

Camp Tall Turf Parent/Guardian & Camper Information Packet

Online Resource



Who We Are & What We Do

Camp Tall Turf, a program of Tall Turf Ministries, is an intentionally diverse Christian camp that was founded in 1968. Tall Turf's mission is *equipping youth and families for lives of reconciliation in God's world*. Our summer programs strive to empower a generation of young people who value diverse people, cultures, and thoughts. Annually, Tall Turf serves around 500 youth and families through summer camp sessions and year-round programming opportunities. Summer camp takes place on the shores of Campbell Lake in Walkerville, MI. At Camp Tall Turf, we are committed to creating a positive, fun and safe environment that challenges each camper to grow socially, emotionally, and spiritually. For the summer of 2020, we are providing camp services for youth ages 8 – 13.

Why Reconciliation?

Tall Turf was founded with the understanding that we live in a broken world. In America, that brokenness often manifests itself along racial and ethnic lines. Second Corinthians 5:17-18 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation ." We believe that in order for us to make progress towards God's vision of wholeness and unity, we need to live out this call to reconciliation by being reconciled to each other, to ourselves, to nature, and to God.

What Does Reconciliation Look Like at Camp?

Each camp session, campers learn about reconciliation through daily activities, team building initiatives, cabin devotions, and building positive relationships with other campers and staff in an intentionally diverse setting. During their time at camp, campers will be encouraged and challenged to:

- Recognize and celebrate their own unique cultural identity.
- Develop a greater appreciation and value for individuals from diverse racial, ethnic, cultural, and economic backgrounds.
- Learn to break down barriers and build relationships of trust and mutual respect through teamwork.
- Enhance their self-confidence and self-worth through diverse activities and relationships.
- Increase their leadership and problem-solving skills.
- Gain an appreciation and respect for the natural world and understand their role as caretakers.
- Grow in their understanding of who God is and His desire to be in relationship with them.

Staff

Each summer, a diverse staff is carefully selected and trained during an intensive 12-day orientation. The training equips staff to help children learn about themselves, others, nature, and God through the camp experience. All applicants must pass two background checks and a central registry clearance as required

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by the State of Michigan before they are eligible for employment. The counselor to camper ratio is 1 to 8 while the overall staff ratio is 1 staff to 4 campers.

Licensing & Accreditation

Camp Tall Turf is licensed by the State of Michigan as well as accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA). ACA accreditation means a camp undergoes a thorough review of its operation—from staff qualifications and training to emergency management. In collaboration with experts from the field, ACA works to assure that current practices at camp reflect the most up-to-date, research based standards in camp operation and programming.

CAMP STRUCTURE:

During each session of camp, cabins (groups of eight campers and a counselor) spend five to eight days together eating, playing, sleeping, praying and learning new skills. While the children will spend most of their time with this cabin group, each day also provides supervised free time for campers to pursue their own interests. All campers are carefully supervised 24 hours-a-day.

A Typical Day at Camp

A day at youth camp includes cabin activities, independent camper-chosen activities, and special evening programs. Our program director plans and coordinates these activities with the counselors to ensure that each camper can experience a variety of camp's activities.

8:00am RISE & SHINE!

Our day at camp starts when the bell rings at 8:00am sharp. Counselors sleep in cabins with the campers and wake campers up at this time to get the day's activities going. All activities and schedule changes are announced by the ringing of the bell.

8:30 CHAPEL AND EXERCISES

Each summer, Tall Turf prayerfully selects a spiritual theme. This theme is integrated into daily chapels through skits and stories. Additionally, each day campers learn a specific verse that focuses on one aspect of the theme. Immediately following chapel, campers participate in fun morning exercises to help stretch their bodies and wake up for the day.

9:00 BREAKFAST

All meals are served family style. Each meal follows the USDA guidelines and includes one main dish with several sides offered. Campers sit with their counselor and cabin groups during meal times. Each meal begins with prayer and concludes with a prayer song.

9:45 CABIN CLEAN UP

Some valuable life lessons can be learned at camp. Two important lessons we like to teach are living well with others in a community setting and taking personal responsibility for your belongings. After breakfast, campers return to their cabins to clean up their cabin and personal areas. Campers are assigned different tasks each day and are awarded points based on their performance as a cabin. At the end of the session, those who did an outstanding job receive a special treat.

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10:15 CABIN ACTIVITY

This is a time when campers get to choose an activity they want to participate in with their cabin group. Activities are designed to help build trust, unity, and teamwork while exploring God's creation. Examples of activities include interactive nature hikes, challenge courses, fishing, team games, visiting the barn, kayaking on the White River, or challenging another cabin in Mud Wars.

