MSM Winter Camp: Parent FAQs

We're excited to have your student join us for MSM Winter Camp! Below, you'll find answers to frequently asked questions covering everything from packing details and weekend expectations to safety policies and what your student can expect. If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to our MSM staff — we'd be happy to help!

Vision

MSM Winter Camp creates intentional space for your student to explore God's design for identity and sexuality, hear biblical teaching, and work through meaningful questions in gender-specific small groups. Our hope is that students will grow in their understanding of who God created them to be, how the gospel shapes the way they see themselves and others, and what it looks like to follow Jesus with confidence and grace.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Where are we going?**

  We're headed back to Sky Ranch for MSM Winter Camp! It's a great place for students to step away from their usual routines, spend time together, and grow in their faith. With fun activities, shared meals, and time in God's Word, the weekend gives students space to build friendships and grow closer to Jesus.

- **Who is going?**

  Our full-time Middle School Ministry staff from every campus will be at Winter Camp, along with trained and vetted small group leaders who will invest in students throughout the weekend. We maintain a ratio of one leader for every eight students, and every leader is MinistrySafe trained and background checked.

- **How are students getting there?**

  All students, staff, and volunteers will travel together by charter bus. With more than 300 people traveling to and from camp, it's a big undertaking, but traveling together is always a highlight of the trip and gives students a chance to build friendships along the way.

- **What are the sleeping arrangements?**

  Students are assigned to rooms by small group, campus, grade level, and gender. Each room will have two vetted adult leaders, and shower and sleeping times are carefully monitored in accordance with our MinistrySafe policies and procedures to help provide a safe and well-supported environment throughout the weekend.

- **What are we doing during the retreat?**

  Students will enjoy a mix of structured activities and free time designed for fun and connection. Activities may include zip lines, a treetop tower, a jumping pillow, team games, group challenges, and more. Spiritually, our content includes daily quiet times, biblical teaching, worship, and small group discussions to help students grow in their faith and connect with one another.

POLICIES + SAFETY

What is the cell phone policy?

We ask all students to leave phones at home to help them fully engage in the weekend without distractions. If you need to reach your student, you can contact one of our MSM staff members directly. Photos from the event will be shared with parents through Waldo Photo Manager (details below).

What is the dress code?

We ask students to dress modestly and appropriately. Clothing with vulgar language or references to alcohol, drugs, or tobacco is not allowed. Students who do not comply will be asked to change. Continued issues may result in the student being sent home at the parent's expense.

What is the medication policy?

If your student takes any medication, whether prescription or over-the-counter, please bring it to check-in in a labeled, resealable bag that includes:

- The student's name on the bag and all medication containers
- Original containers only (no loose pills)
- A notecard detailing dosage and timing

Medications without proper labeling will not be administered. Our medical staff will handle medications throughout the weekend.

Will there be nurses?

Yes! We have three registered nurses who attend every trip to help care for students' health needs throughout the weekend. They assist with medication management, injuries, hydration, and any medical concerns that may arise.

What is your safety policy regarding behavior and off-site travel?

For everyone's safety, any student caught with illegal substances, engaging in inappropriate behavior, or leaving the camp area without permission will be sent home at the parent's expense.

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

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, or Students Manager will work together to determine the appropriate response in consultation with Christ Chapel's Executive Director of Operations.

Once a decision has been made, communications will be shared in the following order:

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

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

PHOTOS + COMMUNICATION

How do I get photos of my student during the trip?

We will have photos available through Waldo Photo Manager for all parents. Waldo is a facial recognition photo-sharing app that allows you to easily access photos from the event. You'll receive a QR code at check-in. After uploading a photo of your student, you'll receive text updates when new photos featuring your student are available. You'll then be able to download and share those photos directly.

PREPARATION + PACKING

What should my student bring?

Pack light! One large duffel or suitcase and one carry-on backpack.

Packing List:

✓ Bible, journal, and pen
✓ Clothes for outdoor activities
✓ Weather-appropriate clothing (jacket, sweatshirt, rain gear)
✓ Bath towel and toiletries
✓ Pillow and bedding for a twin mattress
✓ Refillable water bottle labeled with name
✓ Sunscreen and insect repellent
✓ Money for the snack shop
✓ Medications (to be turned in at check-in)

Do NOT bring:

✘ Cell phones
✘ Drugs/vapes/tobacco/alcohol
✘ Weapons, fireworks, or explosives
✘ Inappropriate clothing (see Dress Code policy above)

REGISTRATION + PAYMENT

What is the refund policy?

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

- A 50% payment toward the total cost is recommended six weeks before the event
- Final payment is due two weeks before the event
- Refund requests must be submitted at least three weeks before the event date

If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to your campus MSM Ministers or email our team. We're looking forward to an incredible weekend of growth, connection, and seeing what God does in the lives of your students!