

2025 Garaywa Missions Camps Information & FAQ

Camping is an enriching experience for your child and can be a memory of a lifetime. We are excited that you are allowing your child to spend time with us at Garaywa. We want to help you prepare your child for the best possible experience. The following is information you need to be aware of as you prepare your child for a meaningful week of camp.

REGISTRATION

Registration will open January 6, 2025. Cost is \$200.00 per camper which includes snacks and a summer camp T-shirt. Co-ed camp is \$145.00 per camper and chaperone. Family camp is \$250.00 per family unit of 4. Additional members will be \$15 apiece. You may register online or download our registration form at www.garaywa.org.

REFUNDS

Refund of fees can be made no later than **15 working days** prior to your camp session date. Substitution of a camper is allowed. If you make a substitution, please check in Garaywa for authorization. **Refunds are forfeited if not requested by the time specified. In case of an emergency, such as a serious illness, accident, or death in the immediate family, fees will be refunded minus a cancellation fee of \$20. Emergency refunds are given at the discretion of Garaywa.**

ARRIVALS AND PICKUP

Girl's and Student's Camps

Each church/camper will be emailed a specific check-in time for Monday. Emails will be sent the week before camp detailing specific times for each church or group to arrival on Mondays.

On the last day of camp, parents and leaders are invited to watch our closing session starting at 9:30am. Once the closing session is over, adults may pick up their campers from their cabins leaders with a **Photo ID**.

CAMPERS ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN AT CAMP THE FULL WEEK OF CAMP. Please do not plan for your camper to leave during camp or to leave early on the last day for any reason. If there is a schedule conflict, please choose an alternate week or camp.

Co-ed Camp

Your church will be given a specific time for check-in on Monday. Emails will be sent out the week before your camp session. The camp will conclude at 11:00am on Wednesday. We asking for 1 chaperone per every 5 campers, gender specific. Chaperones **MUST** be 21 years old or older. We will be bunking according to churches. Campers and chaperones will participate in activities by cabins. Chaperones are encouraged to join in during activities times.

Family Camp

Families will be housed at the Patterson Place. Each family will have their own room and bathroom. The families will participate in activities and worship times as a family unit. **Registration begins at 5:00pm on Friday** and camp will wrap up before lunch on Sunday.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Campers will be guided and supervised by competent, trained cabin leaders and staff members secured by the Camp Director. However, Garaywa is not equipped to handle person with certain emotional, mental, or physical disabilities. Contact the Camp Director for consultation. A camp nurse will be on site during camp and will dispense all medication. **All medications MUST be sent in the original containers.** All prescription medications must have pharmacy label attached clearly identifying the camper in order to be administered, including inhalers and epipens. Sample prescription medications must be accompanied by signed, written instructions from the physician. Medications not in the original properly-labeled container will not be administered at camp. Adults bringing campers to camp are not to leave campers with medication at camp until medication is properly checked in with the nurse. If your child has signs of any health concerns (a fever, stomach virus, sore throat, head lice, etc.) please take necessary

precautions before sending them to camp. We want to provide a healthy environment for everyone. We will conduct lice checks a part of registration. If your camper is found to have lice, they will be asked to go home.

MAIL

Campers may receive mail at 312 Camp Garaywa Road, Clinton, MS 39056-5406. Include your camper's first and last name. Please write early in the week so campers will receive their mail before the end of camp. Please be encouraging in your letters. Be positive about the camp experience.

EMAILS

We have an email system for you to send emails to your camper. Campers may receive emails through our email, mailbag@garaywa.org. Include your camper's first and last name in the subject line. This allows you to send one-way emails to your camper. This email can be accessed through our website www.garaywa.org. Go to CONTACT US tab, a drop down menu will appear, then click on MAILBAG. Fill out the form and click send. This email will be checked daily and any emails will be given to your camper daily.

PHONE CALLS

From experience, we have learned it is best for a camper not to call (especially if there is homesickness involved.) Talking with family and friends actually encourages homesickness. If for some reason she/he must contact you, the Camp Director will call you. Also, we find that it is best for the parents not to call unless there is an emergency. If there is an emergency in your family, please call camp to speak to the Director concerning the situation. Campers are not allowed to have cell phones at camp.

