

MSM Event Parent FAQ

We're so excited your student is joining us for an unforgettable experience with our Middle School Ministry! This document is here to answer your most common questions and help you feel confident and prepared as your student heads to camp.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Where are we going?

Our MSM trips are carefully chosen to meet all Ministry Safe guidelines and ensure a fun, impactful experience.

- **Winter Camp:** We're headed back to **Sky Ranch**, a trusted partner that provides excellent food, activities, and facilities.
- **Summer Camp:** We're headed back to **Highland Lakes Camp and Conference Center**.

Who is going?

- All MSM Staff from each campus will be present.
- Small Group Leaders will accompany students throughout the weekend, helping them grow spiritually and build community.
- We maintain a 1 leader to 8 students' ratio, and all leaders are background-checked and Ministry Safe trained.

How are students getting there?

We'll be transporting over 200 students, staff, and volunteers **by charter bus** to and from camp. It's a big undertaking—but always a highlight of the trip!

LODGING & SAFETY

What are the sleeping arrangements?

Students are assigned rooms by **small group, campus, grade level, and gender**. Each room will have **2 vetted adult leaders**, and shower/sleeping times are carefully monitored following Ministry Safe policies.

What happens if there is bad weather while away at Summer Camp?

For on-campus events and weekly programming, Student Ministry follows the policies and guidance of Christ Chapel, including direction from Campus Pastors and the Executive Director of Operations. Our team stays in communication with church leadership regarding any weather concerns and will follow all recommended next steps.

For off-campus trips and overnight events, the Student Ministry team will review the host location's emergency and weather procedures before departure. If weather or emergency concerns arise during the trip, the Trip Lead, Events Coordinator, and either the Student Ministry Director or Students Manager will work together to create a response plan in consultation with the Executive Director of Operations. Once a decision has been made, communication will be shared in the following order:

1. Student Ministry Staff
2. Leaders & Volunteers
3. Students & Parents

Parents will receive updates regarding delays, schedule changes, cancellations, or emergencies through email and text communication from the Students Manager, Events Coordinator, or Trip Lead

What is the cell phone policy?

We ask that all students **leave cell phones and Apple watches at home**. This helps students disconnect from distractions and connect more deeply with God, leaders, and each other.

If you need to reach your child during the trip, please contact one of our **MSM pastors** directly.

Photos from the weekend will be shared through **Waldo Photos** (see below).

What is the paraphernalia & offsite policy?

To ensure a safe and distraction-free experience, **any student caught with illegal items, engaging in inappropriate behavior, or leaving camp without permission** will be sent home at the parent's expense.

HEALTH & MEDICAL

Will there be medical staff?

Yes! At Highland Lakes Conference Center, they provide registered nurses to handle medications, injuries, hydration, and emergency care. We will receive all medications with instructions based on the medication policy below and turn in these medications for the Highland Lakes nurse to administer according to the instructions indicated at check in and what is directed on the medication.

What is the medication policy?

At check-in, please turn in all medications in a Ziplock bag labeled with your student's name. Include:

- Only medications in their original containers
- A note card listing dosage and timing

Medications without proper labeling will not be administered.

What about food allergies or dietary needs?

We can accommodate most dietary needs including gluten-free, dairy-free, vegetarian, and nut-free.

Please notify Jessica Beaulieu (Event Coordinator) or your campus Minister **at least 6 weeks before the event**.

For more complex allergies, you may bring extra food items in a small, labeled cooler to be stored and accessed as needed.

POLICIES & CONDUCT

What is the dress code?

We ask all students to dress modestly and appropriately. Clothing with vulgar language or references to alcohol, drugs, or tobacco is not allowed.

Students not in compliance will be asked to change. Continued issues may result in the student being sent home.

What can students wear?

We know fashion varies widely today, but because this is a church-sponsored event, we prioritize modesty to avoid distractions and keep the focus on spiritual growth. Please refer to the Dress Code Policy above for guidelines.

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

What is the philosophy behind MSM Events?

We aim to help students build strong spiritual foundations by growing in biblical knowledge, engaging in worship, and connecting with peers.

Our goal is to prepare students to live out their faith with confidence and boldness in everyday life.

What kind of content will students experience?*

Students will participate in:

- Daily quiet times
- Biblical teaching from pastors
- Small group discussions to process and reflect on Scripture

Encourage your student to bring their **Bible, journal, and a pen.**

*A note on MSM Winter Camp: Our teenagers are bombarded with so many mixed messages about dating, relationships, and sexuality. We want to partner with you by being a supporting voice. During MSM Winter Camp we challenge our students to trust in God's plan on these topics, find their identity in Jesus over all other relationships, make wise decisions, and rest in God's grace when we mess up. If you are looking for more details on our teaching, we will have all the details of our breakouts as we get closer to the weekend.

PHOTOS & MEMORIES

How do I receive photos of my student?

We use **Waldo Photos**, a secure photo-sharing platform.

- At the parent meeting, we'll provide a **QR code** for you to sign up.
- Upload a photo of your student, and you'll get **text alerts** when photos of them are available.
- You can view and download the images for free.

If you can't attend the meeting, the QR code will also be emailed and available at check-in.

FINANCES & LOGISTICS

What is the refund policy?

To help with budgeting, registration opens early so you can make payments throughout the year.

- We recommend paying **50% by 6 weeks prior**
- Final payment is due **2 weeks before the event.**
Refunds can be given up to **3 weeks before the event date**

PACKING & PREP

What should my student bring?

All belongings should fit into **one large duffel/suitcase and one backpack.**

Packing List – BRING:

- ✓ Bible, journal, pen
- ✓ Outdoor clothing
- ✓ Jacket or sweatshirt
- ✓ Bath towel & toiletries
- ✓ Pillow & twin bedding
- ✓ Water bottle (labeled)
- ✓ Sunscreen & bug spray
- ✓ Weather-appropriate gear
- ✓ Money for snack shop
- ✓ Prescription medication (to be turned in to the nurse)

DO NOT BRING:

- ✗ Mobile phones
- ✗ Vape/tobacco/alcohol
- ✗ Illegal drug paraphernalia
- ✗ Fireworks or explosives
- ✗ Weapons of any kind

FUN & ACTIVITIES

What activities will students enjoy?

Each camp facility offers a unique set of activities, which may include:

- Zip lines
- Fishing
- Biking
- Team games
- Group challenges
- Free-time fun

What is the daily schedule like?

Students will have a mix of:

- Structured large-group activities
- Free time
- Worship and teaching sessions
- Small group moments

The goal is a balance of fun, reflection, and connection.

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact your campus specific Middle School Minister or Event Coordinator.

We can't wait to spend this impactful weekend with your student!