

**OPEN BIBLE CENTRAL
YOUTH CAMP (GRADES 6-12)
JULY 21-25, 2025**



**HIDDEN ACRES
DAYTON, IA**

Open Bible Central Youth Camp Leader's Planning Guide

Dear Youth Ministry Leader,

Hopefully the following pages explain nearly everything you need to know about bringing your group to camp.

Please take some time to fully review the enclosed information. If there is something missing or confusing, reach out to me via email, text, or call!

If you are new and/or this is your first time bringing a group to camp, feel free to save my number to your contacts and know that I am very comfortable with you reaching out frequently. This can be a confusing process with many moving parts-- I'm here to help!

I am praying for you, and looking forward to all that God has in store for our students!

Skyler Sanford
NEXT Generation Director
515.707.7215
skyler@openbiblecentral.org

Camp Registration/Instructions

Age requirement

- This camp is for students in **6th - 12th grade**. As each school district is different, we defer to your local policy of transition from elementary to middle school.
- Students just finishing elementary school have the option of attending Kids Camp or Youth Camp. **Kids camp** is for 3rd – 5th grade students, and **Youth camp** is for 6th – 12th grade students.
- Students just graduating from high school may attend Youth camp as a student. They are eligible to come as a leader/chaperone once they have been out of high school **for at least 1 year**.

Student registration

- **All registration is online** and can be accessed at: openbiblecentral.org/youth-camp/
- When a parent registers their students and submits the form, three emails are immediately sent out. They will receive a confirmation email, you will receive an email with full registration information, and Central Region will receive an email.
- **NO PAYMENT WILL BE RECEIVED BY CENTRAL REGION.**
 - ***Every church has different fundraisers and transportation costs.**
\$255 does NOT cover the church's costs (gas, transportation etc.).
You will still need to collect finances from each student that registers.
- **Cost: \$255/student**
- We will periodically send each youth director a list of who we have registered for camp from your church. Hopefully this will help ensure we're all on the same page.

Family discounts

- Designed for families sending multiple children to Open Bible Youth and/or Kids Camps.
- Discount only available to churches affiliated with Open Bible.
- Second child's registration fee will be **reduced by \$20**.
- Third child and all additional children will be **reduced \$40 each**.

\$30 late registration fee

- Registrations received by the Open Bible Central office after **June 24th** will be considered late and will require a **\$30 late fee** in addition to the cost of each registration.

Camp leader registration basic info

- This is completely online as well. Leader applications can be found at: openbiblecentral.org/youth-camp/
- Upon submission of the form, three emails identical to the student registration are sent out.
- **NO PAYMENT WILL BE RECEIVED BY CENTRAL REGION.**