12:00 FREE SWIM

After cabin activities, campers have the opportunity to explore our waterfront by swimming, canoeing, or kayaking. Campers can also choose from a variety of other activities like visiting our Nature Center, the Barn, playing sports, Gaga ball, 9-Square, arts & crafts, or relaxing with a good book from the library. During this time our waterfront is fully staffed by lifeguards while other staff are available to oversee the other activities.

12:30 END OF FREE SWIM

12:45 LUNCH

Lunch is served family style in cabin groups with one main dish and several side dishes. Lunch is a great time for campers to share their morning experiences and continue conversations. Lunch also includes a brief skit related to the theme of the day and concludes with a time of fun and crazy singing.

1:45 REST PERIOD

During this time, campers are able to rest and relax in their cabins. They can read a book, color, play a quiet card game, write letters, and catch their breath before more fun.

2:45 WAKE UP BELL

2:50 FIRST ACTIVITY

As part of the orientation on opening day, campers choose two activities they would like to participate in for the remainder of the session. Each day they attend these same activities, building on what they learned the previous day. Examples of activities include: archery, wildwoods, survival, dance, choir, drama, chess, canoeing, fishing, team games, and more. During theme weeks one activity period is designed with class choices that relate to the theme.

3:40 SECOND ACTIVITY

As part of the orientation on opening day, campers choose two activities they would like to participate in for the remainder of the session. Each day they attend these same activities, building on what they learned the previous day. Examples of activities include: archery, wildwoods, survival, dance, choir, drama, chess, canoeing, fishing, team games, and more. During theme weeks one activity period is designed with class choices that relate to the theme.

4:30 SNACK SHACK

At this time, each camper gets to choose a small snack to help refuel their energy after a busy afternoon of fun activities.

4:45 FREE SWIM

Campers have the opportunity to explore our waterfront by swimming, canoeing, or kayaking. Campers can also choose from a variety of other activities like visiting our Nature Center, the Barn, playing sports, Gaga ball, 9-Square, arts & crafts, or relaxing with a good book from the library. During this time our waterfront is fully staffed by lifeguards while other staff are available to oversee the other activities.

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5:45 DRESS AND CLEAN UP

Campers return to their cabins to change out of swim clothes and prepare for supper.

6:00 SUPPER

Supper is served family style in cabin groups with one main dish and several side dishes. Campers are able to share with each other about their afternoon activities. After dinner, a staff member leads everyone in some energetic and fun camp songs. This time also includes our daily Mail Call where both campers and staff receive mail, as well as a time of sharing some wild and crazy announcements.

7:30 EVENING ACTIVITY

One of our most favorite and longstanding traditions is Evening Activity. At this time, all campers and staff participate in playing these larger than life games. Some are new and many are classics that have been enjoyed at Camp Tall Turf for years. Some examples include Capture the Flag, Potato Round-up, Og Nog Log, and Gold Rush.

9:00 DEVOTIONS, SHOWERS, and BED

Following a long day of activities and learning, evening cabin time is a great way for cabins to connect with each other and God. The evening ends with cabin devotions that focus on the day's theme and verse. Counselors lead their cabins through an important time of personal and group reflection, reading God's Word, and praying for one another. It is a wonderful time for campers to share and ask questions as they seek to grow in their faith together. Campers also have the opportunity to shower and clean up before settling in for a good night's sleep.

Pre-Camp Communication

Upon successful registration, parents/guardians will receive the following information:

Dear Youth Camp Parent:

_____ 's application to attend Camp Tall Turf has been received and accepted. He/She is scheduled to attend camp from _____ to _____. Please read the following pages carefully as these letters contain important information you need to know about your child's time at camp.

1ST DAY OF CAMP – CAMPER DROP-OFF & REGISTRATION:

You should be at the Camp Tall Turf office (2010 Kalamazoo Ave SE) in Grand Rapids at **1:30 pm** on _____. The balance of your payment, _____, must be paid in full prior to _____. No payments will be accepted on the day of registration.

Registration begins in the parking lot of 2010 Kalamazoo where you will meet staff who will load your camper's luggage. Then please follow the signs that will direct you to the registration line. In addition to confirming your registration you will be able to buy postcards and other camp store items, receive a FREE camp t-shirt for your child, and meet the Camp Directors and the Health Officer. Please note that if you have ANY health concerns to address about your child (whether they are taking medications or not) this is the time to share those with the Health Officer. Once you are finished with this, you and your child will meet his/her Counselor and have a chance to get to know each other. Your child will stay with his/her Counselor and fellow cabin mates until the buses are loaded, by cabins, when registration is

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completed. Once your child is on the bus, they will be given specific rules by the head counselors and bus drivers such as no standing; be quiet at railroad crossings; etc. You may leave at any point after meeting the Counselor.

