

April 1, 2026

Hello, Parents!

We are writing to let you know about a summer camp opportunity for Sierra Vista kids. For the eleventh year, Sierra Vista UMC, along with the staff and clergy from several other UMC congregations, is planning a children's camp at Butman Methodist Camp in Merkel, Texas, near Abilene. We continue to be excited about this intergenerational ministry opportunity, but we remain dedicated to separating these groups for various activities so that we can offer the best camp experience for all age groups.

This camp will be offered to children who are going into 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grades in the fall, 2026, as well as youth who are entering 7th, 8th, and 9th grades in the fall. The camp will be held **June 21 through June 25**, a Sunday through Thursday.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our years at Butman Methodist Camp, and they continue to keep their facilities updated and well maintained with many activities for children and youth, including high and low-ropes course challenges, a rock wall, two Gaga courts (Israeli dodge ball), three indoor basketball courts, ping pong, sand volleyball, star gazing, geocaching, horseshoes and washer pitching, an outdoor slip and slide, a water-balloon catapult, archery and axe throwing, three hill crosses to hike to, Butman's homegrown "Garden of Eatin'," and an Olympic pool with a slide and a climbing feature over the deepest end. The kids absolutely LOVE all that there is to do at Camp Butman!

Our theme for camp this year is "Jesus' Love is One of a Kind" – a theme that will invite your kiddos to explore the feelings God gave us. We think of some emotions as good and others as bad. But God made every part of us, and no matter how we are feeling, we can always turn to Him for help. By being immersed into the vastness of nature, experiencing the power of community, and discovering the love in their own hearts, these young believers will indeed discover the building blocks they need to "Live Inside Out."

For 2026, **the camp fee will be \$350 per child**. However, **camp fees should not – in any way – limit your child's camp attendance!** As a result, camp scholarships are available. If you need more information about camp fees and scholarships, please let us know.

In the meantime, here is additional camp information:

- To sign up for this camp, kids should be entering the third through ninth grades in fall, 2026.
- All children are welcome.
- Camp facilities are air-conditioned, though many activities are outside.
- There is a very nice swimming pool, and time each day will be scheduled for this.
- Other activities include crafts, games, Bible study, worship, hikes, feet-on-bunk time, and many others.
- Camp Butman has a cafeteria where kid & allergy-friendly meals will be served.
- There will be qualified personnel at camp to administer medications and first aid, if needed.
- More on travel info to camp will be available in early June.

Finally, a number of Sierra Vista kids and adult volunteers will be there also. If you have or know of a responsible, hard-working, Jesus-loving individual who would like to serve as a member of the camp ministry team, we encourage their participation as well. Please have them get in touch with Madison Woehl so that we can walk them through the staff application process.

Church camps are truly a great experience for kids; they prove integral to their faith walks, both immediately and long-term. In truth, many experts in camp and retreat ministries claim that a week at camp is the equivalent of a year's worth of Sunday school classes. Please make an effort to start praying about your child's readiness to attend.

As ever, let us know if you have any questions!! (Texts are welcome!)

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