Word of Life Florida Youth Camp Information Packet

Word of Life Florida
13247 Word of Life Drive
Hudson, FL 34669
(727)856-7575
(727)379-5600

WELCOME

Welcome to the family of Word of Life Florida! We know you are making plans concerning your trip, just as we are busy preparing to make sure your week with us is outstanding, so we've put together this packet to help you along. If you are new to the Florida Youth Camp or a long time veteran, you will find information in these pages that will help you to be as organized as possible. In order to serve you in the most efficient manner we have tried to cover all of the basics as thoroughly as possible.

This packet has been designed to answer any and all questions you or your campers may have regarding your week at camp, but if after reading through this information you have any questions, please call us at (727) 856-7575. Registrars are available by phone Monday through Friday 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

We look forward to your stay with us at the Word of Life Florida Youth Camp!

~The Youth Camp Leadership Team

Checklist

Where to start:

- ☐ Register Your Campers Online at www.wol.org
- ☐ Check your e-mail for confirmation and important details. You will receive a series of emails. All of our communication with you will be via email.
- ☐ Download Info Pack from www.wol.org
- ☐ Download and print Camper Health Forms from www.wol.org
- ☐ Complete Health Form.
- ☐ Log on to your online account and enter your individual camper information.
- ☐ Make sure your camper info and complete payments are finalized no later than 2 weeks prior to arrival in order to avoid cancellation.
- ☐ Special Housing requests must be entered into the camper information in your online account **no later** than two weeks prior to arrival.

Extra Details:

NEW CANCELLATION POLICY:

- ☐ Deposits are non-refundable if cancelled within 61 days of your arrival.
- ☐ All cancellations are also subject to a $10 **per person** processing fee.
- ☐ Reservations must be paid in full two (2) weeks prior to arrival or they will be cancelled.
- ☐ Make sure health forms are properly completed, as campers **cannot** be admitted without them.
- ☐ Collect all medications from campers (prior to check-in) as you will be expected to turn in all camper medications to the nurse at check-in. All medications must be in original container with correct doses and instructions. Please have each camper's medications in Ziploc bags labeled with the camper's name.

  Note: Florida State law requires that all medications taken orally must be turned in. This includes: Tylenol, Midol, Vitamins, cough syrup etc. Campers are allowed to keep their inhalers, Epi-pins, and medicated creams.
- ☐ Collect and organize campers' spending money for the bank.
- ☐ Be constantly in prayer for decisions and commitments by your campers! (**Please** start this now!)

PLEASE NOTE: ONLY GROUP LEADERS ARE ALLOWED TO MAKE ANY CHANGES TO THE GROUP RESERVATION.

Spiritual Emphasis

Word of Life Florida Youth Camp is dedicated to seeing each of the young people who set foot on the Youth Camp property make life-changing decisions for Christ. We look to see the campers accept Christ as Savior, grow closer in their relationship with Him, and demonstrate a desire to share their faith with others; each of the many spiritual facets of the camp ministry point in one of these directions.

- During the **Saturday night rally** the gospel is presented and an invitation is given. Most decisions made to accept Christ during the week occur on Saturday nights.
- **Sunday morning services** are designed to help the campers begin to understand and develop their relationship with Christ.
- On **Sunday nights** campers are challenged to pray for and commit to witness to friends who do not know Christ. There is a time for youth leaders to meet with their young people, to pray with them and to begin to develop action plans for reaching their friends during this evening as well.
- **Morning Bible hour** runs Monday through Friday. It is during this time that our speaker for the week delivers a Scriptural book study or a study on the life of a Biblical character. It is a time of growth for both new believers and established Christians.
- The **Evening meetings** are specifically geared toward preparation for the Friday night Campfire Dedication service. We believe that once one gives himself over to Christ, the next natural step is dedication. It is in those Monday and Tuesday evening meetings that we explain to the campers the significance of dedicating oneself to the Lord as well as its biblical mandate.
- One of our evening meetings has a theme or focus on the **Word of Life Bible Institute**. During this meeting we give the campers an opportunity to consider spending a year of their lives after high school to study the Scriptures in great detail at our Bible Institute on campus. Staff counselors who are about to graduate from the Institute share the various aspects of campus life and one of the Deans opens the Bible and typically shares a message on the importance of knowing God's Word.
- One night is set aside for the **Campfire service**. During this time we give the campers an opportunity to dedicate their lives to Christ and to be used at His discretion, placing all that they are, all that they have, and all that they ever hope to be under His control. It is a very special time for the entire camp.
- Friday night we also have our **Say-So service**. It is our final meeting with the campers and we give them an opportunity to share with the entire camp what Christ has done in their lives throughout that week. We also send them off with a message about staying true and strong to the things that were taught at camp; we encourage them to make a difference with what they've learned in the world around them.