In case of a transportation emergency that may impact either arrival or departure times, Tall Turf staff will contact your primary phone number. If you are not able to be reached at this number, we will contact the designated emergency contact person on your child's registration form.

No Show & Refund Policy

A camper which does not show up will be contacted by phone to verify within the first 12 hours of camp by the Youth Camp Director or Director of Programs.

If there is a need to cancel your child's registration, registration fees will be refunded in the following manner: If the cancelation occurs one or more weeks before the first day of camp, then 90% of the registration fee will be refunded. If the cancelation occurs less than one week before the first day of camp, then \$0 will be refunded and a full payment must be made in advance in order for the child to attend the next summer.

Dress Code & What to Bring

Your child should bring the following: a bathing suit (no two piece suits), clothes for both warm and cool days, tennis shoes, socks, sandals, towels, sleeping bag or blankets, pillow, bug spray, toiletries, toothbrush and toothpaste. Your child will be outside all week, so their clothes will get dirty and laundry is not available. We advise that they pack clothes that can get dirty. Please label each of these items with your child's name. Your child will not need any spending money.

Because of the abundance of such objects around camp, all persons (great and small) must wear shoes at all times. Only in the swimming area, which is cleaned regularly, may shoes be removed.

Acceptable clothes include:

- T-shirts and sweatshirts; graphic t-shirts must not have inappropriate content
- Jeans, shorts, long skirts, sweats
- Shorts/skirts will be evaluated using finger-length rule (typically 6" inseam or longer)

Not acceptable:

- Two-piece swimsuits (If a camper only has a 2-piece swimsuit, a non-white t-shirt will be worn over it. Swimsuit approval will be subject to the discretion of appropriate leadership staff)
- Tank Tops or Crop tops (midriff must be covered)
- Leggings without a top long enough to cover bottom
- Clothing that shows underwear/bras/bra straps; sagging pants/shorts are not allowed
- Short or tight shorts/tights/pants

Males will be required to wear shirts at all times outside their cabins or when not swimming unless they are in an all-male class or activity and participating away from main camp. Females must wear shorts/skirts and shirts over their swimsuits when not at a water activity unless they are in an all-female class or activity and participating away from main camp.

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Prohibited Items

No cell phones, ipods, mp3 players, radios, TV's, CD's, gaming systems, weapons, personal sporting equipment, or any other electronic devices are allowed at camp. Campers are also not allowed to bring pets of any kind to camp. Additionally, campers should not bring candy or other snacks, money, or other valuable items. The use of alcohol, illegal drugs and weapons is prohibited. If there is reason to believe that any of the above items or stolen items are in a camper's possession and are not voluntarily turned in, the Director and the Counselor, in the presence of the camper, may search for the item(s). If the item(s) are found, they will be taken and stored in the Director's office. The parent will then be notified and the child may be sent home. Any camper sent home for discipline reasons forfeits his/her fees.

How to Contact Your Child While They Are At Camp

Camp directors will be quick to call and inform parents of any concerns that are important to share. In case of any emergency, physical or otherwise, the Directors will notify the parent or guardian immediately. They will also contact parents if there is illness, injury, or behavioral concerns. Examples of such incidents include injuries requiring a medical consult with a physician, evidence of or exposure to a communicable disease, development of a fever, and behavior which undermines safety in camp. We do not allow outgoing phone calls at camp as they interrupt the camp schedule and affect camper morale. If you have questions please call our Grand Rapids office at (616) 452-7906, and they will contact camp as needed.

You are welcomed and encouraged to write your child at camp:

Camp Tall Turf
(camper's name)
6947 E. Scout Rd.
Walkerville, MI 49459

Last Day – Release of Campers to Designated Adult

We will be bringing the campers back to 2010 Kalamazoo Ave SE **around 11:30 am** on the last day of camp. Your child(ren) will exit the buses as cabins. Once you see your child, you **must** check in with the counselor. **The Counselor will ask you for identification before you may leave with your child.** This is for the safety of your child as we are required to ensure that they only leave with those individuals permitted to pick them up. All luggage will be unloaded in the parking lot - you may pick it up at any time. Please do NOT park on the side of Worden Street adjacent to our parking lot as the buses will need to park and unload in that space. Also, please be alert of other campers and their families walking around when leaving the parking lot!

On the last night of each session at camp there is an Honor's Campfire, which begins between 7:30-7:45pm. If you wish to join us for this event, please pick up directions at registration or contact us at (616) 452-7906. You may take your child home after Honor's Campfire once you have checked your child out with the Director. You will be asked to **provide identification at the camp** before you may leave with your child.

