

Missionary

GROUP INFORMATION GUIDE



Camp Barnabas



Our Mission

Changing lives through disability ministry.

Every year we need more than 2,000 youth and adults to give our Campers with disabilities and chronic illnesses an unforgettable summer experience. Missionary groups are an essential part of making camp happen.

"Camp Barnabas is different because you are literally being the hands and feet of Christ from the day you get here until the day you leave."

*Timmy S., Campus Pastor,
Healing Place Church, Louisiana*

Our Values

1. Christ comes first, always.
2. We point people to Christ in everything we do.
3. We know God created everyone with purpose and ability.
4. We inspire people to realize their abilities.
5. We are leaders.
6. We exceed expectations.
7. We serve people.
8. We make our surroundings safe, and people feel secure.

Build Your Mission Group

Individuals who serve at Barnabas are known as Missionaries. They are mature, responsible, trustworthy, and hardworking. Missionaries are individuals who are ready to put aside their own needs and serve our Campers in different roles. We provide and require everybody to complete both online and in-person training, so they are equipped for the mission. We also provide a devotional/guided journal for each Missionary. Take a look at the Missionary roles your group can fill this summer:



COUNSELORS (15-29 YEARS)

Counselors (or buddies) are the lifeblood of Barnabas. Counselors make up the largest percentage of our Missionaries throughout the summer and are our greatest need each year. These incredible individuals put aside their own desires for the needs of Campers—like how Jesus laid down his life for the sake of others. They unconditionally love, accept, and care for all of their Campers' needs during the week. It is a challenging role but an incredibly rewarding and spiritually revealing experience.

COUNSELOR DUTIES:

- ✓ Take part in choosing their Camper.
- ✓ Be a friend to their Camper.
- ✓ Assist with ADLs (Activities of Daily Living) when needed.
- ✓ Guide Campers in devotions with Staff assistance.
- ✓ Help Campers participate in activities with their cabin.



BARNSTORMERS (13-14 YEARS)

Barnstormers have a servant's heart and a great work ethic. They keep camp in tip-top shape by prepping meals, serving food, and tidying up during the week. Barnstormers are spiritually led and mentored by Staff. They have many opportunities to have fun with the other Barnstormers at parties and activities. Barnstormers may be moved to a Counselor position as needed.

BARNSTORMER DUTIES:

- ✓ Wash dishes in the Dining Hall.
- ✓ Set tables and serve food.
- ✓ Clean bathrooms throughout camp.
- ✓ Have fun with Campers at nightly parties



CABIN PARENTS (30+ YEARS)

Cabin Parents (or Adult Leaders) are essential in supporting Missionaries and Campers each week. Cabin Parents are assigned to a cabin but have separate living quarters. Although this role is titled "parent," adult leaders are encouraged to step back during the week and let the youth in their cabin problem solve and grow. Cabin Parent's purpose is to support and love all the people in their cabin.

CABIN PARENT DUTIES:

- ✓ Assist with ADLs (Activities of Daily Living) when needed.
- ✓ Assist with kitchen duties.
- ✓ Wash Camper laundry if soiled.
- ✓ Attend cabin activities.
- ✓ Encourage Counselors, Campers, and Staff in the cabin.
- ✓ Optional: provide snacks and/or party supplies for the cabin.

Spiritual Journey

Our goal at Camp Barnabas is for Missionaries to experience a transformational week, gain a deeper understanding of their faith, and build a stronger relationship with Jesus. During this five-day mission trip, our model teaches Missionaries to rely less on themselves and more on Jesus. Here's a look at the spiritual journey our Missionaries typically experience:

Day 1

Self Reliance/Independence

All Missionaries come in with a preconceived set of ideas and priorities from the world. Many of our Missionaries come in with room to grow spiritually and personally.

Day 2-3

Dependence/Discovery

By the second or third day, all Missionaries realize that in order to get through the week of service, their own ideas and priorities come second. They need to find strength in God and in others to rise. This understanding is a powerful metaphor and reflection of our own brokenness and need for a Savior.

Day 4

Deeper Relationship

After our Missionaries have learned to depend on God's strength, their heart is open for a deeper relationship with Christ, with their Camper, and with others. Their eyes are opened to new discoveries and hope around them, and there is new found gratitude and maturity.

Day 5

Share and Grow

At the end of the week our Missionaries are on fire! They've overcome obstacles they never thought they could accomplish, and they've risen with the help of God's strength and others. They want to share it with everyone and continue the relationships and growth they've built beyond their week at camp.





