



OVERNIGHT CAMP

Frequently Asked Questions

You probably have many questions about what you/your camper need to know for camp. We hope that this FAQ will help prepare you and answer some of those basic questions.

Have more questions? Please contact us! camp@montlure.org | (520) 369-2199

Pricing/Registration Fees

Realizing that families have different abilities and resources to pay for summer camp, Montlure utilizes a voluntary three-tiered pricing program. You may choose the tier that is most suitable for your family. It is a "free-will" system; you pick the level that is comfortable and affordable for you. Our goal in tiered pricing is simple; We want to continue to provide Christ centered programming in a safe, welcoming and fun environment *to all*.

Tier C is the true cost per camper to operate our full programming, Tier B is close to the cost of one-week lodging/meals/supplies/transportation/etc, and Tier A is heavily subsidize rate.

Is additional financial assistance available?

Many churches offer youth scholarships for camp, and we highly encourage you to start there as we are not able to cover the cost of every camper to attend camp. Please talk with your pastor, educator, or youth leader. If you've spoken with your church officials and still need assistance, you can apply for a scholarship prior to registering for camp. We have limited funds available each year to disburse across the need and will make decisions on financial assistance accordingly. The Camp Scholarship Fund is made possible by donations from individuals, families, and congregations and is intended to supplement other sources of funding. Please see [Montlure.org/scholarshps](https://montlure.org/scholarshps) for more information.

How do I register?

Registration is hosted at montlure.campbrainregistration.com, or you can link there from our website at montlure.org. Returning campers can roll over general household information and medical information.

Please keep in mind we expect to fill capacity for the Summer 2024 season. You will be notified if you are on a waitlist and/or if an additional week becomes available. We do not hold spots for campers and is on a first-come basis. A \$50 deposit will hold your spot, and you can return later to pay as long as it is within 2 weeks of camp.

For any questions or assistance with the registration process, please email Registrar@montlure.org.

Can my child come to camp if we are not Presbyterian or do not go to church?

Yes! Absolutely! We are all God's children and all are welcomed. Our camp's roots are in the Presbyterian Church (PC)USA tradition, but many of our campers attend other churches or do not regularly attend church at all. Montlure Camp does not discriminate based on race, gender, sexual identity, sexual orientation, or religious affiliation. The Montlure Camp family is for everyone!

How do we get to camp?

Greer is a long drive for most of our campers so we provide transportation from a few locations along the way. At registration, you will be able to select a bus stop in Tucson, Casa Grande, Tempe, or Globe, and you will be provided with a time to check in your camper at the bus stop.

If you would like to drive your camper to/from camp, mark that on the registration or let us know in writing. We will send directions and a map to help you easily find our location. **Check in time for camper dropoff is 2pm, Check-out is 11:30-12:00pm**

What does my camper need to pack?

You will receive a final packing list in the Welcome Packet, about two weeks prior to camp. However, a fairly comprehensive packing list will also be emailed to you directly after you complete your registration so you can start planning ahead of time. Enough clothing for a week, clothes that can get dirty, sleeping bag and toiletries, etc. Nothing out of the ordinary is required!

Do I need to send additional money with my camper?

Spending money is not necessary. However, campers have the opportunity to buy small snacks and very reasonably priced camp merchandise at our Camp Store in the afternoons. You can add money to your camper's account in the registration portal at any time, or we will take a one-time cash deposit on the first day of camp to put in your camper's account.

We track items purchased by your camper throughout the week, and any amount left over \$5 will be refunded back to you.

Each camper will receive a camp T-shirt and a Montlure water bottle.

What is the food like?

We have an amazing camp chef who runs a catering business in the off-season. Our food tends to be one of the things campers remember most not only for the taste and variety of options, but for the attention to detail our kitchen staff provides.

We also recognize there are various food allergies and dietary restrictions among our campers and staff and we are able to work with each one in order to provide nutritious and safe meals to every camper. In addition, we also know that as good as our meals are, there will always be at least one camper who is not satisfied. We are always happy to make grilled cheese/other sandwiches at minimum, yet, our chef is usually able to work with the individual camper to create a meal they are excited to eat. *We will make sure no camper goes hungry all week!*

What are the cabins/living arrangements like?

Cabins are composed of multiple sturdy bunk beds with mattresses. Several campers and staff are assigned to one cabin for the week. There is a small shared closet to hang some items, but most of camper's belongings will stay under the beds.

There is a nearby shower house with several sinks, private bathroom stalls, private shower stalls and changing areas. In addition, there are single stall bathrooms off the main lodge.

Weather is usually very pleasant during day time hours, but can be cold at night. Cabins have space heaters if needed, and oscillating fans.

No bedding, pillows, or towels are provided by camp.