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Medical Information

Camp is a structured educational setting. If your child takes medication for ADD, ADHD, or other behavioral concerns during the school year, the medication must be sent with your child to camp. If your child's physician indicates that there is a compelling medical or other reason to have the child's medication discontinued during your child's stay at camp, you must submit the physician's statement to us ASAP.

All medications brought to camp MUST be sent in their original containers. We will not accept medications any other way and your child may not be able to attend if this is not followed correctly. If a camper has lice, he/she will be sent home immediately. Please check your child before coming to camp.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends, in the prevention of West Nile Virus, that everyone wears clothing that covers the skin such as long sleeve shirts and pants, apply bug spray with DEET to clothing and exposed skin and curb outside activity during the hours that mosquitoes are feeding which often includes dawn and dusk. Mosquitoes most likely to carry the disease bite primarily from dusk to dawn. We will be working with the campers in the above area during their time at camp. But, please understand that we cannot prevent mosquito bites entirely and some children are much more sensitive to mosquito bites than others.

Health & Wellness

Campers are not required by law to have a physical exam prior to camp. But, each camper is required to have a Health History Form which accompanies his or her application.

At registration the Health Officer will begin the screening process. The initial screening will be the collection of camper's medication from their parents. The Health Officer will also review the camper's health form with the parent, insuring that collected medication is listed on the form and that the camper's health status is the same as the form indicates. If a parent indicates that medication is located in the camper's luggage, the Health Officer will note its location and secure the medication when the camper arrives at camp. When the campers arrive at camp, they will stop at the infirmary as part of their general camp tour. Here, the counselors will turn in all remaining medication brought by his/her campers, and the Health Officer will make a brief check of the health of each camper.

All campers' meds will be stored in the infirmary. All prescription medication must be administered as directed by a physician. Nonprescription medication will be administered according to the camp health policies and physician's standing orders or under the signed instruction of the parent/guardian or the individual's physician.

When campers who need medication are camping outside Main Camp, the Health Officer will determine how best to administer the medication. If the process is simple, the YCD or Head Counselor may be able to administer medication. If, however, the Health Officer's expertise is needed, he/she will be driven to the campsite while keeping close contact with the Directors at Main Camp via walkie talkies.

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Healthy Camp Begins and Ends at Home

Sourced from the American Camping Association

1. If your child is showing signs of illness such as running a temperature, throwing up, has diarrhea, nasal drainage and/or coughing/sneezing, keep the child home and contact your camp director. This greatly reduces the spread of illness at camp but also supports your child's recovery. Know your camp's policy about illness and camp attendance.
2. Teach your child to sneeze/cough in his/her sleeve and to wash his/her hands often while at camp, especially before eating and after toileting. If you really want to achieve impact, teach your child to accompany hand washing with another behavior: keeping their hands away from their face.
3. If your child has mental, emotional, or social health challenges, talk with a camp representative before camp starts. Proactively discussing a camp's ability to accommodate a child can help minimize – if not eliminate – potential problems.
4. Should your child need a particular nutrition plan because of allergies, intolerances or a diagnosis (e.g., diabetes), note these on the Health History form but also contact the camp to make sure (a) they have noted that need and (b) the camp can address it. Discuss how your child will receive appropriate meals and snacks then explain that to your camper. Should your child be uncomfortable with the plan, arrange for a camp staff member to assist/monitor the process until the child is comfortable.
5. Make sure your child has and wears appropriate close-toed shoes for activities such as soccer and hiking, and that your child understands that camp is a more rugged environment than the sub/urban setting. Talk with your child about wearing appropriate shoes to avoid slips, trips and falls that, in turn, can result in injuries such as sprained ankle.
6. Send enough clothes so your child can dress in layers. Mornings can be chilly and afternoons get quite hot. Dressing in layers allows your child to remove clothing as s/he warms while still enjoying camp.
7. Fatigue plays a part in both injuries and illnesses – and camp is a very busy place! If your child is going to a day camp, be sure they get enough rest at night. If the child will be at a resident camp, explain that camp is not like a sleepover; they need to sleep, not stay up all night!
8. Remember to send sunscreen appropriate to the camp's geographic location and that your child has tried at home. Teach your child how to apply his/her sunscreen and how often to do so.
9. Send a reusable water bottle. Instruct your child to use it and refill it frequently during their camp stay. Staying hydrated is important to a healthy camp experience, something your child can assess by noting the color of their urine ("pee"); go for light yellow.
10. Talk with your child about telling their counselor, the nurse or camp director about problems or things that are troublesome to them at camp. These camp professionals can be quite helpful as children learn to handle being lonesome for home or cope with things such as losing something special. These helpers can't be helpful if they don't know about the problem – so talk to them.
11. Should something come up during the camp experience or afterward – you see an unusual rash on your child or the child shares a disturbing story – contact the camp's representative and let them know. Camps want to partner effectively with parents; sharing information makes this possible.