HOMESICKNESS

Homesickness is usually over in a few hours. Staffers are trained to deal with homesickness and will make an effort to ensure that your camper has the best week possible. **Please do not tell your child they may call home.** Help your child by encouraging them to have a

great week and talking to them about all the fun things and special times she/he is going to have at camp. Homesick Policy- We realize, however, that sometimes homesickness can't be overcome. If this is the case, we will call you to talk to you about your child and determine a course of action.

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

Listed below are items your camper may want to bring to camp. Encourage them to keep up with clothing and personal items so they will not be left at camp. We will help in this area as best we can. Please mark all items with camper's name.

- *Casual clothes
- * Shower Shoes
- *Swimsuit (one piece for girls)
- * Rain jacket/Umbrella
- *Pillow & Bedding (twin-size bed)
- *Towels & Washcloth
- *Toiletries
- *Sunscreen
- *Tennis shoes
- *Camera
- *Bible
- *Notebook/Pen

PLEASE DON'T SEND

- *Snack Foods
- * Razors (2nd-6th grades)
- *Electronics such as iPods, iPads, or Cell Phones (**THESE ITEMS WILL BE TAKEN FROM CAMPERS**)

CAMP ACTIVITIES

Campers will be involved in the following activities:

- *Swimming
- *Archery
- *Rope Courses
- *Zip-line
- *Crafts
- *Missions Emphasis
- *Camper's Choice (which is a track such as recreation, wacky science, sign language or skits)

Campers will also participate in daily Bible Studies and nightly worships.

CAMP BANKING

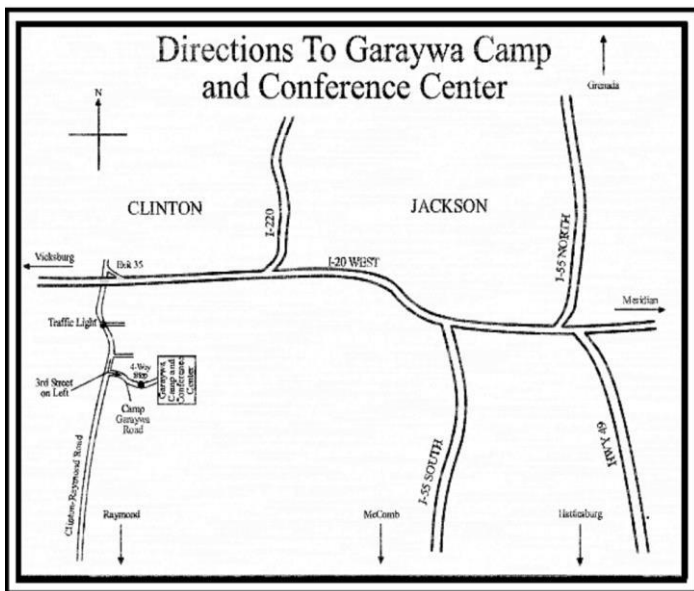
Campers may bring a small amount of money to purchase souvenirs at the cap store. Items in the store range from **\$2 to \$20**. They will not need money for snacks and drinks as these are provided. You may also

send as offering if you would like for your child to participate in the missions offering.

Camp staff will collect all money on Monday during registration and keep it in the camp bank. Please have money out and ready to be turned in for your camper. We ask that campers do not have any with them in the cabin and we ask family not to mail money to your camper during the week. Any cash money your child has left at the end of the week will be given back to them on Friday before leaving camp.

You may deposit money in your child's camp store account online using your credit/debit card. This must be done at least as week prior to your child attending camp. If your child has a balance upon leaving camp, it will be refunded to your credit/debit card online.

DIRECTIONS TO GARAYWA



From I-20, take Exit 35. Go south on Clinton-Raymond Road and go through two traffic lights. Turn left onto Camp Garaywa Road, which is the 2nd entrance to Country Woods Subdivision. Camp Garaywa Road ends at the camp.

