



Welcome to The Great Escape!

It's time for camp and we are thrilled to have you here with us! You have been at the heart of our Planning Team as we have spent the last year praying, planning, and preparing for this week.

IN THIS PACKET:

- About YCM - 2
- Camp Theme - 3
- Meet Our Team - 4
- FAQ's - 5-6
- Arrival + Departure - 7
- Schedule - 8
- Packing List - 9
- Map of Camp - 10
- Connect with Us - 11

The Great Escape strives to be unique in our mission to be a counselor-centered ministry. We know that you as leaders are the ones putting in the time and effort to intentionally invest in your students.

This week, our desire is to set you up with resources, activities, and space that will allow you to pour into your students.

Please know that our Planning Team is here for you in any way we can be - not only while we're all here together, but also when we return home. We know some of you are here as Youth Pastors and some of you may have been tricked into "just driving the bus." However you got here, we thank you for saying "yes." We are excited and expectant of all that God will do in the lives of each of us this week!

Rachel Thress - Camp Director



ABOUT YCM

Youth Conference Ministries produces youth ministry summer events, including The Great Escape and Fun In The Sun, for middle and high school students to experience Jesus Christ. We seek to awaken a desire for Christ in young people so that they will return from our programs to their local church empowered to live for Him. Our goal is to create an atmosphere that they would experience the power of God in their lives daily.



What We Believe

We believe the Bible is the true Word of God, and it can be trusted in all matters of life, and we need to model our lives after its instruction. We believe in the Trinity of God, which is comprised of the fully equal Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe that all people, young and old, need salvation because we are all sinful and unrighteous. Jesus is the only way to get right with God, and by trusting Him, turning from our sins, and receiving Him, we can have eternal life with God in heaven. Youth Conference Ministries (YCM) is called to support and assist the local Church, Youth Pastors and Youth Leaders in leading and teaching young people to follow and trust in Jesus Christ.

Our Mission

We want to love kids, tell them about Jesus and serve the Youth Workers and Volunteers who care for them in the Church.

We seek to:

- Present Jesus Christ to young people in such a way that they can make a non-pressured decision for Him
- Nurture Christian kids in their walks with Jesus Christ
- Equip & train youth workers to be more professionally competent in their calling
- Strengthen and serve as a resource to the local church by providing a variety of high quality youth ministry programs and resources.



The Great Escape 2026

THEME:

YOUTH CONFERENCE MINISTRIES

WANTED



THE GREAT ESCAPE

SUMMER 2026

ISAIAH 41:9-10

"You whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, 'You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off'; fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Daily Theme Progression

Day 1 - You are known and seen

Day 2 - God's pursuit of us

Day 3 - You can't be thrown away or rejected (response night)

Day 4 - Now what?

Meet Our Team



Rachel Thress
Camp Director



Austin Altwies
AV/Tech



Amy Anthony
Camp Mom



Cyndy Beebe
Camp Mom



Jeff Beebe
Head Leader



Tessa Benzenberg
Dining Hall Boss



Erynn Dillman
Head Leader



Luke Dillman
Rec



John Fish
Medic



Chandler Gelb
Work Crew Boss



Tyler Greep
Work Crew Boss



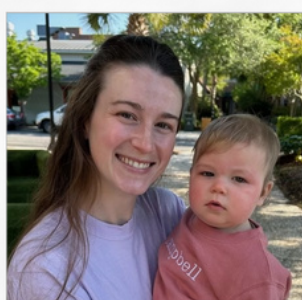
Leland LeBlanc
Rec



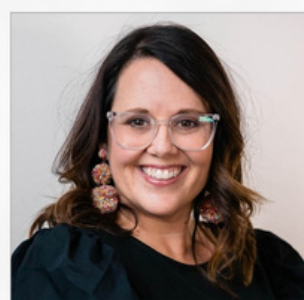
Mandy Martin
Leader



Alex Monahan
Rec



Elizabeth Pritchett
Medic



Emily Soule
Program Director



What time should we arrive at camp?

Please plan to arrive at camp between 3:00 - 4:00. We will have a Leaders' Meeting from 5:30 - 6:15 that you won't want to miss!

What about meals?

This might be the best part of camp, we handle all the meals! There will be assigned tables for your group and meals are served family style. We ask that leaders enter the dining hall 5 minutes before meal time and campers will line up at the front door to be cheered in by our work crew!

Medications?

