

MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH



PARENT HANDBOOK

MTZIONNASHVILLE.ORG

GROWING BELIEVERS, PRODUCING ACHIEVERS

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**SCAN TO
VIEW THE
DIGITAL
VERSION**



A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PASTOR DARRELL BROWN



Welcome to Camp Zion.

We are so glad your child is joining us this summer. Thank you for trusting us to be part of their journey.

At Camp Zion, we believe summer can be more than fun and activities. It can be a time of real growth, genuine community, and lasting impact. Our desire is that every child who comes through Camp Zion leaves encouraged, challenged, and changed.

We want students to have fun, build strong friendships, and make memories that stick. But more than that, we want them to grow in confidence, character, and faith. We believe every child has purpose – and we are committed to creating an environment where they are poured into, built up, and reminded of just how valuable they are.

Our team is here to lead with care, excellence, and intention. We are expecting a summer full of joy, growth, and transformation.

Thank you for allowing us to partner with your family. It is an honor to have your child at Camp Zion, and we cannot wait to see what this summer holds.

Pastor Darrell Brown
Executive Director of NextGen

GENERAL INFORMATION



JUNE 1, 2026
THROUGH
JULY 24, 2026

END OF CAMP PRODUCTION | **CAMP ZION WILL BE CLOSED**
JULY 24, 2026, 6:30 PM | **JUNE 19 & JULY 4-5**

HOURS OF OPERATION
MONDAY - FRIDAY
7AM - 6PM

CHAPEL HELD DAILY AT 8 A.M.

- All parents are required to sign his or her child in and out each day. ID is required when someone other than the authorized parent is picking the child up.
- All campers must wear their camp T-shirt on Field Trip Days apart from swimming days.
- Transportation is provided for all field trips.
- Breakfast & lunch will be provided daily by the Metro Action Commission.
- Daily snacks are provided by the camp.
- Tennis shoes/socks to be worn daily (no flip flops).

CAMP ATTIRE

Because we often walk outside, we ask that you consider allowing your child to wear tennis shoes or closed toe shoes daily. This will help prevent glass injuries, insect stings and/or bug bites. Participants are encouraged to wear clothes that fully cover the body in sun sensitive areas to prevent sunburn.

On field trip days, please dress your child in his or her camp T-shirt. The uniformity of the group helps employees better attend to each child.

*Except for Swim Days

LUNCH & SNACKS

Nashville's Metro Action Commission will provide breakfast and lunch for each camper. Lunch will consist of a sandwich, milk, juice, and fruit. Your child is not required to take part in this meal. The camp will provide snacks. A different snack will be served daily. Campers are welcome to bring a packed lunch.

ABOUT CAMP ZION

Camp Zion offers an unforgettable summer day camp experience tailored for children entering 1st through 9th grades. Our focus is on enriching biblical knowledge, enhancing academic skills, fostering character development, nurturing new relationships and of course ensuring maximum fun! This camp is designed to empower youth across various aspects of life, including emotional, educational, physical, social, psychological, and economic well-being.

Each day at Camp Zion is packed with activities such as daily chapel, academic sessions, physical exercise, sports, leadership workshops, and elective classes that will leave your children eager for more.

Campers can arrive as early as 7 a.m. with morning chapel starting promptly at 8 a.m. Pick-up times vary depending on elective classes, with the latest pick-up time being 6 p.m. Selected students may be asked to stay later as preparations for the closing program approach.

Located at Mt. Zion Baptist Church on Old Hickory Boulevard in Whites Creek, TN, just a short 15-minute drive from downtown, Camp Zion provides indoor and outdoor facilities, exciting field trips, leadership training, music, dance, and more, ensuring a summer full of enriching experiences.

Our caring staff includes a director, assistant directors, licensed academic teachers, teacher assistants, and dedicated volunteers. Academic teachers are certified in the state of Tennessee and specialize in their respective subjects, while elective teachers are highly qualified to instill self-confidence through new skills and experiences.