How are campers assigned to cabins and other groups?

We have two basic groups for campers. Their cabin group, and their small group.

Cabin groups are composed of same gender and each camper can request one roommate. We encourage campers to make new friends and step out of their comfort zones by not being with all familiar people. Due to our site capacity limits for 2024, there will be 1-2 cabins per gender, with 8-14 campers per cabin.

Small groups are mixed between all campers at camp led by 2-3 staff members. Small groups are around 12-14 campers and is where discussion and the bulk of our curriculum take place. Campers are randomly put into small groups with a similar amount of girls/boys/age/grade in each group.

Will my child be supervised at all times?

Yes. At no time is a camper unsupervised by an adult. Campers are never without at least one staff member. We follow the "rule of threes" so there are always at least three people together. If campers wish to have private conversations with a trusted adult or a friend, it is always within site and sound of other camp activities.

How does Montlure hire the staff who will be supervising my child?

Very carefully. Many of our staff are former campers who have a love for children and the ministry of Montlure. We recruit from churches, camping ministry websites, and universities. All of our staff members must submit to a background investigation and complete a lengthy screening and interview process before being considered for a position on the Montlure Summer Staff. Once hired, all staff members complete a variety of training modules before arriving to camp, and participate in an intensive, mandatory, in-person week of training to prepare them for a summer with campers. Staff Training includes Christian leadership, camp policies, curriculum, basic outdoor living skills, safety protocols, program skills, and much more.

Montlure Staff are chosen for maturity, commitment to children's growth, and a love for making a difference by the desire to radically welcome *all* children of God. All Staff must adhere to the policies and procedures of camp and have regular check-ins with leadership staff. For more information on our hiring practices, our child supervision, policies child safety policies, and other staff/camp policies, email camp@montlure.org.

What about health and safety?

We have qualified camp medical staff who reside onsite during each week and disperses medication when needed. Medicine is collected at the beginning of the week and kept in a secured area. We have a private medical area where campers can be seen and treated as needed. The Camp Medical building tends to be come a local hangout for campers during the week as they may need bandages, ice packs, sunscreen, chapstick, etc. (We do encourage you to properly equip your camper with basic needs.)

In addition, all our paid staff are certified in First Aid and CPR. Parental health and accident insurance is the primary coverage for campers. All health information is required on camper's CampBrain portal. No camper will be allowed to attend camp without complete information. For a copy of our full Health & Medical Plan, email camp@montlure.org.

What will my child be doing during the day?

Our schedule slightly varies from day to day however a typical day will consist of a wake-up call at 7:30am followed by morning energizers and breakfast. We will move into morning chapel and camper devotional times, followed by sign-up activities where campers can choose what they would like to do. After lunch, we have FOB (rest/quiet time in cabins), followed by the camp store and free time. In the afternoon, campers will meet with their small groups and then we meet up for large group games. After dinner, we make intentional cabin time for conversations and then head to “Barn time” where we worship and hear the evening message. Following that, we play a night game and have an evening snack. We end our nights together at twilight chapel around a campfire (weather permitting) before heading to bed.

There is a large selection of activities including, but not limited to, volleyball, gaga ball, 9-square, basketball, tetherball, arts and crafts, slackline, hikes, as well as a wide variety of camp recreation games and team building activities. We do various special events including Late Night Barn Time (Jr and Sr High), fancy dinner (for Jr and Sr High), a carnival (Juniors), star-gazing, brunch on our optional “all-camp-sleep-in” day, campfires, s’mores, and more!

Do campers have Bible study every day?

Yes. We are a faith-based camp and we have biblical themes and curriculum to explore each day. We provide a safe place for campers to ask big questions and ponder their faith and beliefs. Every day campers participate in an interactive Bible study lesson with their small groups, time for personal devotions, morning and evening worship services that are engaging and fun, led by a chaplain, a music/worship leader, and Montlure staff.

What can I do to ensure my child has a wonderful camp experience?

Most importantly, be positive! If you allow your child to have a good experience, they will have one. Anticipate camp with your child months before they attend. Pack early with your child to make sure they know which belongings they are bringing. Fill toiletry bottles together, dig out the old dusty flashlight and sleeping bag, perhaps even buy a disposable camera or find that old polaroid! Camp starts in all the anticipation so have fun in the preparation.

Discuss any fears, excitement, and uncertainty your child may be feeling. Build their confidence and self-esteem. If you think your child might become homesick, talk to them about it *ahead of time*, give them tools for how to overcome it, and make sure to set their expectations clearly on whether or not they can come home. (Our staff is equipped and prepared to care for our campers who may miss home. We sometimes can even see this manifest itself in physical illness and we treat it as any other sickness. It is incredibly rare that we cannot work with our campers to build resilience and help them overcome their homesickness, but we will call home if it is absolutely necessary. We want our campers to have a good time, and being sick (in any form) takes away from their overall experience.)