Quiet Time: Campers are given a Quiet Time Diary to use during their time at camp. Trained counselors from the Bible Institute take the time during the week to teach the campers the importance of a daily time with the Lord, with the intention of forming a discipline in their lives.

Seminars: Optional Personal Evangelism seminars take place twice a week. The campers usually find the seminars to be informative and practical for both Christian living and sharing their faith. These seminars are a less formal time than the Bible Hours and Evening Rallies.

Schedule

We are hard at work preparing a program for this summer that will be exciting for each and every camper that joins us. While the final details of this program will not be laid down until just before camp, we can give you a general picture of what the day will look like. The following elements will be part of each and every day at the Florida Youth Camp:

Breakfast: An ample buffet of fruit, hot food, and cereal will give your campers and you the energy needed for the great day to follow!

Morning Bible Hour: One of our dynamic Bible teachers will open God's Word every morning, Monday through Friday. The topics will vary from week to week, but will always be a growing time for both new and mature Christians.

Quiet Time: For one half-hour each morning the entire camp will stop as everyone spends time alone in God's Word and in prayer. Campers will be taught how to do an effective Quiet Time, taught the importance of Quiet Time, and will be helped in the formation of this important discipline.

Morning Activity: Team competition will fill the remainder of the morning as the program guys scoop out a load of fun for us; guaranteed to be challenging.

Lunch: It is back to the dining hall for a great lunch buffet that is packed with noise and fun! Dining hall challenges and wacky competitions earn points for teams while providing some great dining entertainment.

Afternoon: Every afternoon is free time for the campers with numerous activities open for them to enjoy. They may choose to play in sports tournaments, enjoy the swimming pool, or participate in things such as paintball, water tubing or the climbing tower.

Supper Buffet: The afternoon activity will have worked up quite an appetite by the time supper rolls around and the hot meal that awaits them is sure to hit the spot. With lots of supplemental choices for those pickier eaters, everyone is sure to leave satisfied.

Evening Rally: Each evening a pumped up rally gets everyone excited about what it means to live for Christ as various speakers cover important topics such as salvation, dedication, and service. Great music, thought-provoking drama, and even some competition will complement the message each night.

Night activities: A flurry of activities is planned for the remainder of each night; there will be team games, free-time, optional activities and special events. Before bed, each cabin will be led in devotions by one of their counselors, ending the day with God's Word and prayer.

CELL PHONE USE

While cell phones have become a great convenience and are great for accessibility, we have found that they can be a tremendous distraction from the camp program. We would request that in the event you need to contact your camper call (727)-379-5600 or staff member call (727)856-7575 and we will give your camper or staff member the message.

Campers may only use cell phones in the event of an emergency or between the hours of 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. to contact family or guardian.

Upon Your Arrival

Let us assure you, our registration process is designed to be as painless as possible. We know that the last thing you want to do after driving for hours is fight through huge lines only to find out things you were supposed to do before your arrival that were never mentioned! So what exactly are you supposed to do when you get here? It's simple and easy:

- Go to the George Theis Assembly Center between **2 p.m. and 5 p.m.**
- Leave all campers outside; do not allow them to come inside the Assembly Center with you. This will keep lines, crowds, and confusion to a minimum and will allow us to achieve our goal of getting you in and out as quickly as possible. Send one of your leaders with all of your campers through the head check station.
- Do not unload any luggage until after registration is complete.
- Bring the following with you into registration:
    - Registration receipt.
    - Health forms: remember that health forms must be completed correctly and signed by ONE OR BOTH OF THE LEGAL GUARDIANS. If this is not done, you will be responsible to call that parent and will not be permitted to continue the registration process until they are contacted.
    - Camper medications.
    - Any special medical instructions to report to the nurse.
    - Any outstanding balance.
- HOUSING: Remember that housing arrangements CANNOT be made at registration; these assignments are done prior to your arrival, so we must receive any special housing requests at least two weeks before camp.
- NOTE: If you will be arriving later than 5pm, or if it is necessary to suddenly change your arrival plans (vehicle troubles etc) please notify the Conference Center Front Desk immediately at (727)856-7575 or the Youth Camp Office at (727)379-5600 so appropriate arrangements can be made.
- Once you have completed the registration process you will be introduced to the counselors who will be counseling your Campers. The counselors will direct you as to where to unload your luggage and your campers.

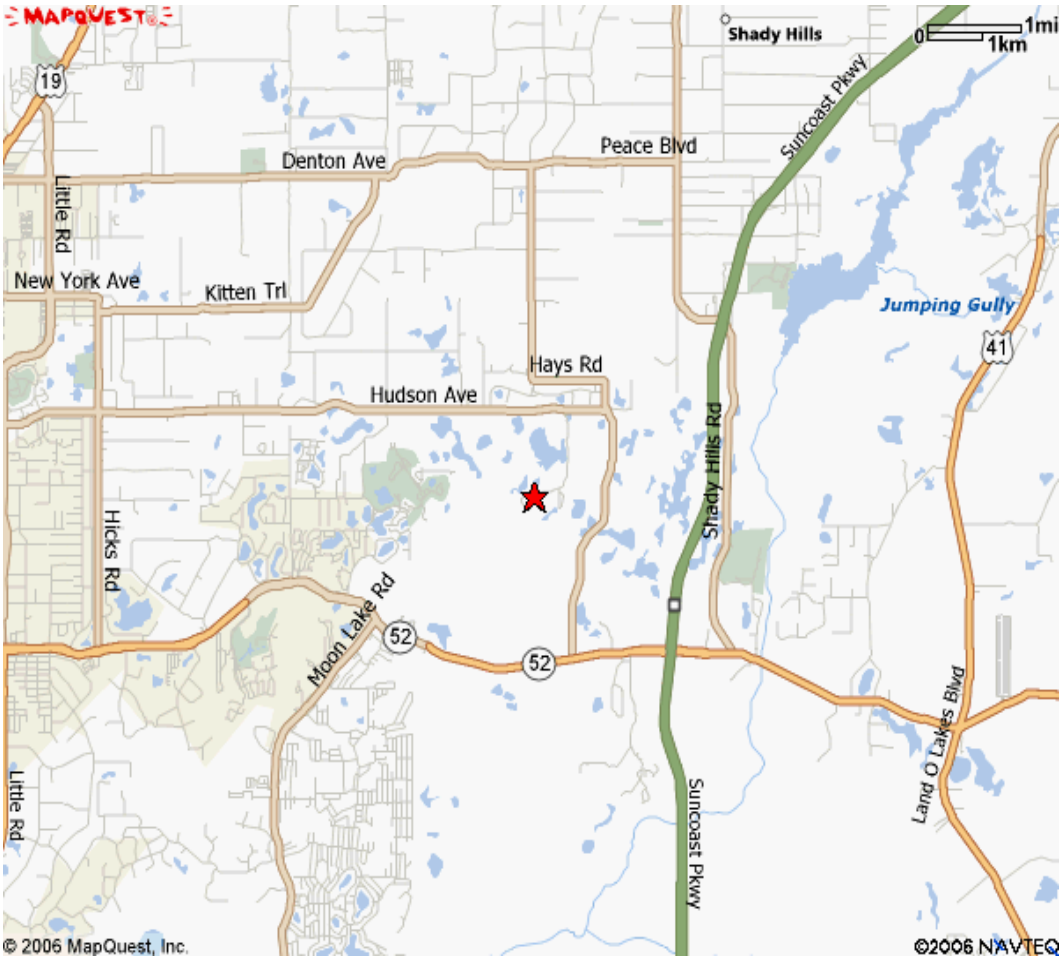
Directions

Coming South:

- I-75 to exit 285 (State Rd. 52)
- Drive west approximately 14 miles
- Turn right onto Hays Rd. (2 miles)
- Turn left onto Hudson Ave
- Turn left at the Word of Life entrance.