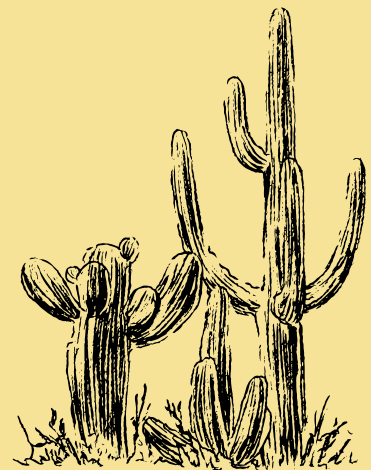
Medications brought to camp must be in their original container and marked with the camper's name, medication name, and dosage. To expedite the process and avoid confusion, medications should be packaged together and given to the Medic (Elizabeth or John Fish) upon arrival.

Special Dietary Request

Young Life has developed substitutions and solutions for almost every Special Dietary Need and keeps a well-stocked pantry for these occasions. They will contact you on your request about three days prior to camp. Please give as much information as possible as you fill out this form.

[Dietary Request Link](#)

QR CODE FOR DIETARY REQUEST





Can I send mail to my camper?

Yes! Please include the student's name and Church group
The camp mailing address is:

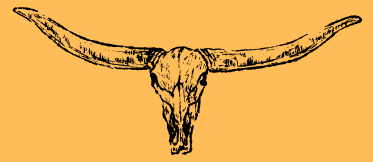
**18115 SE 95th St Rd
Ocklawaha, FL 32179**

What is there to do during Free Time?

A detailed list is provided on page 8. Southwind provides just about everything when it comes to outdoor activities and has a ton of areas made specifically for games like basketball, soccer, and volleyball! There is also an incredible game room with ping pong, air hockey, and pool if you'd rather be indoors! If your group prefers activities other than those provided, we encourage to bring games or activities that you do enjoy - maybe a deck of cards, dominoes, Bananagrams, a sketch pad, a game of checkers or chess, friendship bracelet supplies, anything that the students in your group would enjoy doing in their free time. If you have students new to your group, this is a great opportunity to encourage them to bring something that they could show others how to do and get to know each other!



ARRIVAL



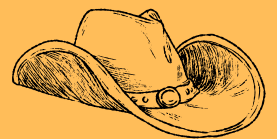
Tuesday, July 14th -- Check-in for camp will be between 3:00 and 4:00 pm. Upon arrival, we will confirm your student and leader numbers. The medic will be there to accept any medicines. Our Work Crew will greet you at the bus loop and will share your cabin assignment, then you will be directed to the cabin to get settled.



DEPARTURE

Saturday, July 18 -- We will have a scheduled cabin cleanup Friday night in between dinner and program that way you can be ready to go the next morning! Please make plans to be leaving camp at 8:15 am Saturday morning (breakfast is **not** provided Saturday morning).

OTHER INFO



There should be one adult for every six youths you bring (1:6). There should be male counselors for male campers and female counselors for female campers.

Each student coming to TGE Southwind will need to complete a 2026 YCM Medical & Media Release form.

Every student needs to fill out the YL Guest Consent Release Form and have their parent sign if under 18. PLEASE NOTE: This form is online only. You can learn more about the camp and local area by visiting <http://southwind.younglife.org>

SCHEDULE

Day 1 (Tues.)

3:00 - 4:00 Arrival - Unpack + Explore Camp!
5:30 - 6:15 Leader Meeting (All leaders)
6:30 - 7:15 Camp Dinner
7:20 - 8:20 Program (in the Marina)
8:30 - 9:15 Evening Activity
9:30 - 10:30 Group Time
11:00 Lights Out

Morning Leader Meetings will include a preview of the day and logistics. Please send 1-2 leaders per group.

Evening Leader Meetings are intended for all leaders.

Day 3 (Thurs.)

8:00 - 8:25 Morning by the Lake/Devo Time
8:30 - 9:00 Leader Meeting (1-2 leaders/group)
9:00 - 9:30 Camp Breakfast (**wear your bathing suit!**)
9:30 - 10:45 Rec
10:50 - 12:45 Free Time*
1:00 - 1:45 Camp Lunch
1:50 - 2:50 Program
2:50 - 3:20 Group Time
3:30 - 5:00 Free Time*
5:00 - 6:30 Rest + Refresh (shower, nap, etc. game room is open)
5:45 - 6:15 Leader Meeting (All leaders)
6:30 - 7:15 Camp Dinner
7:20 - 8:40 Program
8:45 - 10:30 Group Time
11:00 Lights Out

Days 2 + 4 (Wed., Fri.)

