



Fun In The Sun - St. Simons
June 22 - 27, 2025



YOUTH CONFERENCE MINISTRIES

STRONGHOLD

S U M M E R 2 0 2 5

Welcome to Fun in the Son - St. Simon's Island

“Stronghold” Psalm 18:2 The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

We are very excited about Fun in the Son 2025 and are praying this conference will be an Ebenezer moment in the lives of your students. At Fun in the Son, our name says it all! We are planning for FUN and praying that your students will begin or deepen their relationships with JESUS due to being a part of this experience. This goal is at the heart of all we are doing. It is a true privilege to be a part of that!

The Planning Team has spent the last 12 months praying, planning, and preparing for this week. Please take some time to carefully read over the following pages so you will be aware of the details for the week. Please also know that our programming philosophy is a “COUNSELOR-CENTERED” one. That means that we see **YOU** as the key to the conference. We desire to set you up with resources, activities, and space to allow you to pour into your group. Your focused time and energy poured into your student is a large part of how God can and will do a mighty work. We are grateful to be coming alongside you in your ongoing ministry to students, and we look forward with great anticipation to seeing what God will do in our midst through FITS St. Simon's 2025.

Please know that the Planning Team is praying for you and is available to assist you in any way we can. Thank you for saying “yes” to God's call to lead his sheep, and God's blessings to you!

Anticipating Miracles,

Your FITS Planning Team

Sheila McKee (mcsheilad@gmail.com) 770-312-4084
Camp Director

Housing and Check-In

Camp starts on **SUNDAY, June 22**. Check-in will be from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Please note that the rooms are on a tight turnaround process from the previous guests. If you arrive before 4:00 p.m., your rooms will not be available.

Once you arrive at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simon's Island, follow the *Fun in the Sun* signs to registration. One of our work crew team members will greet you and show you where to check in. There you will receive your room assignments, keys, and instructions on what's to come for the evening. From there, you may get your students and head to your rooms to get ready for camp!

Camp Address:

Epworth by the Sea
100 Arthur J Moore Drive
St Simons Island, GA 31522

[Epworth by the Sea Website](#)

Group Leader Checklist

- Pray! Pray! Pray!
- Secure adult counselors (1 adult male/female for every 6 male/female students)
- Contact YCM Home Office with questions about registration - office@ycmhome.org or 504-534-5008.
- All students must have the online YCM Medical and Media Release forms completed before arriving at camp.
- All leaders and counselors must have the online YCM Sexual Misconduct Policy and YCM Medical Release forms completed before arriving at camp.

Housing Information

- Final room assignments will be given to you once you arrive at Epworth by the Sea. We will try to pre-house your group and provide you with that information ahead of time. Please know that housing info may change before your arrival.
- To keep our costs as low as possible, we must maximize space in every room. Therefore, there is a possibility that you may have someone on the floor. We work VERY hard to avoid this, but please plan to bring a sleeping bag or air mattress for every 6th person in the group.
- **If you have registered to stay in the bunkhouses, you must bring bath towels and bed linens;** these are NOT provided by Epworth by the Sea.
- If you have registered for the hotel rooms, bath towels, and bed linens **ARE** provided.
- **Everyone** must bring their own pool and beach towels.

Epworth by the Sea Information

- [Epworth by the Sea Map](#)
- [Epworth by the Sea Website](#)
- All meals are included in the conference, including breakfast before you leave on Friday. Menus will be shared as soon as we receive them. However, Epworth by the Sea is completely nut-free and has many gluten-free options. They are used to accommodating allergies. Please email Sheila McKee, camp director, with any specific questions or concerns.
- Each room and bunkhouse at Epworth has a microwave and mini-fridge.
- Epworth by the Sea does have guest laundry available onsite. It is located between the bunkhouses and the Turner Lodge parking lot. The cost is \$3.00 to wash and \$3.00 to dry each load. The machines only take quarters, but Epworth has change available.
- Epworth has security on the premises all night.
- There is a gift shop located in the main building, near the front desk. It is open from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and offers drinks, snacks, and souvenirs for sale.
- There are several grocery stores on St. Simon's Island
 - Winn-Dixie - less than 2 miles, about 5 minutes away; Open daily, 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.; Offers same-day delivery
 - Harris Teeter - about 2.5 miles, about 7 minutes away; Open daily, 6:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. Offers same-day delivery
- Additional Information about [Things To Do on St. Simons Island](#)

Schedule

(subject to change)

Sunday

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Registration - Culbreth 5 & 6
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Dinner
6:30 pm - 7:15 pm	Leaders' Meeting Culbreth 5 & 6
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Evening Program - Strickland Auditorium
10:00 pm	Family Time
11:00 pm	Lights Out