Coming North

- Use the Veterans Expressway North (Toll Road 589)
- Follow the Veterans Expressway until it splits and turns into the Suncoast Parkway (Toll Road 589)
- Bare left onto the Suncoast Parkway at the Van Dyke Exit
- Follow Suncoast Parkway North
- Take Exit 27 (San Antonio/Dade City - State Road 52)
- At the End of the Exit Ramp, take a left onto State Road 52 (SR 52 West)
- Drive for about ½ mile and turn right onto Hays Road.
- Drive 2 miles and turn left onto Hudson Ave., then turn left at the Word of Life entrance



Word of Life FL, 13247 Word of Life Drive, Hudson, FL 34669

F.A.Q.

Are there any additional charges for campers?
We keep our additional charges to a minimum and have, in fact, eliminated some over the last few years. There are a couple activities that are necessary to charge for, though, such as paintball and water-tubing. A list of the additional charges can be found in the "Optional Activities" section of this packet.

What if a camper is coming in by plane, train or bus?
Round trip van shuttle service from Tampa International Airport is available. Please call (727) 856-7575 between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and give us at least 72-hours advance notice to schedule a pick up. There is a charge of $20 round trip to cover our cost for transportation. A Word of Life staff member will meet you or your camper at the appropriate location.

What are the cabin facilities like?
Campers sleep on bunk beds in air-conditioned cabins with bathroom facilities inside each cabin. Each room houses about 12 campers along with 2 counselors and groups are automatically housed together as much as possible unless otherwise noted.

What is the food like?
The food served is of the finest quality and is prepared under strict supervision. A well-balanced diet is planned for each day. Campers are served buffet style and are free to eat as much as they desire. Candy and snacks are available at the Snack Shack.

What is the Camper Bank?

We recommend that campers put their spending money in the Camper Bank. This can be done on registration day after campers receive their cabin assignments. The amount of spending money your camper brings is up to the parent. The Bank is open everyday and campers may withdraw money during afternoon free time. Word of Life is not responsible for any money or items not deposited in the bank.

What if I forget things at camp?

Lost and found articles are returned COD upon claim by parents, up to **30 days** after the end of their camping week.

Can I call my camper?

Please limit calls to campers for **emergencies** only. The Camp office can be reached by calling (727)856-7575 or (727)379-5600. A message will be taken, your camper informed, and they may return your call. No calls after 10 p.m. unless it is an **extreme emergency** (i.e. death in the family).

Can I send mail to my camper?

You can mail letters to your camper at Word of Life Youth Camp, 13052 Word of Life Dr., Hudson, FL 34669. Be sure to include the camper's name on the front of the envelope and indicate that they are a camper. Please also include the dates of the week(s) of camp that your child is attending.

Can my camper bring a skateboard?

In order to use the Skate Park your camper must bring his or her own skateboard or in-line skates. Also, the camper must bring his or her own wrist guards, elbow pads, knee pads and helmet.

Optional Activities

- ☐ Low Ropes Course
- ☐ Basketball
- ☐ Volleyball
- ☐ Skate Park
- ☐ Camp T-shirt $10
- ☐ Bookstore/Souvenir Shopping
- ☐ Swimming Pool
- ☐ Climbing Tower
- ☐ Snack Shack
- ☐ Water Tubing $10
- ☐ Paintball $15
- ☐ Speedball $10
- ☐ Pizza night $10
- ☐ Camp DVD $5

Water-tubing: In the afternoon campers may go water-tubing at Moon Lake. Word of Life Florida will provide the transportation to and from the lake. There will be 3 sessions, each consisting of about 10 campers; sign-ups are on a first come first served basis (limited to ages 10 and up).

