



# Things you need to know about Camp Sunshine

## MISSION STATEMENT

Camp Sunshine creates fun memories where children and youth experience God's love.

## VISION

The primary goal of Camp Sunshine is to enable each child that attends a camp session to experience God's love through fun-filled activities and through the love of his/her counselor. Kids may not remember each experience at camp, but they will remember how they felt when they were with their counselors.

## BRIEF HISTORY

Camp Sunshine is the result of a vision God gave to David Black his sophomore year at Oral Roberts University. In the years since 1981, it has grown from 25 campers to having over 1300 campers daily, including two satellite camps in other locations. God has blessed Camp Sunshine over the years in many ways, the most important of which is allowing Camp Sunshine to be a place in which children and teens experience His love and learn about Him.

## SPIRITUAL IMPACT

As followers of Jesus Christ, we have a responsibility to live in such a way as to enlighten others on what it means to have a relationship with Him. We aim to reveal God's character in our lives – to live according to what we believe, in hopes that those we come in contact with may be influenced. Sometimes we are more intentional about this – we go on missions or set aside times to reach out to and care for people. **Serving at Camp Sunshine combines both types of ministry: it is a specific time set aside for the purpose of ministry, and that purpose is accomplished through living a lifestyle that compels others to trust in the love of God.**

## STAFF POSITIONS

Camp Sunshine hires for general staff positions only. All positions are assigned the second day of staff training, and are still subject to change if necessary but no positions will be confirmed until the second day of staff training. Some positions that need certification such as Ropes, Lifeguard and Archery will be filled tentatively beforehand. (If any position is changed, salary may be adjusted accordingly.) To give you a general idea of the structure of camp, the following are descriptions of each type of position.

- **Group Counselors** have a specific group of campers that they work with. These positions vary greatly throughout camp because of the range of ages of our campers: ages 4 through 16. A Group Counselor will have a group of about 8 - 14 campers who are all the same age or grade level. The larger groups may have a teen Leader-in-Training (LIT) or Assistant Counselor to help out (usually Pre-K through 2nd grade). The camp is divided up into large groups (or "camps") of similar aged campers:

Discovery Camp	4 year-olds-Kindergarten
Explorer Camp	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> grades
Adventure Camp	3 <sup>rd</sup> through 5 <sup>th</sup> grades
High Adventure	6 <sup>th</sup> grade
Teen Adventure	7 <sup>th</sup> through 10 <sup>th</sup> grades
Wilderness Adventures	3 <sup>rd</sup> through 9 <sup>th</sup> grades
GT	4 years through 9 <sup>th</sup> grades
LIT Program	7 <sup>th</sup> through 11 <sup>th</sup> grades

Within each of the above-listed camps will be several groups of campers. (For example, a Group Counselor may have a group of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade boys or 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls.) Groups in 2<sup>nd</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grades are single gender (only boys or only girls) and will most likely have a counselor of the same gender. Groups for 1st grade and younger, will have mixed gender. All grouping is done by the grade the camper has just completed.

- **Activity Counselors** specialize in one area and run the activities in that area. Previous staff members have loved the opportunity to get to know so many campers during the summer and to be a role model for them.

Below is a listing of the activities at Camp Sonshine for which we will need Activity Counselors:

Archery  
 Lifeguard  
 Bible Discovery Time  
 Nature  
 Camp Store  
 Ropes Course  
 Canoes & Paddleboats  
 Sports & Water Games  
 Crafts  
 Drama  
 Wilderness Ranger  
 Go Karts

- **Support staff** is a small number of hires that serves a great function as far as helping with organization and maintaining our grounds. It includes the following positions:

Assistant Counselors  
 Calming Tent - dealing with discipline of campers  
 Food Service Coordinator & Assistant  
 Maintenance & Assistant  
 Nurse  
 Office Coordinator  
 Photo & Video Coordinator

#### **TYPICAL DAY AT CAMP**

Ministering at Camp Sonshine is a position for flexible persons, and you should expect to have unanticipated extended hours. During the day, staff members do not have free time. Personal business needs to be done either before the summer or during your limited free time.

