

Mahaffey Family Camp

GAC Youth Volunteer Packet 2026 (July 20th – 24th)

Mahaffey Camp is a Christian and Missionary Alliance Camp in Mahaffey, PA (1.5 hours away) that has been in existence for over 100 years. Because of its longevity it is a unique community with numerous cottages and families that stay there throughout the Spring, Summer, and Fall. During the summer there are many events that require volunteers. Each year, pastors from the Western PA district of the C&MA are assigned a particular duty during a week called "Family Camp" in which the community of Mahaffey is in full swing. For the last decade Pastor Rigel's job has been organizing and helping out with outdoor games for children. This duty consists of running games for 3 ½ hours a day in the afternoon for children of all ages at Mahaffey. 15 years ago, the camp's director and Pastor Rigel came up with the idea of having a handful of teens from Greensburg Alliance come up to help run the games and serve at the craft hut. In exchange for their service, all of their meals were covered, and their lodging was subsidized so that the cost was minimal. This trip is limited to 10 students total.

Mahaffey camp is a great place to connect with a large number of teens from other Alliance churches and have a great time. Aside from the community at Mahaffey it is a very rural setting with some beautiful places to visit. We will also be taking a trip to Punxsutawney, PA (15 miles from Mahaffey) to hang out and take pictures at Gobbler's Knob. Having our teens volunteer is a creative way to help out the ministry of Mahaffey Camp while allowing our students to experience camp with very little overhead cost. So now that I've laid out the opportunity let's get into the details.

Times & Dates: We will be leaving the church on Monday, July 20th at 9am and returning on the evening on Friday the 24th at around 7pm. Students should show up having eaten breakfast or with some money to pick breakfast up at sheets on the way up.

Spots and Requirements: There will be a max total of 10 spots available (the team may end up being smaller). The spots will be filled after the application deadline concludes and a panel of our adult youth leaders work through the submissions. Aside from the application questions, attendance, youth group participation, and how many potential future chances you have left to volunteer for this trip will also factor into the decision. There are a few baseline requirements for being considered as a volunteer.

The requirements are as follow:

- You must be a Christian & connected to our YG
- You must be at least 13 by July 20th
- You must fill out the application **by the deadline (April 19th)**.
- You must fill out the camp forms promptly (will be provided after application is approved)
- Decisions will be made by mid-May (or earlier).
- You must exhibit no major behavioral problems and have a heart to serve.
- You must exhibit the ability to be flexible.
- You must be willing to abide by the camp's rules.

Cost: \$50 (for the week) due 1 week before the day of the trip. Again, this includes transportation, three meals a day, and lodging. Students should bring some extra money as there is a camp store that sells drinks, snacks, ice cream, and milkshakes (An extra \$20-30 would be fine).

Lodging: Students will be staying in one of Mahaffey's dorms. The dorms are equipped with a light and a standard outlet for charging electronic devices. Restrooms and showers are located a short distance from the dorms. The rooms themselves are very rustic and have a summer camp feel to them. For the most part there will be two students to a room with the possibility of three. The dorms will be overseen by "dorm parents" who will communicate their expectations of conduct at the time of your arrival. Students are expected to be respectful and obedient to the best of their ability to the rules of the dorm.

What to Bring: A detailed packing list will be provided for those who are accepted as volunteers, closer to the event, although it should be noted that packing needs to be generally light.

Forms: Completing the attached application in detail is required of all applicants and will be used as the primary means for determining who makes up our students. Mahaffey camp has their own forms that must be completed as well. These forms will be distributed to students when the final selections are made by Rigel. They are required for all volunteers by Mahaffey Camp. If a student is 18 years old they will also need to get a PA state background check and clearances.

An Important Note: Turning in an application, does not necessarily reserve a spot for you on this year's trip. Please ask any relevant questions prior to turning in your application.