Climbing tower: Each camper may try his or her hand at our 40-foot, three sided climbing tower which is available all afternoon and throughout the evening under lights. The tower can be tackled by a beginner and still prove to be a challenge for the most experienced climber. Word of Life Florida provides all safety equipment and all our facilitators are properly trained and certified.

Skate Park: Campers must bring their own skateboard or roller blades as well as wrist guards, elbow pads, knee pads and a helmet. You will not be allowed to use the Skate Park unless you have all of this equipment.

Paintball: Each paintball session lasts 1.5 hours and can include up to 40 campers at once. Two teams are formed and various types of games are played on our large wooded field. Campers are required to wear proper clothing but masks and paintball markers are provided as well as 100 paintballs. Extra paintballs are available for purchase in increments of 100 for $5. Campers are not permitted to bring their own paint. Teen camp only/target practice for juniors.

Pizza Night: The price for a whole pizza is $10, but campers may also purchase by the slice.

Speedball: A fast-paced version of paintball which tests your skills and speed as you venture onto a course full of inflatable obstacles where you can challenge your friends or just dodge the paint (teen camp only).

Swimming Pool: A swim test is required for junior campers using the pool.

*Payment and sign-up for the above activities and for camper bank will be made upon arrival at camp after you have proceeded through the camp registration lines. Please bring separate checks for camp registration and optional activities.

DRESS CODE/Packing List

- GIRLS: One piece modest bathing suit apparel, Sunday clothes for teen campers only (skirts can be no higher than the top of the knee), sleeveless shirts and tank tops must cover at least half the shoulder, & no tight fitting shorts, pants or tops.
- BOYS: Modest Beachwear (no bikini-style suits), Sunday clothes (for teen campers only), & no tight fitting shorts, pants or tops.
- ALL: Casual clothes, jeans, warm pajamas, Sunday clothes (for teen campers only), Shorts (must be fingertip length), raincoat, jacket, sweatshirts or sweaters, & comfortable shoes.

Camper Checklist

- Bible
- Note Book
- Pen/Pencil

BEDDING AND TOWELS

- Sleeping bag or sheets & blanket
- Pillow
- Bath/Pool towels

TOILETRIES

- Toothbrush / Toothpaste
- Soap & Shampoo
- Hairbrush/Comb
- Deodorant

MISCELLANEOUS

- Sunscreen
- Bug repellant
- Camera
- Spending money

CLOTHING

- Casual clothes (T-shirts, jeans, shorts etc.)
- Dress Clothes for Sunday (teen camp only)
- Bathing Suit: modest one piece suit for girls NO brief-style or spandex suit for boys)
- Shoes (sneakers, sandals)

DO **NOT** BRING:

Tight-fitting clothes, shorts that do not reach the middle of the thigh, skirts that do not reach the middle of the knee, spaghetti strap tank tops.

CELL PHONE POLICY:

Campers may only use cell phones in the event of an emergency or between the hours of 10:00pm to 11:00pm to contact family or guardian.

***CLOTHING THAT DOES NOT MEET THESE STANDARDS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED**

Please be sure that your name & address is on EVERYTHING!!!

Phone Numbers & Addresses

Conference Center: (727) 856-7575 This number is for all registration questions or to contact youth leaders who are staying here with their youth group.

Youth Camp: (727) 379-5600 This number can be utilized by parents leaving messages for their camper(s).

**The number of outgoing calls from campers will be extremely limited, as there are only two phones available for camper use.*

Email your camper: floridacampermail@wol.org

You may now tell your campers' parents that they may contact their camper via e-mail! Upon receipt of any e-mail correspondence, our office staff will print the e-mail and deliver it to the camper. Please instruct parents to send it with **the camper name and camp week in the subject portion of the e-mail.**

Camper mail:

As always, regular mail is accepted and usually well received by the camper, please have parents use the address below for any camper mail.

Camper Name
Word of Life Youth Camp
Camp week/date
13052 Word of Life Dr.
Hudson, FL 34669