



Camp Wave, Camp Big
Top and Camp Quiz
Parent Guide

Updated: January 11, 2024

We are thrilled to be able to offer summer camps to kids this summer! Our mission has always been to provide children with a week of fun activities in an environment where they will be cared for and ministered to.

What to Bring:

- On the first day of camp, children will receive their camp shirt. They do not have to wear their shirt every day, but they are certainly welcome to! We may have additional shirts that can be purchased. Please email Chrissy with requests.
- Children should dress prepared to be outdoors most of the day, rain or shine! Please pack a swimsuit and towel each day, along with another set of clothes to wear just in case their clothing gets wet or messy.
- Please send your children with sunscreen and bug spray on, in the morning. We will assume they are prepared to be in the sun. Please also send sunscreen and bug spray labeled with their name, which their cohort leaders will help them reapply as necessary.
- Please pack a lunch and snacks for your child (ren). Please send lots of liquids, 1-2 bottles of water and a juice box etc. (no pop please). They will be more active than at school and staying hydrated is the number one way to prevent sunstroke. We will have cohort water bottle refill stations.
- Please do not send any nut products, money or electronics.

Refund Policy:

A full refund will be issued if requested 2 full weeks before camp runs. An administration fee of \$10 will be charged to refund.

Registration:

When can I register?

Registration opens on February 19 at our Fam Jam event! There will be a 20% off Camp Discount Code active for that day only!

Registration for all camps is hosted on Eventbrite. Check our website for the link.

What is the cost?

Camp costs \$140/child. We offer a multi-child family discount. Third child and beyond are \$100.

Do you offer extended care?

Yes, we offer extended care. This would allow drop off at 8AM and pick up at 5PM. The additional cost is \$30/child for extended care.

Are scholarships available?

Yes, we offer scholarships! We would never want any child to miss out on a camp experience because of finances. Please email chrissy@harbourfellowship.com for the Scholarship Request Form.

Can I request a friend/relative to be in my child's small group?

Yes! We try to accommodate all requests. There is a space to write requests on the registration form.

Is there a waitlist?

Yes. We ask that you only register for one camp to start to ensure as many children as possible get a camp experience. There is a space on the registration form to indicate that you are interested in registering for another camp. A staff member will contact you in the Spring if there is space available in our other camp weeks.

Camp Day:**When and where will I drop off and pick up my child?**

Extended Care campers can be dropped off between 7:45-8:30 am in the Atrium. Our leaders will be there to greet them! The rest of our campers can be dropped off between 8:40 and 9:10. We will have tables set up in front of the church, and leaders for each group will be waiting to welcome campers each day. Please make sure you give yourself some extra time in the morning. Please also note that there will **not** be an opportunity for parents to give information to leaders. Any changes in info (ie different pick up plan for the day) must be emailed to Chrissy@harbourfellowship.com. Chrissy is also available for phone calls throughout the day if needed. She can be reached at 905 984 5500 x204

What does a typical day of camp look like?

Each week has a fun theme, and many activities! Children will enjoy time inside and outside engaging in games, crafts and faith-filled activities. They will build friendships with children in their groups and their leaders. We will go to the Port Dalhousie Pool in the afternoons Monday-Thursday. Friday afternoon we will stay at the church for a special activity! A sample schedule is available on our website.

Will pizza day be provided this year?

Pizza Day will be on Friday this year, and it is included in the price of camp. You will have an opportunity to sign up during the week of camp.

What will camp groups look like his year?

Campers will be placed into small groups. These small groups will have a minimum of two adult leaders with them at all times in addition to a mixed group of other campers close in age, and some student leaders. The size of the small groups will be 15-20 campers plus leaders.

How do you manage the time at the pool?

Harbour Camps have been going to the Port Dalhousie Pool for many years, and have an excellent relationship with the staff. Safety is our number one priority. Here is the pool process:

The whole camp gets changed and prepared for the pool after lunch at Harbour. Children apply sunscreen (or have a leader assist them) as well. Once everyone is changed we board the buses, making sure children sit with their leader and group. We do roll calls multiple times before leaving Harbour. **If your child needs to be picked up early (appointment etc) they must be picked up before we leave for the pool.**

When we arrive, half of the camp goes to the playground with their leaders to play first, the other half lines up to get their wristband to go into the pool area. **We adhere to all Port Dalhousie Pool rules. If an injury occurs the lifeguards administer first aid.**

Children seven and under go to the wading pool with a leader (ratio is 2:1). Children must be within arm's reach of a leader at all times.

Children 8-10 line up to wait to be swim tested if they would like. The swim test is usually the length of the short side of the pool and back. They must be able to do a front crawl without putting their feet down the entire time. If they pass the test, they are permitted to go in the deep end of the big pool (we always have leaders in the deep end). If they do not pass, they can still be in the shallow end of the big pool, but they must have a leader close to them at all times (ratio is 4:1).

Children 11 and older do not have to take a swim test. Please let Camp staff know if your 11+ child cannot swim confidently.

We switch pool and playground halfway through. Children can choose to be on the playground the entire time we are offsite, but they cannot be in the pool the entire time.

At the end of our time at the pool children and leaders change (there are private change rooms) and we get into our groups at the playground. We do multiple roll calls before we board the bus, and when we get on the bus as well. We arrive back at the church at around 3:40 for snack and end of day large group and worship.

Will camp be fun?

Yes! Not only do we want to do everything in our power to keep campers safe we want to do everything in our power to make camp FUN! We hire a creative camp team to find the best and most engaging activities for campers with a wide variety of interests. Our campers rotate through their activities, so they are always moving, and engaged.

Camp Leaders:

What is the ratio of leaders to campers?

Groups will be composed of approximately 20 campers with a minimum of 2 adult and at least one student volunteer with their group. In addition to your child's group leaders there are also staff dedicated to helping campers with special needs who may be part of your child's group. There is also a Camp Director, Cleaning Team and year-round ministry staff available to help and provide extra support to campers as required.

Who will my child's leaders be?

Your child will interact with leaders who really care about them – both paid staff and volunteers. Paid staff are 18 years of age and older. Your child may have a cohort leader who is an adult volunteer who will be trained and will work alongside paid staff members. Additionally, your child may interact with some of our amazing student leaders who will be putting on special events and camp programming throughout the week as part of their leadership development. If your child has special needs, they may be assigned a trained one-on-one support person.

If you are interested in volunteering at Harbour Summer Camps please contact Chrissy Payne chrissy@harbourfellowship.com

How will you ensure that people who aren't campers or camp leaders will not come into contact with my child?

We have many safeguards in place to try and prevent people who are not a staff member at Harbour or part of camps from interacting with your child. The first way we do this is by having mandatory name tags for all camp staff and adult volunteers to identify themselves as a camp leader. The second way we do this is by enforcing all visitors to check in at the main office. Lastly, once camp begins we have volunteers that monitor the hallways and grounds to ensure safety.

How do you screen camp staff and volunteers before they can work or volunteer at camp?

All paid staff members are required to complete an application, interview and references to work at camp. Additionally, they are required to obtain a police check and complete mandatory training. Our volunteers also complete an application/paperwork process, provide Police Checks if over 18, and complete our mandatory training.

What type of training do leaders receive?

General camp training includes emergency management, behaviors management and de-escalation, and training on all camp plans and procedures. Some staff receive additional training on how to support campers with special needs. Additionally, many of our staff are trained in First Aid.

Who should I talk to if I have more questions?

You can contact Chrissy Payne by email chrissy@harbourfellowship.com or by phone 905.984.5500 x 204.