Monday - Wednesday - Thursday **(SEE BELOW FOR TUESDAY)**

7:00 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast
8:15 am - 8:45 am	Morning Devotion - Lovely Lane Chapel
9:00 am - 9:45 am	Counselors' Meeting - Culbreth 5 & 6
10:00 am - 11:30 am	Morning Program - Strickland Auditorium
11:45 am - 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Recreation - Mon, Wed, Thu (NOT TUESDAY)
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Dinner
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	Evening Program - Strickland Auditorium
9:00 pm - 9:45 pm	Aftermath
	Monday - S'mores at the fire pit
	Thursday - Dance Party Strickland Auditorium
10:00 pm	Family Time
11:00 pm	Lights Out

Tuesday - ONLY (Beta testing! 😊)

7:00 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast
8:00 am - 11:30 am	Recreation
11:45 am - 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Afternoon Program
3:00 pm -	Free Time
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Dinner
8:00 pm - 9:30 pm	Evening Program
10:00 pm	Family Time
11:00 pm	Lights Out

Friday

7:00 am - 8:00 am	Breakfast & Checkout
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Recreation

Recreation and Other Activities

FITS St. Simon's has everything you know and love about rec . . . volleyball, basketball, ultimate frisbee, and more! You will sign up for tournaments during your first family time.

We are also planning indoor and less athletic activities for those who want to get out of the sun and meet campers from other churches.



Rental bikes are available to tour the Epworth grounds and St. Simons Island, which features over 30 miles of bike trails. Stop by the main lobby to secure your rental and pick up a map. They are \$6.00 per hour, plus tax.

There is a ropes course on the property, which an outside company operates. The ropes course has a 10-person minimum and needs to be reserved with Cole Hanson of Adventure Ministries, adventureministries56@gmail.com. Cole will provide information about the program and cost.

Activity Descriptions

- **Family Fun Time**

If you want to carve out some afternoon free time for your group, here are some things you may want to consider.

Suggestions include bike rental, ropes course (see above), [Summer Waves Water Park](#), dolphin tours, St. Simon's Pier and Pier Village, and [miniature golf](#). You are responsible for any additional costs and transportation associated with activities your group chooses to do.



- **Morning Devotion**

We have designated a time in the schedule for morning devotion. This is a time designed to help your young people learn how to have effective time alone with God. Each student will be given a quiet time booklet at registration. Taking quiet, reflective time is important for all of us, especially during a week as exciting and full of activity as this.

- **Counselors' Meeting**

The counselors' meeting keeps you informed about the conference and allows you to offer feedback to the Planning Team. The morning meeting is a time to get all the information you need for the day. **We ask that at least one counselor from each group attend this morning meeting.**

- **Morning & Evening Programs**

Each morning and evening, we will all gather at the designated meeting area for a time of singing, learning, and worship.

- **Family Time**

There will be family time after the evening programs. Family time can be one of the most meaningful times for you and your youth group. This is a special time to get to know your students better. It is also a great time to share and hear what God is doing in the hearts of your students. Sometimes this sharing starts slowly, but don't be discouraged! As the week progresses, the conversations will build in family time. Don't be afraid of silence as the Holy Spirit prompts students to share. Being vulnerable can be scary, give them space to work up the courage to share.

- **Medieval Madness Thursday Night Dance Party**



Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

Lords, Ladies, Knights, and Nobles – you are hereby summoned to the most epic gathering of the realm! Step into a world of castles, quests, and crown-worthy vibes at our end-of-camp dance party. Come dressed in your finest royal robes, knightly armor, or enchanted creature attire – creativity is highly rewarded (no dragons, please... okay, maybe one or two).

Packing Details

What to Bring:

- Bible, pen, journal
- Toiletries
- Bathing suit
- Clothing for hot temps
- Hat, sunblock, sunglasses
- Spending money
- Travel cash
- Jacket or raincoat
- Water bottle
- Beach and pool towels
- Small first aid kit per group (*We will have a camp nurse for minor emergencies*)
- Medieval-themed attire for the end-of-camp dance party

Clothing and Swimsuit Policy: While we do not have a specific dress code, we do ask that you speak with your students and parents before your trip and encourage them to bring modest attire and swimwear. This is an excellent way to love and honor our brothers and sisters in Christ.

What NOT to Bring:

- Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco products (this includes vapes and e-cigarettes)
- Weapons of any kind
- Firecrackers
- Anything you can't afford to lose. YCM is not responsible for lost or stolen items!

NOTE: Cell phones are permitted, but leaders should discourage their use during group activities and sessions.



