



Equipping youth and families for lives of reconciliation in God's world.

Spend Your Summer with Tall Turf Ministries

Updated August 2021

Tall Turf Ministries enjoys a rich and storied history, dating back to 1969 with a tradition of bettering the community it serves. A successful governing board is achieved by attracting successful and quality business and community leaders.

The contribution of governing board members contributes to the legacy of reconciliation Tall Turf Ministries has become known for.

Tall Turf Ministries staff:

- **have an immediate and lasting impact on the community.**
- **gain expertise on complex issues.**
- **build valuable networks and relationships.**
- **channel individual and group creative energy.**
- **grow as community leaders through experience.**

Use this packet, as well as our website at www.tallturf.org to learn more about how Tall Turf Ministries carries out a mission of reconciliation in God's World.

Tall Turf Ministries History: Pursuing God's Vision

Responding to growing racial tensions taking place across West Michigan in the 1960's,

Camp Tall Turf began in 1969 with four core premises:

1. Reconcile to God
2. Reconcile to oneself
3. Reconcile with others by finding common ground
4. Reconcile with creation.

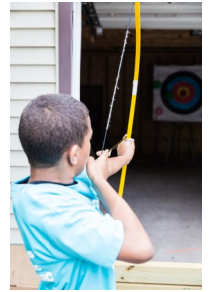


Its purpose: To pursue and advance God's vision of wholeness, unity, justice, peace and healing (Shalom) for today's increasingly diverse world. This is done through building relationships that make a positive and lasting difference in the lives of youth.

As the years progressed, it was clear year-long programming was needed to carry out this purpose and Tall Turf Ministries (TTM) was formed as the overarching entity.

Today, a year-round ministry of reconciliation builds on the primary and foundational experiences that occur while being part of a diverse and caring community at summer camp. TTM's year-round ministry provides ongoing support to enable and equip young people with developmental assets such as: faith and confidence; the ability to face and overcome challenges; to achieve their potential; and to live lives of celebration while serving as agents of renewal and reconciliation in their communities.

Programs and outreach performed by Tall Turf Ministries are constantly changing to meet the needs of the community. These changes are made with the direction of the staff and governing board, as well as with input from the community we serve.



Tall Turf Ministries Programs

Overnight Youth Camp

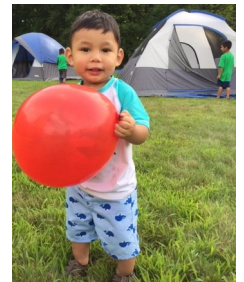
Each Camp Tall Turf session offers up to 128 youth fun, faith and fellowship in a safe and peaceful environment with opportunities for personal growth. Campers will practice devotions designed to reflect on their experiences and their confidence in the Lord. Each cabin, consisting of a group of 8 youth supervised by one adult, will learn to work as a community in their living quarters, in the dining hall and camp activities.



Each day, campers have opportunities to choose their own adventures in leadership training, sports, science, arts and adventure under the care of qualified adults held to the highest standards of the American Camping Association. Each activity will be facilitated to emphasize the camp theme. As these young people build relationships through shared experience, the message of reconciliation is lived and practiced throughout the summer.

Family Camp

Held over a weekend, sessions are organized around a curriculum of reconciliation, but also offer lots of time for families to participate in recreational activities and interact with one another.



City Camp

City Camp is a partnership between Neland Church and Tall Turf Ministries. City Camp takes place for one week during the summer and brings students entering 2nd-8th grade together for a week of singing, skits, memory verses, activity groups, and Bible lessons.



Camp-To-Go

All in-person programming was suspended in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. To maintain outreach efforts while complying with state-required social distancing, Camp-To-Go was created. "Camp-To-Go" kits included STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) and worship themes. Youth ages 8-13 were the specific target for developmental activities, although some younger youth participated with help from their families. Online resources were created to teach the projects and master skills. Kits were distributed 4 times throughout the summer, each with different activities and items to encourage hands-on learning. Kits were curated by Tall Turf Ministries staff and distributed in partnership with Neland Church.

Tall Turf Ministries Develops Socially Conscious and Competent Professionals

Leader in Training (LIT) Program

The LIT program is designed to create young leaders from all backgrounds who have both an awareness of community issues and the means to be able to affect lasting change. The Leaders in Training summer staff are hired and assigned to assist in programming, food service or other camp activities based on their experience and interests. LIT staff should be at least 14 years old and have experience as a youth leader in their community.

"Working as a leader-in-training gave me a spark to work with kids. Right now I'm studying elementary education at Jackson State University. Tall Turf really helped me find my calling."

- Ari Parks, Former LIT

Staff Development

TTM views our staff as part of our mission. We have a small set of full-time employees that meet regularly to discuss day-to-day operations, programming and site management. All staff are encouraged to seek professional development that is relevant to the work they are doing on behalf of the ministry.

A large group of summer staff are hired annually to carry out camp ministry. This is a diverse group of individuals that come from all over the country to serve the Lord and Camp Tall Turf community. The summer staff are welcomed to camp with two weeks of intensive orientation and training to prepare them for the expected and unexpected. The training is a time of growth and discovery for the staff, but they learn the most while actively participating in their roles.

Each day while on duty, the staff are responsible for their position's tasks, as well as assisting in the personal and spiritual development of the young people attending camp.

"Tall Turf threw me right into situations where I needed to take leadership, and that was really good for me. Stepping out like that helped me grow in my confidence exponentially. I also learned how to delegate responsibility to my campers, because that's part of leadership too."

- Meikea Bonnema, Former Counselor

LEADERS WORK AT CAMP TALL TURF

Learn more at www.tallturf.org

SUMMER POSITIONS:

Summer Program Director

Youth Camp Counselor

Environmental Education Manager

Adventure Program Manager

Leader in Training Mentor (2)

Pastor

Waterfront Director

Health & Wellness Officer

Food Service Manager

Leader in Training*

*Ages 14—17

BENEFITS: Pay ranges from \$40 to \$70 per day, plus:

Housing Provided During Camp

Staff Training Provided

Breaks in Between Camp Sessions

Meals Included

Bi-Weekly Pay

Resume Booster