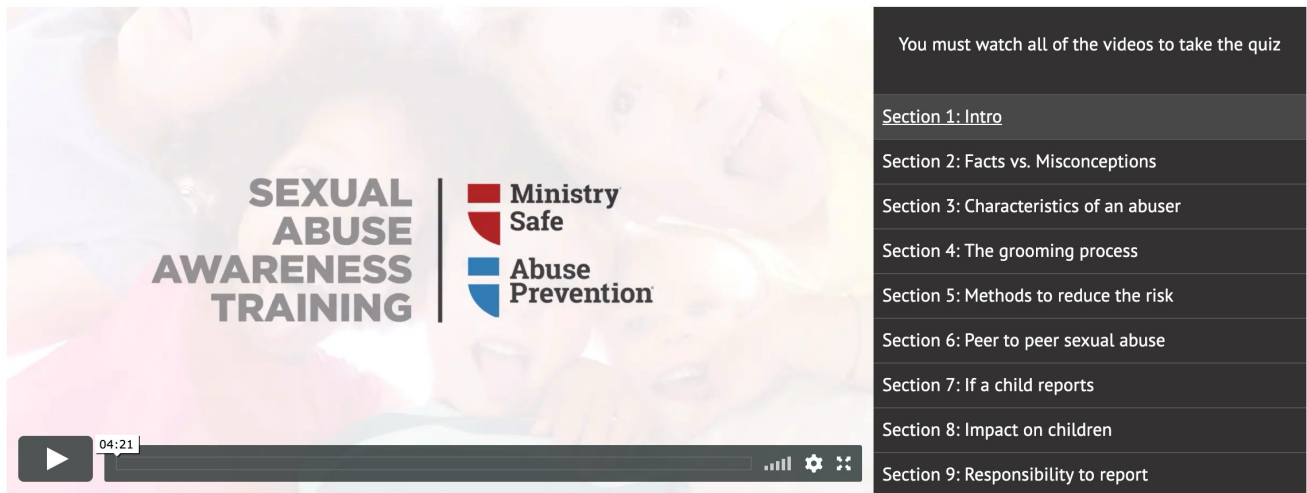
Cost update

- The student cost **WILL NOT** increase from our 2024 summer camp. This is a praise!
- The Leader cost will be adjusted from \$119/leader to \$125/leader, bringing it to roughly 50% of the cost for student registrations. **ALL leader registrations will be EXEMPT from late fees.**

Camp leader registration process/expectations

- Camp leaders will fill out form to apply to come to camp with your church. Included in that form:
 - Question about background check. To the best of their knowledge, do we have one on file that was pulled no longer than **3 years** ago? Even if they say no, they can still submit the application and deal with the background check later.
 - Lead pastor's name and email address. The purpose of this is for the pastoral reference. We will send the pastor an email asking if they approve this person to represent your church at camp.
 - Question about sexual abuse awareness training. Have they completed the Central Region prescribed online course?
 - **Everyone is required to retake this course every 3 years.**
 - It is free for the person taking it but will require 60-90 minutes to watch some online videos and take a short quiz of retention.
 - **Passing this training is a requirement for all leaders.**
 - If they have not completed the training, they will be asked if they are willing to do so. If they say yes, the application can be submitted and a link to the training will be emailed to them.
 - We have the ability to track each person. How much of the videos they watched and how they did on the quiz.
 - If they choose not to take the training, the application will not be submitted.
 - Here is an example of what they will see when they log on to complete the training.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training



You must watch all of the videos to take the quiz	
Section 1: Intro	
Section 2: Facts vs. Misconceptions	
Section 3: Characteristics of an abuser	
Section 4: The grooming process	
Section 5: Methods to reduce the risk	
Section 6: Peer to peer sexual abuse	
Section 7: If a child reports	
Section 8: Impact on children	
Section 9: Responsibility to report	

☐ I have watched ALL 9 training videos on this page OR received the full training from an approved trainer and/or in group training.

take quiz ✓

HOW TO PLAN YOUR TRIP TO CAMP THIS SUMMER

- ☐ Make sure that you have the camp dates on the church calendar. Youth camp is **July 21-25, 2025**. Camp begins with registration at 1:00pm on Monday and camp ends at 11:15am on Friday.
- ☐ Reserve the vans, buses, etc. that you will need for bringing students to camp.
- ☐ Begin regularly announcing and promoting camp. Use your church bulletin, newsletter, announcement times, pre-service slides, Facebook events, Instagram posts, email to each family, and anything else you can imagine. Artwork can be retrieved at openbiblecentral.org/youth-camp.
- ☐ Have each of your camp leader applicants go to openbiblecentral.org/youth-camp and fill-out the online application.
- ☐ Camp payment should be collected by you and ONE check should be written to Central Region Open Bible and brought with you to camp, handed to us at registration. **Have the parents write checks directly to your church and then bring a single check to camp for the total amount, including all leaders.**
 - Normal Registration will close after **Monday, June 24th**. (\$30/student will be added to registrations received after this date).
 - ALL registration must be completed online no later than **Monday, July 7th at 11:59pm**.
 - Late registration - If registrations are received **between June 25th- July 7th**, that camper will be required to pay a \$30 late registration fee and may or may not receive a camp T-shirt.
 - Refunds are not guaranteed on camp registrations, but name changes for the same age group (middle school or high school) and gender are allowed up until **July 14th @ Noon**.
 - **GRACE PERIOD: No registrations will be accepted after July 7th at 11:59pm.**
- ☐ Final Invoices will be emailed to you and your church no later than **Saturday, July 12th**. In some cases, this could be sooner. Please bring the check with you to camp in the amount of the invoice, and submit that at the registration table on Day 1. Please email skyler@openbiblecentral.org to dispute the invoice.
- ☐ **NEW RULE** - We need you to provide **at least one (1) staff for every ten students (of that gender) that you send to camp**. If you are sending **male and female** students to camp, you **MUST** provide a **male and female staff member**. If you are unable to provide this, your church will be charged the leader cost, and one will be appointed to your group. Please call Central Region if you are unable to provide a staff member of each gender-- so that this can be arranged!