YCM Rules and Guidelines

- At no time should boys be in a girl's room or vice versa unless under the direct supervision of a counselor
- Attendance at all meetings is required
- Your wristband is your meal ticket. Wear it at all times!
- Obey the conference curfew
- Damage done to the Epworth property, motel rooms, bunkhouses, or meeting rooms is the responsibility of the group and/or persons involved
- Firecrackers, alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, drugs, and weapons of any kind are forbidden
- Do NOT remove or rearrange your furniture
- Please do not knock out screens, lean out, or drop things from your windows or balconies

We hope that discipline and security will be the least discussed topic for the week. For that to happen, we need to agree on a few ideas: GOOD ORDER IS A MUST FOR A GOOD CONFERENCE.

YCM Discipline

Because we have several hundred high school students in one place, one of the primary responsibilities of ALL counselors is to help maintain order. A counselor within the local group should first initiate correcting anyone who is disruptive. However, sometimes other counselors are the only adults around. Do not hesitate to assist should the need arise.

YCM Sexual Misconduct Policy

We live with an increased awareness of human rights. It is in that spirit that certain guidelines have been established to assure that everyone's rights are protected, as well as the reputation of Youth Conference Ministries (YCM).

- At no time will counselors be in compromising situations with kids.
- There should be NO physical contact that can be interpreted as sexual advances made toward any camper or any conference participant.
- Adult counselors should not walk unaccompanied at night with campers of the opposite sex.
- Adult counselors should not involve themselves in in-depth counseling with campers of the opposite sex in secluded areas.
- These guidelines state clearly that there should be no inappropriate sexual conduct between counselors and campers, counselors and counselors, and campers and campers.
- When adult counselors are notified of inappropriate conduct by anyone, they must immediately report it to the FITS conference co-directors and notify the YCM Home Office. Since the person in question may be a minor, state laws will be followed.

Characteristics of a Great Leader

Genuine Love of Christ

II Corinthians 5:1 the love of Christ controls us.”

Sincere Love For Christ

Romans 12:9

“Let love be genuine.”

Flexibility

II Timothy 4:2

“Preach the Word, be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.”

Enthusiasm

Colossians 3:23

“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as if to the Lord and not to men.”

Loyalty

John 13:25

”...By this all men shall know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Dependability

I Corinthians 4:2

“In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.”

Confidentiality

Ephesians 5:15

“Therefore, be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise.”

Strength and Firmness

Ephesians 6:10

“Be strong in the Lord and the power of His might.”

Cheerfulness

Philippians 4:4

“Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all.”

Leading a Small Group

- **Establish an atmosphere of acceptance.** Most teenagers are afraid to express their opinions because they are afraid of being ridiculed, laughed at, or considered dumb by their peers. They need to feel secure before they share their true feelings and beliefs.
- **Affirm all legitimate expressions of opinion from your group members.** Make certain everyone knows his or her comments and contributions are appreciated and important.
- Discourage the students from thinking of you as the “**authority**” on the subject.
- **Actively listen to each person.** God gave you one mouth and two ears. Good discussion leaders know how to listen.
- **Do not force anyone to talk.** Invite them, but do not insist they comment. Each member should have the right to “pass.”
- **Do not take sides during discussions.** You will have differing opinions in the group. This is very stimulating to a discussion, but do not make the mistake of agreeing with one side or the other. Instead, encourage both sides to think through their positions and defend their points of view.
- **Do not allow one person, including yourself, to monopolize the discussion.** Try to encourage equal participation from all the students. Remember that it is the kids' turn to talk.
- **Arrange seating to encourage discussion.** It is best to sit in a circle with everyone at the same eye level.
- **Don't be intimidated by silence.** Let the students think about the question.
- **Stay on Topic.** It is common for a discussion to go off on tangents. If the tangent is fairly close to what you're talking about, see it through for a little bit. Otherwise, tell the group that you can talk about that topic later, but for now, you need to finish your discussion of the current topic.
- **Ask open-ended questions.** When asking questions, ask questions that require more than a one-word response or yes or no. Ask for their opinion or how they feel about something. Ask questions about how or why things are the way they are.
- **Go from general to specific.** Kids will be more willing to talk about people in general at first, and then talk about how the topic affects them personally.
- **Remember,** it is not a good group if you do all the talking.

Sharing Your Faith

The Roman Road to Salvation

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 6:23

We must realize that our sins separate us from God!

Romans 5:08

God so loved us that even while we were yet sinners He died for us!

Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:13

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Prayer to Receive Jesus

Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I was made for You, but I've been living for me. I want to begin a relationship with You now. I believe that You died in my place, to pay the penalty for my sin, and rose again for my salvation. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite You to come into my heart and life as my Lord and Savior.