FAQ's

How do I register my child for camp?

The quickest way to register is online at www.garaywa.org. There is a link provided to access the online registration process. All of their information can be entered and fees paid by credit card securing their spot at camp. If you prefer, you may print the forms and mail them to camp with the registration fees. More information about camp can also be found on our website.

What do the registration fees cover?

The registration fees cover lodging, a camp t-shirt, meals and snacks. All activity supplies are also included.

How are cabin mate assignments made?

Girl's and Student's Camps

In an effort to meet the developmental needs for each camper, we will be dividing the girls in cabins so that they are no more one grade apart. We would like to ensure that a girl who just finished 2nd grade is not in a cabin with girls who have finished the 6th grade. This will allow us to talk with each group on their own level during Bible Study times, low ropes, devotion, etc. We will allow groups of 3 girls to be together as long as all three request this arrangement. It is very important to mark those who would like to room together. Changes CANNOT be made at the registration desk at camp. Each cabin will hold 14 campers, and all cabins have two cabin leaders each.

Co-ed Camps

We will be bunking according to churches (gender specific). Each cabin can hold up to 16 people. If churches have more than 16 in attendance, they may be split into multiple cabins. If they have less than 16, they made share a cabin with another church. Campers and Chaperones will participate in activities by cabins.

If we have an odd number of campers coming in our group, how are cabin assignments made? (Girl's & Student's Camps)

Campers will be assigned in groups of 2 or 3 based on their requests on the registration form. We will not assign anyone to a cabin without someone from their group unless they request to be by themselves. Please make sure to list the church name or group name your child is attending camp with if they want to be with someone from that group.

My daughter wants to attend camp but doesn't have anyone to come with her. (Girl's & Student's)

Girls come to camp by themselves all the time! Our cabin leaders are aware that they didn't come with a friend and will help with that transition. Typically, there are several girls here each week that didn't let that stop them from experiencing camp!

How are cabin leaders chosen?

Cabin leaders are college students who have applied to be on staff for the entire summer. The application process includes checking the references each is required to provide. Applicants are interviewed and must pass a background check before being hired.

Are lifeguards on duty at the swimming pool?

Red Cross certified lifeguards are on duty every time the pool is open. Campers wanting to swim in the deep end will take a swim test requiring them to swim the width of the deep end and back. If the swim test is passed, they will be given a bracelet indicating they are allowed access to the deep end.

What security measures are taken at camp?

Garaywa is completely enclosed with fence and has a locked gate at the entrance. A security guard is on the campus during the night. He arrives when the office closes and is on the premises until the office employees arrive in the morning.

How can I help my child with nervousness about being away from home?

Nervousness is completely normal when attending camp. Going to camp is a big step for a child and sometimes the parents also. A positive outlook from you will help your child tremendously. Assure them that you understand how they feel but that you are confident

they are going to have a good time and experience new adventures. Talk about how busy they will be with new and fun activities. We understand that at this age, campers are becoming more independent. One way you can help is to make sure your camper is confident in their ability to wash their hair and pick out their own clothes. Cabin leaders will help as much as possible. Spending a week at camp is an accomplishment and we know you want to help your child have a great time.

What types of activities do campers participate in?

Campers will go through their day as a cabin. Weather permitting, campers will swim every day but the last. Campers participate in the ropes course, archery, and crafts once during the week. They will also participate in quiet times, Bible study, and worship daily. Each week we have a missionary here that campers visit.

Can the camp accommodate my child's food allergy or special diet need?

We are accustomed to special diet needs. Please make sure you note this on the registration form, giving us as much information as possible. We will call you if we have any questions regarding your child's needs. If you have questions or need more information, please don't hesitate to call us.

What if my child has a health condition requiring special care?

At least one nurse is on site during camp. Nurses administer all medications. Please list any conditions requiring special care on the registration form in the space provided. Garaywa is not equipped to handle some persons with certain emotional, mental, or physical disabilities. If you have questions about whether to register your child due to a special condition, please call us. We want campers to have a safe, successful week at camp.