

Hidden Haven Christian Camp

Junior Counselor Program

Purpose: The Junior Counselor program at hidden haven Christian Camp is a great way for older students to serve the younger students in the camp program. This gives the Junior Counselor an opportunity to develop Christian mentoring skills. This also allows Deans to augment their staff with wonderful young people who wish to serve others.

Junior Counselor Defined: A Junior Counselor is defined as anyone serving on the faculty of a Dean who is still young enough to attend a session of camp at Hidden Haven Christian Camp.

Reporting: Junior Counselors report directly to the Dean and any adult counselor the Dean may choose.

Requirements to be a Junior Counselor:

1. Must be in High School and at least 2 grades ahead of the oldest camper in the session in which they will be serving.
2. Must attend a camp session as a camper during the same summer in which they wish to serve as a Junior Counselor.
 - a. Exceptions to this requirement are at the sole discretion of the Camp Manager and will be rare. The request must be made by the Dean.
 - b. If the session they will attend is after the camp in which they will serve as a Junior Counselor, they must be registered and paid in full, or appropriate payment arrangements made, no later than 2 weeks prior to the session in which they will serve as a Junior Counselor.
3. It is the Junior Counselor's responsibility to make the initial contact with the Dean for whom they wish to serve.
4. Sign this document and have your parent/guardian sign it as well.

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Requirements of the Dean:

It is the sole responsibility of the Dean to ensure the following take place. Failure to do so could lead to some Junior Counselors not being able to serve during their week.

1. Communicate all of the information in this document and all policies regarding counselors to the potential Junior Counselors and their parent/guardians.
2. Make sure each Junior Counselor has the maturity to serve in this capacity.
 - a. The ministry of developing Junior Counselors as Christian leaders is secondary to the primary ministry of the campers.
 - b. If a Junior Counselor needs a program that focuses solely on their own leadership skills, the camp is in the development of a leadership camp for the future.
 - c. **Eric's note for clarity:** *I just want to make sure that we all understand the ministry to the campers is top priority. If the chance to develop and mentor Junior Counselors is available we should take them, but not at the expense of the camper's experience.*
3. Make sure each Junior Counselor has a full understand of why they are serving - that they are here for the ministry and not for a "back-stage pass" to camp.
4. Have no more than 25% of their faculty made up of Junior Counselors.
5. Ensure there is no time in which a Junior Counselor is the only faculty person alone with the campers in the dorms.
6. Ensure that families/teams are led by an equal or greater number of adults than Junior Counselors.
7. Designate one adult to serve as the mentor for each Junior Counselor. Preferably this will be someone with several years' experience in camp faculty who can offer guidance and oversee the Junior Counselor's progress.
8. Sign and return this document to the Camp Office at least two weeks prior to the beginning of your camp. **No Junior Counselors will be accepted after this point.**

I have read this entire document and I agree with all requirements set forth here and will agree to abide by all policies of Hidden Haven Christian Camp.

Junior Counselor Date

Parent/Guardian Date

Dean Date