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Procedures for Prompt & Responsive Notification of Parent/Guardian

Leadership staff will retain records of contact regarding a child's ill health in the following circumstances:

- a) Immediately, if serious accident or injury has occurred; or if the child needs to be sent home.
- b) When a health problem becomes apparent and is not indicated on the camper application which is filled out by the parent/guardian. Please ensure any updates to health conditions and/or required care are provided at drop-off.
- c) A contagious illness is acquired while at camp.
- d) Illness or injury is acquired at camp that needs treatment or prognosis of a M.D.
- e) A child needs to spend the night in the infirmary because of an illness or injury.
- f) A child becomes ill during the last 24 hours of his/her stay at camp and an appointment should be made at home for him/her with the family doctor.

Behavior Agreement for Camper from Registration

Camper Behavior Agreement: Camp Tall Turf seeks to provide a safe, peaceful, and fun environment for all participants. So that we can ensure this, each camper is required to sign the following Camper Behavior Agreement. Any noncompliance by a camper may result in that individual being sent home.

- I will participate in all camp activities.
- I will obey the rules of Camp Tall Turf as told to me by camp staff.
- I will respect all persons, creatures, and the natural environment while at camp.
- I will respect camp property and other people's personal property.
- I will listen to and obey the rules given to me when riding the bus.

WHAT EVERY CAMPER MUST KNOW

1. Stay with your counselor.
2. You are expected to participate in all activities unless the Camp Health Officer (Nurse) excuses you.
3. You must have a rest period after lunch each day.
4. You will help keep your cabin clean.
5. You must wear shoes outdoors always unless you are in the swimming area.
6. The camp day begins at 8:00 am and ends at 9:45 pm. You are not allowed to leave your cabin without your counselor before 8:00 am or after 9:45 pm.
7. When the bell rings, you must hurry to your meeting spot for the start of an activity or to the Dining Hall for a meal. Go with your cabin.
8. You are not permitted to enter the maintenance shed, the equipment storage room, the snack shack, or the office.
9. When a staff person raises his/her hand and says "3-2-1 hands up," this is a signal for everyone to raise a hand and be quiet.
10. You may be in the Dining Hall only during mealtimes. Use the Dining Hall bathrooms only for emergencies and with permission from your counselor.
11. Only "kings" and "queens" may leave the dining room tables during meals.
12. Because Camp Tall Turf is a Christian camp, we expect you to always:
 - Respect things belonging to others.

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- Be kind. Say only good things about each other.
- Obey staff members.
- Don't use bad language.
- Show kindness to animals and plants. They are part of God's creation!

Transportation Guidelines

The following rules will be abided by for **camper loading, traveling and unloading** of a bus:

1. Cabins will enter a bus with their counselor, one cabin at a time, when the driver gives the okay. The driver will be in the bus at this time and have made the pre-trip safety check of the bus.
2. All vehicle passenger seating capacity limits established by the manufacturer will be followed. No more than three people should be in any seat at any time. Each counselor is responsible to sit with his/her campers on the bus.
3. Once the bus is loaded, the bus driver will explain all bus rules and procedures: Campers must keep all parts of their body inside the bus at all times. All passengers must remain seated at all times. All campers and staff must adhere to the requests/rules of the bus driver.
4. If an emergency occurs where evacuation of a bus is needed the following procedures will be followed:
 - a. Each counselor is responsible to stay with his/her campers. They should keep campers as calm as possible.
 - b. The counselor nearest the back of the bus will open the emergency exit door and help campers down as quickly as possible.
 - c. The driver will be in charge of the front exit door, seeing to it that each cabin exits as quickly and orderly as possible.
 - d. The Health Officer or other properly trained staff will help with injuries.
5. Under normal camper unloading conditions the head counselors will dismiss each cabin one at a time.
6. Counselors are required to ride the bus back and forth to camp.
7. All passengers riding in vans will go through an orientation before the vehicle moves: Passengers must remain seated while the vehicles are in motion. All passengers will wear a seatbelt. Noise level should be such as to not distract the driver. There should be no throwing of objects or other disruptive behavior.
8. The above rules apply for loading vans.
In addition, campers must load from front to back.
9. A written/typed list of individuals on each trip will be kept with each corresponding vehicle and in the camp office.
10. Changes or emergencies that would impact campers pick-up or drop off location will be communicated to parents/guardians via preferred method of contact indicated during registration system.