Remind your camper that Montlure is an “**unplugged**” camp and set expectations early (See more on the next page). Talk to your camper that it may feel hard the first day or so, but they will get through it, they *will* enjoy not being attached to their phones, and they are all in it together!

Can my child bring his or her cell phone or electronics?

We ask that all campers leave any device at home. Campers are allowed to bring devices for the bus rides.

If a camper decides to bring any form of device and is seen using it at camp, the devices will be handed over to our Camp Director for safe keeping, and returned at the end of their camping session. It is certainly not a punishment, but there are rarely experiences we have these days when we can truly disconnect from technology. This is a huge opportunity for campers to “detox” and experience 24 hours a day away from tech distractions.

Please help us by not texting/calling your campers if they do bring a phone. If you need them to send a quick text when they arrive, we understand, but ask you to allow your camper the opportunity to have the full unplugged experience. (In addition, we will notify you through email once campers arrive and once the bus departs for home.)

We want our campers to experience being in the outdoors with their peers without the pull of the outside world. (We also find that these items are often damaged or lost while at camp.)

Our commitment to remain “unplugged” extends to both campers *and* staff!

Will my child be able to email or call home?

No. Part of the learning experience of camp is gaining independence from parents while learning to interact with peers and adults on their own. We find that in most cases, talking with you will only make homesickness worse for your child. (In extenuating circumstances, such as extreme homesickness, exceptions can be made. Read more about homesickness on next page.)

If there is a situation that the Camp Medical Staff or Camp Director need to make parents/guardians aware of, we will contact you as soon as possible. This may include major medical situations or concerns, behavior situations, etc. (Please make sure your emergency contact information is accurate.)

Will I be able to call or communicate with my child?

We highly encourage you to send mail to your camper as we have mail call every day. Keeping our commitment to the “unplugged” experience, snail mail and handwritten letters is **HIHGLY** preferable, but you must plan accordingly to make sure it arrives before they leave. (We CANNOT receive mail onsite, and you will be given a PO BOX mailing address for camper mail in the Welcome Packet.)

Your child can always send you letters as well; remember to send them to camp with stamps and envelopes. (Or they can buy stamps at the Camp Store). Keep in mind, it is unlikely the letter will arrive home before they do, however, it can be very therapeutic for the camp

While not preferred as the method of communication, you may also send an email to your child and we will print it out for them to receive at mail call. (Instructions will be given in the Welcome Packet.)

Make sure to keep your messages positive and upbeat!

We do not allow general calls from parents to campers. However, if there is an emergency or urgent situation, you will be provided information on how to reach the Camp Director at any time during the camp week if need arises.

Can my child write letters or communicate with staff members after he or she has returned home?

Yes. Your child is welcome to send mail to our staff directly to Montlure. We will assure our summer staff receives it. (For privacy, we do not give out the home addresses of staff members.)

We do have a social media policy prohibiting staff from friending, following, etc. campers on social media while they are currently employed with Montlure.

We know, especially with our older campers, they may know and have relationships with some of our staff from prior years when staff were campers. While we cannot prohibit employees from following campers outside of the camp season, they will NOT be able to interact with campers while they are employees.

Social media is a part of our current culture and can help foster relationship building. *We encourage you to always monitor your child's internet usage, set appropriate limits and boundaries, and communicate expectations with your child.*

What if my camper gets homesick?

Our Counselors and summer staff are trained to help your camper deal with this very natural emotion that can impact the experience of *both* new and returning campers.

If a child is so homesick that they are not participating with the group (which no camper is ever forced to participate in anything), if they are becoming physically ill due to the intensity of their emotions, if they are disrupting camp or causing other problems, the Camp Director will call the parent(s) to discuss options.

It is our desire that every camper overcome their homesickness and build their resiliency, and our success rate is extremely high. However, we also want our campers to have an amazing experience and if homesickness is truly preventing that, we will *certainly* call and discuss options. We will work with you for solutions to allow for the best experience possible.

What if it rains?

We love rain! While most of our activities are planned for outdoors, we always have a back up plan and the rain eventually passes. Please pack campers a raincoat/poncho, and an additional pair of closed-toe shoes if possible. (We do NOT want campers to have to wear wet shoes!)

What else do I need to know?

We will email a full Welcome Packet to registered families about two weeks prior to camp. This will include much of this information, as well as details on the particular camp week, a bus schedule, a letter from our Director, and more. However, we always welcome questions and are happy to talk through any of our concerns. Please contact us at camp@montlure.org or (520) 369-2199. (Note, we have limited office hours, but will promptly return a call if you leave a voicemail.)