an illustration shared at camp and gave an opportunity again for students who couldn’t go or maybe missed it & it was incredible.”