Evaluation of Camp

Campers will be asked for their feedback of camp on their last full day of camp. Parents also have an

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opportunity to provide feedback via our website.

Parent Authorization from Registration:

- In case of emergency, I hereby give permission to the administration of Tall Turf Ministries (Camp Tall Turf) to disperse all given medications and to secure proper treatment for my child, including hospitalization, anesthesia, surgery and/or routine nonsurgical medical care, if so needed in the opinion of an available or attending physician at the time.
- I consent to allow Tall Turf Ministries to provide my child with transportation to and from camp and on field trips while at camp.
- I acknowledge that Tall Turf Ministries is not responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged personal property that my child brings to camp.
- I certify that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge, including all medical/immunization histories, stated family income level and family size.
- I give permission for the use of photographs, videos/DVDs, and recordings including my son or daughter to be used in camp publicity and/or publications.
- I understand the nature and rules of the camper behavior agreement and agree to its terms and conditions being ensured by camp staff.
- I consent to my child's participation in all camp activities.

Examples of Activities

Campers can choose to participate in two afternoon activities each week while they are at camp, as well as daily activities with their cabin group. **The main goal is for the campers to have fun!**

We also hope that in participating in these activities campers will:

- 1) develop competency in certain activities.
- 2) develop confidence and pride in their God-given talents.
- 3) grow as leaders.
- 4) practice skill development in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics.

Kinesiology, Exercise Science and Sports

Archery*	Aerobic or Praise Dance	Canoeing*
Challenge Course*	First Aid	Hiking
Kayaking*	Mini Olympics	Soccer
Swimming*	Volleyball	Water Polo*

Environmental and Outdoor Education/Leisure

Agricultural Animal Science	Crittermania	Fishing*
Gardening	Hiking	Mud Pit
Nature Study	Orienteering	Raft Construction and Test*
Wilderness Survival Class	Tubing	Wildwoods*

Food, Arts and Culture

Arts & Crafts	Bible Study	Candle Making
Choir	Drama	Issues Class
Kites	Knots	Outdoor Cooking*
Photography	Tie Dye	Walking Sticks*

*High adventure activity requiring special staff training, close camper supervision, and special safety

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precautions to ensure that the campers have an enjoyable and safe experience. Age restrictions may apply.

Emergency Procedures For Staff and Campers

Transportation

1. Attend to any ill or injured passengers. If medical care is needed, see that they are taken to the nearest medical facility.
2. Place reflectors or emergency flashers as appropriate. If vehicle has to be moved, mark the original location (from back of tire) with chalk.
3. Instruct passengers to exit vehicle, when appropriate, using the buddy system.
4. Group uninjured passengers together in an area safe from oncoming traffic to await instructions and/or new pick-up. Children must be supervised by an adult at all times.
5. Contact Camp Director or provided emergency contacts in the order listed above.
6. Obtain names, addresses and telephone numbers of any witnesses.
7. Obtain location where any police reports will be filed.

Fire and Fire Prevention

- a) First and foremost, staff members who are in the vicinity of the fire must make every conceivable effort to free people who are in immediate danger of being burned.
- b) A staff member, typically the Youth Camp Director or Director of Youth Programs, should call the fire department as soon as possible.
- c) All children should be led at least 100 feet away from the fire.
- d) All staff should familiarize themselves with location and operation of the fire-fighting equipment at camp. The nearest fire extinguishers, sand, water buckets, etc. should be used to extinguish the flames. Camp's fire extinguishers are ABC type; they are meant to put out all types of fire--material, electrical and fuel.
- e) Camping staff should always clear an adequate area around any campfire and be sure that the fire is watched at all times.
- f) Campers are not allowed to have or carry matches.
- g) A fire drill will be conducted at least twice each session. One drill will take place during the first 24 hours in the Dining Hall. Four cabins will exit out each of the four exits. The door your cabin exits will be covered in orientation. A fire drill will be a series of 5 short blasts on the air horn.
- h) When a fire drill occurs (when campers are not in their cabins), everyone must meet at their cabin's meeting spot. All fire drills must be recorded in the Fire Drill Notebook located in the office.
- i) Means of exit from camp include: the Boardwalk by the Nature Center; any of the roads leading away from camp; the buses and the waterfront area.
- j) If a fire warning device is not working, a fire watch shall take place. A fire watch shall consist of an adult staff member, awake and dressed, making rounds in all buildings at least every 45 minutes between the hours of 10 pm and 8 am or at other times when the campers are sleeping.
- k) The Site Manager will weekly inspect all fire detection systems.