Participants will engage in activities to boost self-esteem, resolve conflicts, develop life values, and learn etiquette and social interaction skills. They will also have opportunities for physical development through various recreational activities that utilize gross motor skills.



ABOUT CAMP ZION

Mini seminars led by experienced consultants will address topics aimed at improving interactions with peers, family, friends, and neighbors.

Values such as strength of character, integrity, reliability, courtesy, politeness, loyalty, enthusiasm, initiative, responsibility, and courage will be emphasized to increase their potential for success.

The program's objectives include:

- Teaching reading as a fundamental life skill for learning and development.
- Teaching math as a crucial tool for problem-solving and social interaction.
- Providing experiences to understand language development.
- Assisting students in enhancing their communication skills, including grammar, vocabulary, articulation, and critical thinking.
- Offering cultural experiences from the local community to international varieties.
- Providing leadership skills to inspire them to become community leaders and/or entrepreneurs.



SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Elementary Campers (Incoming 1st - 6th Graders)

Elementary campers will participate in many activities that will make their summer memorable. We will challenge each camper academically through reading, language arts and math. Campers will also engage in unique experiences through elective classes such as cooking, art, dance, music, drama and more. Elementary campers will also have plenty of opportunities to go on exciting field trips, exploring new places around Nashville.

1st - 6th grade for Monday through Thursday

Time Frame	1st - 2nd Grade	3rd - 4th Grade	5th - 6th Grade
7:00am - 7:25am	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
7:30am - 7:55am	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time
8:00am - 8:50am	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel
9:00am - 9:50am	Reading	PE	Language
10:00am - 10:50am	PE	Math	Math
11:00am - 11:50pm	Math	Reading	PE
12:00pm - 12:30pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:40pm - 1:40pm	Dance	Art	Cooking
1:50pm - 2:50pm	Art	Cooking	Music
3:00pm - 4:00pm	Cooking	Music	Dance
4:10pm - 5:10pm	Music	Dance	Art
5:20pm - 6:00pm	Snack/Pick up	Snack/Pick up	Snack/Pick up

1st - 6th grade on Friday

Time Frame	1st - 2nd Grade	3rd - 4th Grade	5th - 6th Grade
7:00am - 7:25am	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
7:30am - 7:55am	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time
8:00am - 8:50am	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel
9:00am - 9:50am	Reading	PE	Language
10:00am - 10:50am	PE	Math	Math
11:00am - 11:50pm	Math	Reading	PE
12:00pm - 12:30pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:40pm - 1:40pm	Field Trip	Field Trip	Field Trip
1:50pm - 2:50pm	Field Trip	Field Trip	Field Trip
3:00pm - 4:00pm	Field Trip	Field Trip	Field Trip
4:10pm - 5:10pm	Game Time	Game Time	Game Time
5:20pm - 6:00pm	Snack/Pick up	Snack/Pick up	Snack/Pick up

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Middle & High School Campers (Incoming 7th- 9th Graders)

Middle and High school campers will gain access to a two-month gym membership, which includes basketball, swimming, volleyball, cardio workout and a host of other exciting gym activities! Campers will engage in a unique math, and English classes. There will also be a host of elective classes our campers can experience including cooking, sewing, D.I.Y (Do It Yourself) and more! The middle and high school camp experience also includes exciting and engaging field trips.

Class Schedule 7th - 9th grade

Time Frame	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:00am - 7:25am	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
7:30am - 7:55am	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time
8:00am - 8:50am	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel	Chapel
9:00am - 9:50am	English	Math	English	Math	Gym
10:00am - 10:50am	English	Math	English	Math	Gym
11:00am - 11:50pm	Gym	Explore Nashville	Gym	Library	Lunch
12:00pm - 12:30pm	Gym	Explore Nashville	Gym	Library	Field Trip
12:40pm - 1:40pm	Gym/Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Field Trip
1:50pm - 2:50pm	Etiquette	Black History	Etiquette	Black History	Field Trip
3:00pm - 4:00pm	Sewing	Sewing	Sewing	Sewing	Field Trip
4:10pm - 5:10pm	Your Voice	Your Voice	Your Voice	Your Voice	Return from Field Trip
5:20pm - 6:00pm					

WHAT TO BRING

Breakfast

Campers who arrive between 7 a.m. - 7:50 a.m. may eat the breakfast provided or bring their own breakfast.