****ATTENTION****- Youth Leaders should go over ALL rules with students attending camp before arrival to camp grounds.

CAMP RULES/GUIDELINES:

Stuff you should NOT bring to camp

The following items are not allowed at camp: tobacco, narcotics, vapes, alcohol, weapons of any kind, pornography, fireworks, or other combustible materials. Possession of any of these items will be cause for immediate dismissal from camp. Also, campers should not bring valuables such as laptops, iPads or other electronics.

Dress code

Everyone must wear shoes when walking on the grounds.

Guys – Shirts must be worn at all times, except in the pool or at the lake and if you are a ‘skin’ for basketball. Your shorts need to stay up around your waist. For swimming, guys must wear swim trunks that stay up, no speedos and no cut offs.

Ladies – Your shirt and pants should touch. Your shorts or skirts should be at least mid-thigh. For swimming, ladies must wear modest one-piece suits. If you have a two-piece, you must wear a dark-colored t-shirt over it.

Staying in dorms at night

Most of the girls’ dorms will have bathrooms and showers inside the same facility. Boys will need to leave their cabin and walk a short distance to the bathhouse. At night, girls may not leave their dorm buildings under any circumstances. Boys may leave their cabins for the purpose of going to the bathroom but not leave the cabin/bathhouse area. Any student found, for any reason, outside of these confines will immediately forfeit the remainder of his or her camp experience. No warnings. No refunds.

Wandering

There will be no wandering alone, period. You must have someone of the same gender with you at all times and your leader must know who you’re with and where you’ll be at all times. No exceptions.

Social skills

Fighting, intimidating, or verbally abusing anyone, camper or staff, is not permitted and may result in the camper losing their privilege of finishing camp. Public displays of affection are not allowed during camp. While sleeping at night or taking naps, only 1 person per twin mattress. Should a bed have a full or queen mattress, exceptions may be made by the Camp Director, Skyler Sanford.

Mobile phone policy

Phones and other electronic devices will not be allowed to be used at camp. If they come with the camper, the device will be taken from them, placed in a protected area, and returned prior to departure from camp. The primary reason for this is attention. Our hope and goal are to encourage our students to take their focus off the electronic world and pay attention to God and the friends around them. If a parent is concerned about connectivity with their student, give them the camp number, as well as Skyler Sanford’s cell phone number.

Common Sense Thinking

When you make decisions during camp week, use common sense and treat other people the way you would want to be treated. Also, show respect for the campground, their staff, and Central Region camp staff.

Theme Explained:

Every day, we are faced with choices—some small, and some life-changing. The decisions we make shape our future and influence who we become. Will we choose God's way, or will we follow the world?

Some of the most important choices we make involve: Who our **FRIENDS** are, how we spend our **TIME**, how we spend our **MONEY**, what we **WATCH** or **LISTEN** to, what we **BELIEVE** in, and what we **PRIORITIZE**.

The purpose of this theme is **NOT** about living in **FEAR** of making the wrong choice—The Bible reminds us in **Romans 3:23** that, *"All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God"*. We all make mistakes, and God forgives those who ask with a sincere heart. Rather, this theme is meant to encourage students that through Jesus, we have the opportunity to **choose differently**, and to pursue a **PURPOSE-FILLED** and **SPIRIT-LED** life!

Additionally, our choices don't just affect **US**—they also impact the people around us. The way we **TREAT** others, the words we **SPEAK**, and the **EXAMPLE** we set—can help bring people **CLOSER** to Jesus, or even push them away. Every decision is an opportunity to positively impact others with God's love. It's important to ask ourselves, "Are my choices leading me toward God's best for my life, or are they pulling me further away?"

Ultimately, we want students to understand that above all else, the most important **CHOICE** they could ever make is to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. The Bible encourages us in **Joshua 24:15**, *"Choose this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."* Through Jesus, we have the ability to **CHOOSE** a better path... The one that **HE** has designed for us!

The world is fighting for your heart, but God is calling you to something **GREATER**. One leads to emptiness, the other leads to **LIFE**. In the end, it all comes down to this:

What will you **CHOOSE**?

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