Tornado

- a) If campers are inside their cabin during a tornado warning, they should move into their bathroom unit and crouch low toward an inner wall. If possible, heads should be

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- covered for protection.
- b) If a group is caught while away from its cabin, the group leader shall search for a low ditch or patch of earth and move his/her group here, having each person lie low to the ground.
 - c) Other appropriate locations for safety in tornado warning weather are: the cooler section of the Dining Hall, the basement of the Activity Hall, and the crawl spaces under the infirmary & duplex. The swamp just beyond the Camp Office can be used for a last resort.
 - d) If Oceana County is placed under a tornado watch, a staff member will listen for radio or television announcements until the watch is called off.
- ** In either a fire or tornado situation the air horn will blast five times and the administration and leadership team will notify you on the situation.**

Lost Camper

- a) The counselor will report immediately to the YCD or DYP giving the name and description of the camper and the events preceding the discovery of the lost. A judgment must be made as to whether the camper is lost, is running away from camp, or is unaccounted for another reason.
- b) Available staff members will assemble to discuss the plan of action. Most counseling staff must remain with their campers. Those staff that can should systematically search the areas where the camper is most likely to be.
- c) If an initial search fails and the camper has not been found after 45 minutes, the police will be notified.

Serious injury

- a) Leave the injured person where he/she is if possible. Do NOT move that person unless immediate danger is present.
- b) Do not attempt to remove penetrating foreign objects from the body.
- c) Call the Health Officer immediately. If the Health Officer cannot be found, check breathing and pulse and relay this information to him/her when he/she arrives.
- d) If there is bleeding, apply direct pressure to the wound.
- e) The YCD or the DYP should call the doctor and the hospital to inform them of the emergency.
- f) Another staff member should get the backboard to use in transporting the injured.

Waterfront Emergency- Lost Swimmer Drill

- a) When the whistle sounds three short successive blows, campers should immediately leave the water and go to their meeting spots.
- b) Part of the staff will stand with the campers on shore while the remaining staff will meet with the Waterfront Director to comb the waterfront area and/or to assist with the emergency as necessary.
- c) The YCD or DYP will notify the proper authorities.
- d) While waterfront emergencies are rare, assignment to specific emergency duties is important. Emergency drills will be conducted every session.

Power Outages

- a) In the event of a power outage, stay calm.
- b) Keep campers near you.
- c) Familiarize yourself with your surroundings beforehand to avoid the risk of getting hurt.

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- d) The YCD and DYP will keep you updated of changes in programming and other details.
- e) During a power outage, toilets will not flush and water will not run
 - If a power outage last long water can be brought form the lake in buckets to flush toilets with and campers may be given bottled water to drink
- f) Camp will still go on in the event of a power outage

Unauthorized Visitors

- a) Identify yourself and ask them to do the same.
- b) If they do not have a good reason for being on camp property, ask them to leave.
- c) If needed, talk to your head so leadership can notify police. Get a vehicle license number if possible. Report the incident to a camp official immediately.

ACA Standards Addressed in this Packet of Information:

CR.2.1	Goals and Outcomes for Participants	
AD.4.1	Arrival and Departure	
AD.5.1	Transportation Information for Parents	
AD.8.1	Transportation Orientation	
AD.11.1	Special Health Needs - Camp Philosophy and Health Management Practices Shared with Public	
AD.19.1	Safety Orientation and Emergency Plan	
AD.21.2	Emergency Communications - Parents/Guardians	
AD.23.1	Camper Release - Minor Camper Permission	
AD.23.2	Camper Release - Absentee Campers	
AD.31.1	Camp Experience Evaluation	
AD.32.1	Program Eligibility for Camp Programs	
AD.33.1	Activity Information and Permission - Information	
AD.33.2	Activity Information and Permission - Permission	
HW.1.1	Camper Health History	
HW.2.1	Permission to Treat	
HW.3.1	Contact Information	
HW.4.1	Health Information for Short-Term and Family Camp Participants	
HW.5.1	Health Exam - Access and Determination	
HW.5.2	Health Exam - Previous 24 Month Requirements	
HW.6.1	Health Screening for Resident Campers	
HW.7.1	Health Information Review for Short-Term/Day Camps - Designated Staff	
HW.7.2	Health Information Review for Short-Term/Day Camps - Special Needs Campers	
HW.8.1	Parent Notification - Written Description of Incident	
HW.8.2	Parent Notification - Documenting Parental Contact	
HW.13.1	Medication Storage and Administration	
ST.22.1	Camp Security Training and Rehearsal	

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FAQ – Source: American Camping Association

What is the camp's philosophy and program emphasis?

Activities at Tall Turf Ministries are designed to help campers develop: Mental health, Emotional health, Social health, Physical health.