Lunch

Lunch will be provided for campers each day, but you may also choose to pack a nutritious lunch for your camper, including a drink, in an insulated lunch sack or cooler. With increased outdoor activity, campers typically eat more than they do at school, so we provide an afternoon snack. You may also pack an additional afternoon snack if needed.

Water Bottle

Campers will be exercising and outside periodically during the day, so a reusable water bottle is a must! The camp has many water fountains so that campers can refill their water bottles.

Clothing

Campers should wear clothing that is comfortable and appropriate for indoor and outdoor activities. Campers are expected to always dress modestly and wear shirts, except when swimming. When swimming is scheduled, campers need to bring a swimsuit, sunscreen, and a towel. If your child gets cold easily you may send them with a light jacket or sweater for cold classrooms.

Shoes

Please have your campers wear tennis shoes with socks. Due to running activities and hilly terrain, tennis shoes are strongly recommended. Flip Flops are prohibited except when worn to the swimming pool.

Other Items

Campers should also bring non-aerosol sunscreen and non-aerosol insect repellent with them to camp every day. Camp Zion staff will not administer any medication.

School Supplies

A supply list will be given to parents during the first week of camp.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Discipline at Camp Zion is deeply rooted in scripture, as outlined in **Proverbs 12:1, 13:18, and 24, Ephesians 5:1-4, Hebrews 12, and Corinthians 13**. It is viewed as a means ordained by God for character building and behavioral training. Consequences for misbehavior include loss of privileges, time-outs, and physical exertion, however positive reinforcement will be utilized when possible. Parents will be contacted in cases where behavioral patterns are of concern, fostering a collaborative approach to support improvement.

While Camp Zion respects the authority of parents within their homes, we also encourage the importance of discipline aligned with biblical principles. Thus, parents are expected to maintain a code of conduct at home that complements the behavior regulation enforced at Camp Zion.

Students are also expected to demonstrate respect towards staff, volunteers, and peers at all times, adhering to camp rules. Discipline is administered with objectives such as maintaining an optimal learning environment, correcting disruptive behavior, guiding students towards holistic development, and as a last resort, removing students who consistently defy camp rules.

Consequences for rule-breaking include immediate dismissal for fighting, verbal warnings followed by time-outs and suspension of privileges or physical activities for disrespectful behavior towards staff. Parents can schedule meetings with the Director or Executive Director through email for further discussions. Additional details and explanations will be provided during the parent orientation.

FAQS

My child was a camper last year, do I still need to submit all of the forms?

Yes. Your child's information needs to be renewed each year for record keeping purposes.

Can my child camp part-time?

Yes. Your registration is for the full summer, and you may choose to miss several days or weeks. However, payments will continue to be drafted from your account and days missed are not prorated or refundable.

Is there transportation?

One-way shuttle transportation is provided from the Mt. Zion Antioch location to the Mt. Zion Old Hickory Blvd location for an additional fee of \$20 per week per child. This amount will be added to your weekly fees. Sign-in for the bus begins at 6:30am. A bus counselor is available to answer any questions and discuss any special needs for the day. After you sign your child in, you may choose to stay and see the bus off, or you may leave your child in the care of the bus counselor. All campers are picked up at the Camp Zion day camp site.

What if I need to withdraw my child from camp?

All cancellations must be made in writing through email and sent to dbrown@mtzionnashville.org. Parents are responsible for all weekly fees. No refunds will be issued.

Is orientation required?

All parents are expected to attend the parent orientation on Saturday, May 23, 2026 at 9 a.m. at 7594 Old Hickory Blvd, Whites Creek Tn. Parents will also have the opportunity to meet the camp staff and tour the camp site.

What should I send with my child to camp?

There are no required items to bring to camp but please be sure to label everything you send to camp with your campers' first and last name.



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