

SpringHill Day Camp Summer Staff FAQs



What are you looking for in Day Camp Staff?

SpringHill Day Camp Staff:

- are passionate about Jesus and His message
- are passionate about kids ages 5-10
- are committed to working in community
- are attracted to diversity
- enjoy being part of a team
- are creative
- are energetic communicators
- are comfortable with change
- have a desire for improving experiences
- are committed to excellence in customer service

When I think of SpringHill, I always think about sleeping in tepees and riding on ziplines. I don't know anything about Day Camps. Can you tell me more?

Guess what? We have ZIPLINES at Day Camps! And flying squirrels and giant's swings and climbing walls and all the other high adventure activities that make SpringHill awesome (to see some activities, click on any Day Camp location and view pics). The Day Camp team figured out a way to take all things SpringHill and make them portable. In doing so, we've been able to reach MORE kids with the message of Jesus! And one of the coolest things is that we partner with churches so that even after we pack up and move on to the next location at the end of the week, we've connected kids and families with a great local

church- something we've never been able to do before at overnight camp!

SpringHill Day Camps started in 2006 with one location and 279 campers. In 2010, we had 24 locations and almost 5,000 campers. We're thrilled about what God is doing and hope you will consider being a part of the team in 2011 as we grow to reach even more kids in more communities!

The mission of SpringHill is to create life-impacting experiences that enable young people to know and to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

What does a typical day look like?

7:30-8:00 Morning Meeting (time in the Word, fellowship, led by Area Director)

8:00-8:45 Set-up Equipment and Activities

9:00-9:15 Campers Arrive! (you greet them in team room with your co-counselor)

9:15-9:45 Large Group Jam Session (dance party, kids worship, drama)

9:45-10:10 Small Group (you lead campers in an interactive bible lesson)

10:10-12:30 Morning Activities

12:30-1:00 Lunch (and the ever-famous lunchtime skits!)

1:00-2:10 Afternoon Activities

2:10-2:40 Small Group and Snack (you lead campers in an interactive bible lesson)

2:40-3:50 More Afternoon Activities

4:00 Campers Dismissed

4:00-5:30 Tear-down Equipment and Activities and De-Brief the Day

Tuesday Evening: Staff Worship and Dinner Together

Thursday Evening: Staff Party, Camper Awards and Dinner Together

Where will I sleep?

Not in a tepee. But possibly in the most comfortable bed of your life! Generally, we try to hire staff out of a “central region” so that they have a passion for and housing in one of our local Day Camp communities (Grand Rapids, Troy, Novi, Carmel, IN). Each Day Camp team spends some time travelling, so when you’re too far from your own bed, the churches we work with provide you with an amazing host family. You’ll stay with 4 other SpringHill counselors and this family will feed you breakfast, cook you dinner, and love on you while you’re serving. Sometimes they even do your laundry! We find that these relationships formed are one of our staff’s favorite things about working on Day Camps.

Do I need a car?

Most of our Day Camp Staff have cars, but not all of them. You do need to be able to get to Day Camps every day. We encourage car-pooling and our staff even find rides to training on our facebook group. Here is our Day Camp Transportation Policy:

- 1) You are being hired to work in multiple locations – varying from week to week, but based in a central region. (Grand Rapids, MI; Carmel, IN; Novi, MI; Troy, MI)
- 2) You will be not reimbursed for commuting to training and to



and from work when working within your hired central region.

- 3) When commuting to a new work location that is in excess of 50 miles of the central region, mileage reimbursement for the driver vehicle will be recognized at the standard reimbursement rate of SpringHill Camps (currently 40 cents per mile, but subject to change).
- 4) If you opt to travel for personal business and then report to new locations, you will not be reimbursed for travel.
- 5) When commuting day to day in a non-central community, car pooling will be required as much as possible. Approved drivers will receive reimbursement at \$5 per day if their host home is more than 5 miles from the Day Camp location.

How many weeks will I work in the summer? Do I have to work a full summer?

Day Camp Summer Dates: June 13 - August 19

This is a 10-week summer, and we hire staff that can commit to the full summer. Staff will be given 1-2 weeks off. You will be asked to give us your top 3 choices for weeks off and we will try to accommodate those based on camper numbers. (There is no compensation for weeks off).

When is staff training?

Day Camp Training Dates:

Area Directors: May 19 - June 12 *Day Off May 31

Counselors: June 1 - June 12

Special Needs Counselors: May 27 - June 12 *Day Off May 31

Media Specialist: May 27 - June 12 *Day Off May 31

I have a conflict. Do I have to come to training?

Training is extremely important for equipping you to be effective in your position at SpringHill Day Camps during the summer. Plus, it's an incredible time to build community with staff and get ready to go on the road together! If you have a once-in-a-lifetime immediate family event during training (i.e. a sibling is graduating or getting married), you can talk to your recruiter about missing a short amount of training.

How much will I be paid?

First-time SpringHill Day Camp Counselors and Special Needs Counselors are paid \$150 a week. We realize it's probably not the highest paying job you can find, but the good news is that you won't have a lot of expenses, either. Most of our staff just stash away every penny of that paycheck during the summer. And many of them get so excited about the eternal impact of their jobs that they even give money towards camper scholarships!



Who makes a good reference?

Preferably, people who know you well but are not a peer, roommate, or family member. We ask for four references – an academic reference, a work reference, a character reference, and a pastor/spiritual reference. Generally, people use their supervisors, past teachers, professors, small group leaders, pastors, or older family friends as references. Not all references need to be familiar with your spiritual commitment (i.e. many academic references are teachers who may not be Christians – that's OK).

How do my references fill out the forms?

You need to put the email addresses for each of your references in the reference section of the online application. They will be automatically sent the form to fill out. If you need to change a reference, please contact your recruiter.

What positions are available?

Counselor

In this position, your primary focus is to build relationships with kids. You and your co-counselor are responsible for 15 campers on your team and will set the pace for a day of faith and fun! You will lead campers through activities, ensuring safety and fun while helping them see the life lessons learned from what they just experienced together. Each day you will lead/facilitate 2 small group Bible lessons. You are responsible for the spiritual development of each child in your group. To do this job, we prefer that you have finished at least one year of college, enjoy and have experience working with children, and can effectively provide an environment for the campers that is physically and emotionally safe, and spiritually challenging.

Special Needs Counselor

A special needs counselor is an additional co-counselor on a team that is knowledgeable in how to care for a child with special needs that is fully included in that team. He/she will assume all the counselor responsibilities, and also assure that the entire special needs camper's social, emotional, and physical needs are being met. This counselor must look for creative ways to adapt lessons, activities and large group gatherings to fit the camper's needs and abilities. A special needs counselor must have a heart for children with special needs, a servant's attitude, and some experience in working in a special needs environment.

Area Director

An area director is responsible for providing leadership to summer staff and implementing outstanding SpringHill program for campers. Area directors lead morning meetings (both Biblical and informational) and spend time encouraging, observing and evaluating staff. The team of area directors plans and implements our Large Group Jam Session, Large Group games, and some activities. Area directors minister to campers through large group leadership, time spent at activities and helping with behavioral problems.

Media Specialist

The media specialist's most important objective in the summer time is to make tangible memories for kids that they can carry home with them. He/She will take group photos that we print, cut, organize and distribute for all kids on a weekly basis. They also take marketing photos for SpringHill literature, publications and other marketing pieces. He/She will also video activities, programmed events, and sessions. He/She must also have some experience in production equipment and will setup and operate the audio systems at Day Camp locations. Experience in mixing live events with multiple channels is necessary.

