Camp Tall Turf 2026 Summer

Summer at Camp Tall Turf

Families Making Memories

Community Connections

Looking Ahead

TALL TURF MINISTRIES



A Message from Our Interim Executive Director

As another summer comes to a close, I am grateful for the moments of connection, laughter and growth that took place at Camp Tall Turf. From youth discovering new experiences to families spending meaningful time together, this summer reminded us of the lasting impact camp can have on youth and families.

I am especially thankful for our staff, families, volunteers, donors and supporters who helped make these experiences possible. As you look through these pages, I hope the photos and stories give you a glimpse of the joy experienced at Tall Turf this summer. Thank you for continuing to be part of the Camp Tall Turf family.





Nicole Cheeks

Interim Executive Director

Summer at Camp Tall Turf

This summer gave campers opportunities to grow in confidence , friendship and faith while experiencing all that Camp Tall Turf has to offer.

From our Rain-In Campout to biking, outdoor exploration, swimming and water games, campers embraced new experiences and time together.
Vacation Bible School also introduced new youth and families to Camp Tall Turf, strengthening connections within our community.

Most importantly, campers were encouraged to challenge themselves, build friendships and carry what they learned at Camp Tall Turf beyond the summer.





Nick Marquez

Director of Programs

From the Heart of Camp



David Brasser

Site Manager

Summer brings many memorable moments at Camp Tall Turf, but two stood out to me this year.

During Family Camp, a woman shared that her husband had been having a difficult time over the past few months. Within an hour of arriving at camp, he was whistling and singing to himself - it was as if his whole personality had changed.

Another time, I watched several young people canoeing on the lake, laughing and joking without a care in the world.

Moments like these remind me of the special effect Camp Tall Turf can have—giving people a place to step away, enjoy the outdoors, connect with others and have their spirits lifted.

Families Making Memories Together

Family Camp gave families time to slow down, have fun and create memories together. Family Olympics brought plenty of laughter, including the “mummy” challenge where families worked together to wrap a teammate in paper. This summer also continued a special Camp Tall Turf tradition, as younger siblings experienced camp for the first time while longtime campers celebrated their final summer as campers.

A Camp Tall Turf Tradition

One parent shared how Camp Tall Turf has remained part of her family's story from Family Camp to seeing her children become summer staff.
This summer, one family celebrated another Camp Tall Turf milestone as their youngest child experienced camp for the first time, following in the footsteps of older siblings.



Summer at Camp Tall Turf was made possible by our generous sponsors.

- Grand Rapids Community Foundation
- Peter Cook Foundation
- CDV5 Foundation
- Wege Foundation
- Gerber Foundation

In Loving Memory Remembering William Johnston(Will)



This summer, the Camp Tall Turf family experienced the unexpected loss of Will Johnston, one of our summer staff members who served on the team for the last two summers.

We are grateful for the time, energy and care Will shared with our campers and the Camp Tall Turf community. His contribution will remain a part of the memories we carry forward.

We extend our continued thoughts and prayers to Will's family, friends and all those whose lives he touched.





More Than a Camp: A Place for Community

Camp Tall Turf was thrilled to welcome South Christian's cross-country team back for its start-of-season camp. Their time at Camp Tall Turf included morning devotions by the lake, a variety show, wild and wacky water relays, plenty of running and team-building- and a practice 5K that resulted in a **NEW COURSE RECORD of 17:08!**







Looking Ahead : Building on Our Mission

As summer comes to a close, Camp Tall Turf is entering the next season with renewed focus—strengthening community partnerships, reconnecting with longtime supporters, and developing opportunities to serve children and families beyond the traditional summer camp season.

As we look toward 2027, we remain committed to building on Camp Tall Turf's rich history while creating new opportunities for youth, families and community partners to experience all that Camp Tall Turf has to offer.

Help us bring STEM learning to life!

Camp Tall Turf is working to extend meaningful learning opportunities beyond the summer months.
This fall, Camp Tall Turf is working to launch a hands-on STEM program with Casa de Oracion Church, giving local youth opportunities to explore, learn and build confidence.

As we look toward 2027, **your support will help us expand programs and partnerships that serve youth and families throughout the year.**

Help bring hands-on STEM experiences to local youth.

Help Create What's Next

Your support helps Camp Tall Turf continue creating opportunities for youth and families to grow, connect and experience camp

Every gift helps make the next Camp Tall Turf story possible.