Things you may find yourself doing at Mahaffey:

- **Attend some of the camp youth services**
- **Hang out with other Alliance teens**
- **Go wading in the creek**
- **Go fishing in the creek (license required if you are over 15)**
- **Fill up and throw about a hundred water balloons at children a day**
- **Have the day off from work if it rains!!!**

Please feel free to contact Rigel with any questions about volunteering at Mahaffey
(724) 575-2862 ~ gacyouth@gmail.com

Mahaffey Application Questions

Due: 4/19/2026

Please take these questions and answer them on a separate sheet of paper (either typed or legibly hand written). Make sure that you include your name and your birthday on the top. You do not have to re-write the questions (unless they contain Y/N answers) but you must number your answers and ensure that all aspects of the question are completed (for question #8 please just put the percentage for your answer). Decisions will be made by mid-May by a panel of our adult leaders. Consideration will also be made for youth group participation, and behavior, as well as how many potential future years you have to be a part of this trip.

Name:

Birthday: ___ / ___ / _____

- 1- How many Summers do you have left before you move out of youth group?
- 2- Have you served with us at Mahaffey Family Camp (Y/N)?, Have you visited Mahaffey Camp before in any capacity (Y/N)?, Have you been to any other sleep away camp in the past (Y*/N- *if Y then what camp _____)?
- 3- What is something that interests you in this opportunity to serve?
- 4- Briefly list or explain your past experience working with Children.
- 5- How well do you do being outside for an extended time in the summer (Think heatwave & humidity out in a field for 3-4 hours a day)?
- 6- What are the 3 things that you enjoy the most about being part of a team & what are the 3 things that frustrate you the most about being part of a team?
- 7- Explain one way that you excel in working with children (something you're good at), & Explain one challenge that you face when working with Children (something that you struggle with doing well).
- 8- Registration will happen soon after the decisions are made. How sure are you that you can attend Mahaffey camp on the outlined dates (July 20-24)?

Circle one- 100% 90% 80% 70%



MAHAFFEY CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

of The Western PA District of The Christian and Missionary Alliance
"A Christian Center for Spiritual Growth"

Edward L. Depp, Director / Developer

Mahaffey Family Camp Youth Registration Form

Please note: No campers age 18 or under will be permitted to stay on the campground during Family Camp without completion of this form unless they will be under the direct supervision of a parent or grandparent. This form is due at the time of registration. A room / site will not be issued until this form is submitted. Please return this completed form along with your room/site deposit.

Name of Camper 18 years of age and under

Age

Date of Birth

Home Address

City/State/Zip

Home Church

Pastor's Name

Dorm / Room # (Dorms are supervised)

Trailer Area / Trailer Site # (Adult supervision at site is required)

Rigel Holmes

Rigel Holmes

Name of Sponsor 25 years of age or older

DORM 2

Location of Sponsor on Mahaffey Campgrounds

Signature of Sponsor

(724) 575-2862

Emergency phone number of sponsor - cell phone number required

By signing this form, the Sponsor accepts full responsibility for the camper listed above. If the camper listed above desires to leave the camp between the hours of 7:00pm and 7:00am., he/she MUST have written permission from the sponsor each time he/she leaves and must have the permission form in his/her possession. No teens are permitted to be left unsupervised overnight at any campsite without an adult over the age of 25 present.

Name of Parent/Guardian

Parent/Guardian home & emergency phone numbers

Home Address

City/State/Zip

Release Agreement - I hereby give my permission for my child to participate in the camp program at Mahaffey Camp and Conference Center. In the event of an emergency when medical treatment is required, I give permission to the physician selected by my Child's Sponsor, the Camp Director, or designated staff to hospitalize, secure treatment, order injections, anesthesia or surgery for the camper named on this registration form. I acknowledge that camp activities have inherent dangers that no amount of care or caution, instruction or expertise can eliminate. I and the participant expressly and voluntarily assume all risk of personal injury sustained while participating in aforementioned camp activities whether or not caused by the negligence of the released parties. In the event of an accident or injury none of the following shall be held responsible: Camp Director, Nurse or any other camp staff, Mahaffey Camp and Conference Center or the Western P.A. District of the Christian and Missionary Alliance.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

By signing the above stated document, I commit to reviewing the camp rules and regulations with my child, including the dress code standards. I or the above signed sponsor will assume all responsibility for by child's behavior. I acknowledge that violation of the rules can result in the dismissal of my child from the camp grounds. In the event of dismissal, the sponsor and parent/guardian will be notified by the camp office.



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