Mission Investment

The total cost for each person in your group is \$295. This includes a \$100 deposit plus a \$195 fee. This covers meals, lodging, and a background check. Missionary investments also cover programming, activities, adaptive measures, safety resources, and medical supplies. Any remaining amount goes to our Camper Scholarship Fund to further aid our Campers with disabilities in getting to camp. Deposit fees hold spots, while the remaining amount is due one month before your arrival at camp. If you require special diet accommodations, there is an additional charge of \$100. Get tips for raising money with our [Missionary Fundraising Guide](#).

Cancellation requests to reduce the total number of group members received prior to March 1 will result in a full payment refund minus the non-refundable registration fee of \$100. Cancellations occurring March 1-May 1 will allow for payment transfer to another week within the summer or toward registration for the following summer minus the registration fee of \$100. After May 1, all funds are forfeited. All cancellation requests must be in writing and sent to the Adult Leader Coordinator.

Transfer requests can be made at any time between group members. This keeps the total amount paid for the group the same while changing the individual people who are registered.

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| 1 | LEGENDS | JUNE 1-7 |
| | Serving Campers 18+ with intellectual/developmental disabilities and/or autism who do not require 1:1 assistance | |
| 2 | HEROES | JUNE 8-14 |
| | Serving Campers 16+ with intellectual/developmental disabilities and/or autism | |
| 3 | YOUNG FRIENDS | JUNE 15-21 |
| | Serving Campers 7-18 with intellectual/developmental disabilities and/or autism | |
| 4 | ADVENTURERS | JUNE 22-28 |
| | Serving Campers 16+ with physical disabilities | |
| 5 | SOARING HAWKS | JULY 6-12 |
| | Serving Campers 7+ who are blind, deaf/hard of hearing; intellectual/developmental/physical disabilities are welcome | |
| 6 | BRIDGE BUILDERS | JULY 13-19 |
| | Serving Campers 7-18 with intellectual/developmental/physical disabilities and/or autism | |
| 7 | EXPLORERS | JULY 20-26 |
| | Serving Campers 16+ with intellectual/developmental/physical disabilities and/or autism | |
| 8 | CHAMPIONS | JULY 27-AUG 2 |
| | Serving Campers 7+ with intellectual/developmental/physical disabilities and/or autism | |
| 9 | CELEBRATION | AUGUST 3-9 |
| | Serving Campers 18+ with intellectual/developmental/physical disabilities and/or autism who are completely independent | |

You can make the largest impact by serving weeks 1, 2, 8, and 9 as weeks 3-7 often fill up first.



Policies

We strive to glorify Jesus Christ in everything we do. We especially want Campers to see Staff and Missionaries as living examples of Christ. We have specific policies designed to allow you to understand what we believe is right and true in the eyes of our Lord. Our policies are also designed for your safety and wellness during camp. Prior to coming to camp, you will receive a comprehensive list of policies and health procedures. Medical forms must be completed by arrival.

Cell Phones & Laptops: We want to eliminate distractions and allow Missionaries to fully engage in the Barnabas experience. As a result, laptops are not to be brought to camp. We also do not allow the use of cell phones at camp for any reason. If you need to make an emergency call, there are phones available. Exceptions are made for adult leaders.

Bag Check Notice: We will inspect your luggage when you arrive at camp. This check is a preventative measure for the summer, and we want to make sure you have plenty of notice prior to camp. We will provide a packing list; let us know if you have questions about what to/ or what not to bring.

Rule of Three: We want to ensure the safety and comfort of both Campers and Missionaries. To do so, you should NEVER be alone with a Camper or youth where others are not present. There should always be a third person present or in view.

Training

We want to help your team prepare their hearts and minds for camp. Our online training will help Missionaries learn camp guidelines, how to help care for Campers, how to spread joy at camp, and more. All Missionaries must complete our online training prior to serving at camp. This training is critical to maintaining safety and is part of our Child Protection Plan at Camp Barnabas. Additional training will take place upon Missionary arrival.

“My group is always rocked by what happens here. They quickly realize that there is no way they can make it on their own abilities, and in that moment they finally rely on God to give them the strength.”

**Dallas H., High School Pastor,
First Baptist Church of Lodi, California**

Group Leader Road Map



QUESTIONS ALONG THE ROAD?

Contact Caleb Brandt, Missionary Coordinator
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Ready for a life-changing summer?

REGISTER NOW: campbarnabas.org/serve



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