

SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

Ross Point Baptist Camp (RPBC) provides a unique and adventurous opportunity for initial Christian commitment as well as Christian growth in an outdoor setting quite apart from the daily routine of home, school, or other activities. It allows people to get away and be with the Creator as we carry on Christian education in God's creation. Sessions run from one to ten days and are available for First graders through adults. It is our purpose to provide a ministry that will challenge individuals to:

- establish and develop a personal relationship with Christ our Lord, experience unconditional acceptance, and learn more about God, by living with and being cared for by mature, caring, trained staff who lead campers through Bible study, devotions, singing, prayer, fun, fellowship and faith sharing;
- learn to love God, self, and others by living in community quite apart from the pressures, demands, and stereotypes of everyday living with old and new friends, both staff and campers, sharing and caring regardless of differences;
- learn how to live in Christian community as Christ intended, by practicing decision making, communication, and relating to others through living in small groups;
- discover and develop personal gifts, talents, and abilities through individual and group activities, challenges, games, and exploration;
- practice good stewardship of Creation by discovering and exploring God's wonderful and mysterious creation by minimizing waste, recycling, preserving nature, and nurturing all of Creation;

Goals and Objectives

GOAL I - RPBC will offer a unique opportunity for campers to experience an initial Christian commitment as well as Christian Growth.

Objectives:

1. To provide daily worship services or devotion periods with qualified leaders in small group settings.
2. To provide a daily opportunity for campers to be involved with Bible Study with a qualified leader.
3. To provide a time for campers to experience a private daily devotion time.

4. To provide opportunities for campers and counselor leaders to share their Christian journey and witness to others through the concept of family camping groups.

GOAL II - RPBC will offer campers a special outdoor setting to stimulate the discovery and exploration of God's creation and encourage proper care of it.

Objectives:

1. To provide daily experiences such as nature hikes and canoeing on the river so that campers have opportunities to discover the natural beauty of RPBC.

2. To use natural products found at RPBC to produce arts and craft pieces through the special crafts program.

3. To provide an opportunity for campers to become involved in a (daily or weekly) preservation project either individually or as a family group.

4. To provide opportunities for campers to observe and identify wildlife in the many varied outdoor settings.

GOAL III - RPBC will provide a respite from the pressures, demands and stereotypes of everyday living.

Objectives:

1. To provide a daily time for each camper for quiet devotions either through Morning Watch or evening devotions, or both.

2. To provide a rest period each day after lunch for each camper and counselor.

3. To provide for cooperative play through the use of New Games and other non-competitive type activities.

GOAL IV - RPBC provide exciting events of fellowship and adventure for individual growth and group development.

Objectives:

1. To provide an opportunity for group singing or group skits during a camp talent show or stunt night.

2. To provide an opportunity for campers to challenge themselves on the ropes course or the initiatives course.

GOAL V - RPBC will offer an opportunity to meet new friends, to learn how better to relate to others, and to develop a sense of oneness and compassion for all people, regardless of differences.

Objectives:

1. To provide opportunities to meet new friends, campers will be assigned to cabin groups by the director with no more than three campers from the same church in a given cabin if possible.
2. To develop group skills, i.e. leadership and cooperation, through the use of initiatives and challenge opportunities.

GOAL VI - RPBC will provide an environment to demonstrate how to live in a community the way Christ intends.

Objectives:

1. To provide a time each day for individuals, family groups, and the entire camp to worship, pray and praise GOD.
2. To provide Christian role models as staff.
3. To provide an opportunity for each camper and staff member to end the camp week with a "benediction" program or service that emphasizes the community of Christ.

HOW WE DO IT

The purpose of Ross Point Summer Camp Program is to actualize or bring about the above possibilities in a variety of ways. Each week of camp is separate and distinct from the others in organization and program content that is determined by the description of the particular camp, the director, and the counseling staff. There is a curriculum recommended for most camps and various resources available. The daily program will involve these groups in various activities either by themselves or in larger or combined groups, depending on the director of the week. These activities are not intended to be lectures, but events that involve everyone in the group, making full use of the camper's contributions to the group. All camps will have access to the waterfront, canoes, crafts, the recreational facilities on a scheduled basis. In all these camps, the emphasis is on informality, mutual respect and concern, personal and spiritual growth, our relationship to God and His world, and, of course, having a good time!

The Ross Point Board of Directors is committed to ensuring the on-going quality of facilities and ministry of Ross Point. To that end, an on-going program of financial development will be developed and implemented to ensure the fiscal vitality of Ross Point Camp & Conference Center.

WHO DOES WHAT

The Summer Camp Program is organized and monitored by the Ross Point Board along with the advice of the Executive Director. This includes the planning and evaluation of each camp, the procurement and training of the directors, the initial procurement of volunteer counselors and the general training of all counselors. The Associate Director of Program is responsible for assisting the RPBC and the Executive Director in coordinating and presenting the summer camp program. Each session program director is then responsible for the organization and leadership that particular week of camp, the enlistment of needed volunteer counselors, and the particular training of all counselors for the week. It is important that each director attempt to fill open counselor positions with volunteer counselors. Counselor to camper ratio should be no more than 1:6 with 1 - 8 year olds, 1:8 with 9 - 14 year olds, and 1:10 with 15 - 19 year olds for most of the day. During free time, after lights out, before breakfast, and during transition times, the camper-counselor ratio may be greater. For swimming, boating, and all camp activities, the ratio should be 1:25 up to 50 and 1:10 above 50.