**Monday through Friday:** The following is a basic schedule of the minimal events in your typical day.

7:00 AM - 7:25 AM	Morning devotions and announcements
7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Action Teams & Bus Runs
8:35 AM - 9:20 AM	Camper arrival
9:20 AM - 4:25 PM	Actual camp time with campers
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Action Teams & Bus Runs
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Dinner (Wednesday dinner - House Meeting)
6:45 PM - 8:00 PM	Evening meetings (All evening meetings are required.)

Monday: Staff meeting

Wednesday: Praise and worship / prayer

Also, every counselor will stay one evening every other Thursday or Friday for the Latestay with the younger campers (Thursday until 9:00 PM) or the Overnighter (Friday until 10:00 AM Saturday) with the older campers. This pertains to Activity Counselors as well as Group Counselors. Group Counselors will stay with their group of campers. Activity Counselors will be assigned to either the Latestay or Overnighter.

**Weekends:** Please understand that you have limited free time, even on weekends. Every other Friday is a camper overnight stay, and staff obligations are usually completed around 10:00 AM Saturday morning.

### **BENEFITS**

**Housing at camp:** Camp Sonshine is a day camp, which means that the campers and staff members are at the campgrounds during the day, and then go home at night. Many of our Camp Sonshine summer staff are not from the Silver Spring area. **Those who live within 30 minutes are expected to live at home**, while staff from out of town will be assigned to a host home, camp house or dorm. In your housing situation this summer, you will have fun, as well as be challenged to live together with others in unity. In agreeing to come to Camp Sonshine, it is assumed that you are in agreement to follow the house rules of the camp and your host family in order to create a family or team from a group of individuals—a home instead of a house—by a willingness to love and forgive on a daily basis. Each counselor will also share in weekly cleaning assignments in his/her home. In the host home situations, some of our counselors will be in a home with only one other counselor, others may be in a larger home (owned by the camp) with several other counselors, while others may stay in one of the dorms that we rent for the summer. No matter what housing arrangement for the summer you are assigned to, all counselors are expected to live with an attitude of respect for others in the home.

**Your meals:** Camp Sonshine will provide you meals. Please realize that this is “camp food” and not fine dining. Snacks are not regularly provided, but there are many stores in the area if you would like to purchase snacks or if you have special food preferences other than what is provided. Camp Sonshine cannot accommodate special dietary needs or preferences. Plan to bring money to spend on snacks or other food preferences.

**Transportation:** We encourage anyone who can to bring a car, and generally counselors who have brought their cars have been glad they did for the freedom provided. Any staff member

that brings their own car to use during the summer will receive a \$50 car bonus. Camp does not have a high budget allowance for transportation, so it is a great blessing any time a staff member can bring his or her car and use it for summer transportation for himself and another staff member living in the same home. In addition to the car bonus, we will reimburse camp related gas expenses during the summer based on mileage and receipts turned in at required times. For those without cars, van transportation is provided to and from work and a limited number of store trips. Camp Sonshine is not responsible for personal weekend transportation and special trips to stores or other churches. Tip: It may be beneficial to know that suburban DC does have an extensive bus and train system to get you where you need to go for a small fee.

**Salary:** The amount of your salary will depend on your experience working with children and or if you are a local staff member that will live at home; this can range between \$1180 and \$1420 for eight weeks.

### **CAMP DATES**

The camp dates for 2011 will be from opening day on **June 11th** to our farewell breakfast on Saturday **August 13th**. That adds up to nine weeks; the first week will be a mandatory week of training so that we can equip you to be effective in your area of ministry for the summer.

### **QUESTIONS**

For any other questions and information about camp please feel free to contact us at,

Email: [summerstaff@campsonshine.org](mailto:summerstaff@campsonshine.org)

Web: [www.campsonshine.org](http://www.campsonshine.org)

Tel: 301-989-CAMP (2267)

Toll free: 1-888-883-2285

16819 New Hampshire Ave  
Silver Spring, Maryland, 20905