8:00 - 8:25 Morning by the Lake/Devo Time
8:30 - 9:00 Leader Meeting (1-2 leaders/group)
9:00 - 9:30 Camp Breakfast (**wear your bathing suit!**)
9:30 - 10:45 Rec
10:50 - 12:45 Free Time*
1:00 - 1:45 Camp Lunch
1:50 - 2:50 Program
2:50 - 3:20 Group Time
3:30 - 5:00 Free Time*
5:00 - 6:30 Rest + Refresh (shower, nap, etc. game room is open) (Cabin Cleanup on Saturday)
5:45 - 6:15 Leader Meeting (All leaders)
6:30 - 7:15 Camp Dinner
7:20 - 8:20 Program
8:30 - 9:15 Evening Activity
9:30 - 10:30 Group Time
11:00 Lights Out

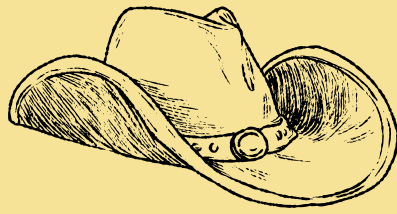
Day 5 (Sat.)

7:45 - 8:15 Morning by the Lake/Devo Time
8:15 Campers Depart

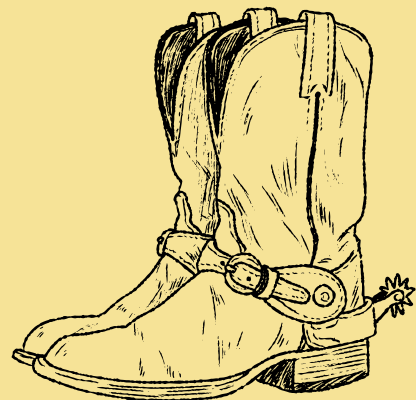
*WHAT IS THERE TO DO DURING FREE TIME??

- *Pool
- *Waterfront Activities (canoes, paddle boards, etc.)
- *Ropes
- *Bikes
- *Gator Ball (sign up for scheduled time)
- *Wiffle Ball
- *Game Room
- *Octa Ball
- *Volleyball
- *Basketball
- *Soccer
- *Disc Golf
- *Snack Bar (open every day from 3:30-5:00)

PACKING LIST



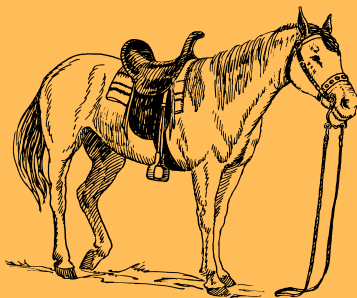
- Twin Bed Linens + Pillow
- Hangout at Camp Clothes (5 Days)
- Bathing Suit (One Piece/Tankini)
- Beach Towel
- Bath Towel
- Toiletries
- Bible and a Journal
- Closed-toed Shoes
- Messy Outfit
- Medications (if necessary)
- Spending money for snack bar and store
- Rain Jacket
- Bug Spray
- Sunscreen
- Deodorant



Map of Camp



Connect with Us



Use the YCM Photo Circle to share pictures of your group with us throughout the week!
Scan the QR code to get started

<https://join.photocircleapp.com/G5E6BKX7TQ?src=qr>



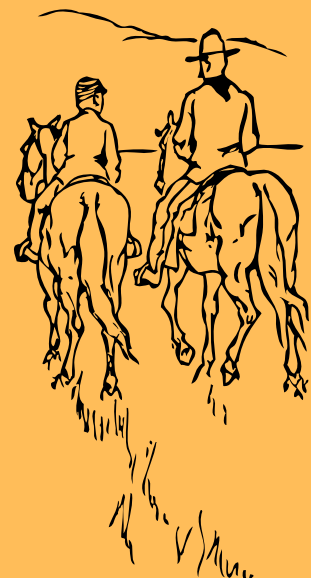
We hope you will stay connected with us all year long!
Like and follow Youth Conference Ministries on Facebook & Instagram to stay up to date year-round.



Facebook.com/YCMCamps



@YCMCamps



YOUTH CONFERENCE MINISTRIES

WANTED

THE GREAT ESCAPE

SUMMER 2026