Each camp session, campers learn about reconciliation through daily activities, team building initiatives, cabin devotions, and building positive relationships with other campers and staff in an intentionally diverse setting. During their time at camp, campers will be encouraged and challenged to:

- Recognize and celebrate their own unique cultural identity.
- Develop a greater appreciation and value for individuals from diverse racial, ethnic, cultural, social, and economic backgrounds.
- Learn to break down barriers and build relationships of trust and mutual respect through teamwork.

What training do counselors receive?

Adult summer staff for Camp Tall Turf spend two weeks before camp begins in orientation. Staff are trained in safety regulations, emergency procedures and communication, behavior management techniques, child abuse prevention, appropriate staff and camper behavior, and specific procedures for supervision. Additional training for specific roles is also provided.

What is the counselor-to-camper ratio?

Generally, the ratios at Camp Tall Turf resident camps range from: One counselor for every 8 campers aged 8-13. If this varies, it will be less campers to each adult. Additionally, the counseling staff have a mentor of each gender that guides and assists counselors, plus assistance from a Leader in Training teen staff member of the same gender. Please note that training includes techniques to minimize 1:1 camper/staff interactions when out of sight of others.

What are the ages of the counselors?

100 percent of the lead staff in counseling and programs are at least 18 years old. Leader in Training staff range from age 14 to age 17 and may assist counselors in programming or staff in preparing meals or preparing for trips.

What are desired qualities in camp staff?

The same qualities of trustworthiness and dependability sought by any employer are valued commodities in camp employees. Also, the ability to adapt to a variety of situations, empathy for and ability to work with camp clientele, a strong self-image and an outgoing personality are important characteristics for camp staff.

What percentage of the counselors returned from last year?

Most camps have from 40-60 percent returning staff. It is undetermined how many will Camp Tall Turf staff members will return until contracts are signed. We recruit from local churches, colleges, organizations and more to ensure a diverse and qualified staff.

How are behavioral and disciplinary problems handled?

Positive reinforcement, assertive role modeling and a sense of fair play are generally regarded as key components of camp counseling and leadership. Rules are necessary in any organization and the

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disciplinary approach taken is reasonable and well communicated before with their caretakers (information in this handbook), when campers arrive and as needed. Staff are trained to respond to children as opposed to react to children. They are also encouraged to ask for help and seek assistance of leadership staff when a difficult situation or behavior is encountered. When there are serious problems with a particular camper (ie: drug usage, dangerous behavior which threatens the safety or well-being of others), the child will be brought immediately to the leadership staff. The leadership staff may wish to call the parent/guardian at that time.

If penalties are involved for violations, they are applied quickly, fairly, calmly, and without undue criticism to campers. Each counselor may handle small discipline problems differently, including losing privileges. As a means of discipline, a child shall not be deprived of food or sleep, shall not be placed alone without staff supervision, observation and interaction, or subjected to verbal abuse such as threats or ridicule, corporal punishment, hazing, or *excessive physical exercise* or excessive restraint.

How does the camp handle special needs?

If your child has mental, emotional, or social health challenges, talk with a camp representative before registration and/or before camp starts. Proactively discussing a camp's ability to accommodate a child can help minimize – if not eliminate – potential problems. We will collaborate with appropriate camp staff, such as the Health Officer and/or Food Service Supervisor to ensure the needs are addressed appropriately in the camp setting.

Should your child need a particular nutrition plan because of allergies, intolerances or a diagnosis (e.g., diabetes), note these on the Health History form but also contact the camp to make sure (a) they have noted that need and (b) the camp can address. Discuss how your child will receive appropriate meals and snacks then explain that to your camper. Should your child be uncomfortable with the plan, arrange for a camp staff member to assist/monitor the process until the child is comfortable.

Additionally, Tall Turf Ministries complies with the ADA and state and local laws protecting qualified individuals against discrimination in employment. We provide reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities.

How does the camp handle homesickness and other adjustment issues?

At Camp Tall Turf, we have a full schedule to help students stay engaged in our mission and in their cabin groups. We strive to have all members of camp feel part of the team by encouraging participating and leadership. We will work with youth individually with homesickness or adjustment issues.

We encourage families to prepare mail for the camper to receive while at camp and talk about coping issues before leaving for camp.

Does the American Camp Association (ACA) accredit the camp?

Camp Tall Turf is accredited by the ACA, meaning qualified accreditation visitors ask the questions -- 300 of them -- regarding essential health, safety, and program quality issues important to a camp's overall operation. This does not guarantee a risk-free environment, but it's some of the best evidence parents have of a camp's commitment to a safe and nurturing environment for their children.