

# Summer Youth Ministry at Covenant Harbor: Making WAVES

The goals of our Youth Camps are to love kids, share the gospel with them and encourage their growth with Christ while they build lasting relationships with staff who have a contagious faith.

These goals are consistent in each of the youth camps that we offer, though the way in which those goals are carried out varies greatly with each age group. Therefore, we have created a progressive outline of what we want kids to learn at Covenant Harbor.

**Why WAVES?** The stillness of a pool of water is disrupted by even the smallest wave. Big or small, waves alter their surroundings. We want our campers to grow in their faith each year they attend Harbor and make a difference in the lives of their families, communities and schools back home.

- Grades K – 2: **W**anted by God  
Day Camp Team 13, Kishwaukeee Pathfinder and Trailblazer
- Grades 3 - 5: **A**cknowledge the need for God  
Day Camp Club 46 and Pier 30 Explorer
- Grades 6 - 8: **V**oice the Truth in words and actions  
Pier 30 Navigator
- Grades 9 - 12: **E**quipped with tools and opportunities to share their faith and serve God.  
Element Camp, Alpha Team and Day Camp Counseling Team
- College age: **S**erve others  
Summer Staff

**Wanted by God.** We want all of our youngest campers to go home confident that God loves them and wants a relationship with them. We will do this by focusing the Bible curriculum on basic spiritual truths that God loves them, Jesus died for them and God wants them to trust in Him. Each camper will have the opportunity to invite Christ into their lives; this will be presented in a large group, but followed up significantly by the counselor. A firm grasp of these basic truths is essential as they build on faith in Christ. ~Matthew 19:14, “Jesus answered, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’” NIV

**Acknowledge the need for God.** We want all of these campers to know that we need God in our lives. We were created to be in relationship with Him. We will encourage campers to take this next step of faith by looking at Biblical examples of people who chose to live for Christ. Campers will be given the opportunity to invite Christ to be their Savior. This will happen in a large group setting, giving the individual camper time to reflect and then seek guidance from their counselor or other staff members. ~John 14:6, “Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” NIV

**Voice the Truth in words and actions.** We want our junior high campers to be confident enough in their own faith that they are able to share it with others. Campers will understand the need to live a lifestyle that pleases God and to know fully what that means by learning from the greatest example, Jesus. Campers will have the opportunity to ask questions of our staff and make a decision if they want Christ to be Lord of their lives. ~Romans 12:1-2, “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” NIV

**Equipped with tools and opportunities to share their faith and serve God.** We have several opportunities for high school students. All opportunities focus on the Great Commission, that Christ called us to “make disciples of all nations.”

- 1) **Element Camp.** This traditional, six-night high school camp will take camp to a whole new level. Through large group Bible studies and time for personal reflection, campers will be challenged to take their faith and share it with others.
- 2) **Alpha Team.** The Alpha team allows campers to transition from being a camper to being on staff. They will learn how to live as a community of believers and focus on being a disciple of Christ.
- 3) **Day Camp Counseling Team.** This program gives high school students hands on camp experience. Day Camp counselors are part of the summer staff and are trained in evangelism, child care and spiritual growth. They use their gifts and training daily in serving as counselors in the day camp program and as support to the overnight programs.

~Matt. 28:19-20, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” NIV

**Serve others.** More than 60 collegiate staff members serve in a variety of settings at camp. Each one gets to opportunity to love kids, share the gospel with them and encourage their growth in Christ. This investment in serving others inevitably leads to personal spiritual growth.

~Philippians 1:3-6, “I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” NIV