



CAMP SHARON STAFF GUIDE

Missouri Ministries of the Church of God – Revised January 2026

THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF THE MISSION!

The Camp Sharon Team of Missouri Ministries would like to thank you for helping us fulfill the Camp Sharon Mission! We realize being a camp counselor is a big responsibility and seldom gets the recognition or thanks that the job merits. Know that we appreciate you sharing your gifts and abilities. No doubt, your time spent at Camp Sharon will be a major influence in the lives of many people. Be assured that our prayers and support in your Christian walk will follow you. May God richly bless you as you serve!

MISSION: Camp Sharon has been established by Missouri Ministries of the Church of God to enhance the spiritual growth of families, groups and students; to foster and develop positive interpersonal relationships; and to provide a healthy camp experience in a Christ-centered environment. Camp Sharon provides services to all persons without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or handicap.

ABOUT BEING A CAMP SHARON STAFF MEMBER

Camp staff members must profess a personal commitment to Jesus Christ, model a biblical lifestyle, and actively attend and support a local church congregation.

The following minimum age guidelines for counseling staff have been established:

- **Kids Camp (grades 3-5)** – **Must be 16 or older (with Camp Team approval)**
- **Middle School Camp (grades 6-8)** – **Must be 18 or older**
- **High School Camp (grades 9-12)** – **Must be 21 or older ***

* Members of Church of God college/university camp teams or other high school graduates who are under 21 may potentially serve as staff members (at director's discretion) but will be classified as Junior Counselors.

Counseling staff are classified as Senior Counselors (age 21 and above) or Junior Counselors (under 21 and meeting the minimum age requirement). Junior Counselors are not solely responsible for the supervision of a cabin.

GETTING STARTED

1. Prior to working at a summer camp, all camp staff must have the following information on file with Missouri Ministries of the Church of God and/or the camp director.
 - **Staff Registration Form** (required annually)
 - **Medical Information, Consent & Release Form** (required annually)
 - **Pastor's Recommendation Form** (required annually)
 - **Criminal Background / National Sexual Offenders Registry Check** (required every 3 years)
2. Staff members who are supervising camper cabins may not have their underage children in the cabin.
3. A suggested packing list is shown below (some items are optional).
 - Bible, pen, paper
 - Weather-appropriate clothing / sturdy shoes
 - Swimwear and gear
 - Insect repellent / sunblock
 - Alarm clock / fan / extension cord
 - Rain gear / windbreaker
 - Bedding
 - Towel, washcloth and toiletries
 - Flashlight / camera
 - Water bottle or large "go cup"
 - Lawn chair
 - Personal medication (leave with camp nurse)
4. Schedules, routines, and procedures typically vary between camps. Each camp director is responsible for providing schedules, assignments, and other pertinent information to staff members.
5. In addition to cabin counseling, staff can also expect to potentially assist/participate with meal clean up, recreation, worship and devotional times, conferences, daily and end-of-camp clean up, staff meetings, etc.

STAFF CONDUCT & EXPECTATIONS

1. Positively encourage all persons in both word and deed. Model biblical conduct. **This includes social media profiles and interactions.**
2. Become familiar with and enforce Camper Conduct shown below.
3. Obey all printed and stated camp guidelines, camp boundaries and waterfront regulations.
4. Leave all personal medication, prescription or otherwise, with the camp nurse.
5. Respect Camp Sharon property, personal property of others, and the privacy of others.
6. Dress modestly at all times, including swimwear. Avoid clothing with inappropriate logos or advertisements.
7. Secure all personal electronic devices (media players, phones, tablets, laptops, etc.) from access by campers in order to protect all persons from inappropriate media. Personal communications (via phone, etc.) will be limited and will not take place in the presence of campers or while supervising campers.
8. Do not use/possess alcohol, narcotics, tobacco products, contraband, fireworks or firearms.
9. Attend Kid Safe training and abide by those policies required by the Missouri Ministries of the Church of God.

STAFF TO CAMPER CONDUCT (Some of the following are addressed in detail in Kid Safe Training sessions.)

1. Be prepared, spiritually and biblically, to pray with students at altar response opportunities and at other times.
2. Become personally acquainted with the campers assigned to your cabin, small group or team.
3. Respond to all situations calmly and in the most positive manner possible.
4. Be observant with regard to campers' health and nutrition needs.
5. Counsel with campers on a same-gender basis and in public locations.
6. Report, by law, any suspected physical or sexual abuse of campers.
7. Deal with discipline matters wisely and without corporal punishment.
8. Avoid inappropriate physical contact at all times.
9. Model holiness, patience, fairness, understanding, effective listening and punctuality.
10. Be aware of campers with special needs and respond appropriately.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

1. In case of an injury, seek immediate professional medical help. Remain with the injured and send another staff member or camper for help.
2. All water activities require authorized, licensed lifeguard supervision.
3. Become familiar with emergency procedures in case of severe weather conditions.
4. Except for special circumstances, staff members are to remain on camp property for the duration of the camp.
5. Use of personal or camp vehicles and other equipment not for public use while on camp property is prohibited.
6. Use of kitchen facilities and equipment requires supervision of the camp caretaker and/or kitchen staff.

CAMPER CONDUCT (Staff are responsible for enforcing these guidelines.)

1. Campers will obey all printed or stated camp guidelines and policies and will attend all scheduled activities.
2. Campers will remain in cabins after lights out each evening unless otherwise given permission (restroom or nurse visit).
3. All personal medication, prescription or otherwise, will remain with and be distributed by the camp nurse.
4. Inappropriate language and physical or verbal abuse will not be permitted.
5. Camp Sharon property, personal property of others, and the privacy of others will be respected.
6. Campers will dress modestly at all times (i.e. – no 2-piece swimsuits, spaghetti strap tops, etc.) and will not wear clothing or other attire with inappropriate logos or advertisements.
7. Campers will not bring snacks, soda, etc. to camp.
8. Campers will not have access to Camp Sharon phones.
9. Campers' personal electronic devices (media players, phones, tablets, laptops, etc.) are not allowed at summer camp in order to protect all persons from access to inappropriate media (music, videos, games, web-based media accessible via phones, etc.). Standard cameras are allowed.
10. Campers may not possess and/or use alcohol, narcotics, tobacco products, fireworks or firearms.

Camp Sharon

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