

WHY SUMMER CAMP IS GOOD FOR YOUR KIDS!

For as long as kids have been going to summer camp there have been loving parents standing behind them asking themselves, “Is this a good idea?”

As a camp director of an elementary camp at Pine Cove, I’ve seen a lot of wonderful things over the past 10 years. I’ve also talked with many nervous parents as they dropped off their elementary child for their first week of overnight camp. I’d love to share with you a couple of reasons why choosing a Christian summer camp for your child could be a great decision.

Instead of sharing a thousand small pieces, I’ve narrowed it down to two “buckets.” Here they are: Character Development and Spiritual Immersion. These buckets are the two areas where I see most campers impacted each and every week of camp. If you can honestly say that you are not interested to see those things in the life of your kids, you can stop reading now. (But... maybe you should also consider going to [family camp](#). It’s really great too!)

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Let’s imagine this together... your child gets the opportunity to spend a week amongst friends (friends they bring or new friends they meet at camp), while doing amazing activities, learning independence, and experiencing the freedom of living within fun and safe boundaries. If you’re interested in learning how Pine Cove keeps campers safe, be sure to check out how we do that [here](#).

Each and every week of summer camp, campers grow up. Not just physically (it’s okay, Mom, they will still be your little baby after a week), but psychologically too. At Pine Cove, our hope is to provide campers with boundaries that allow them freedom. We want to intentionally give them this freedom to help them discover who they are. This discovery will help determine the entire trajectory of their lives. It’s not easy to find this extended balance of freedom and boundaries, and that is a huge reason why camp can be a win.



As your camper gets to experience this freedom, he/she also gets to do it alongside their peers. Some friends they know, and others they've just met. After years of watching camp happen in front of me, I know that these are more than just a bunch of energetic little bodies, **this is a training ground for true community.** As they learn about who they are, they get to put it into practice each and every day with kids their own age and with trained Jesus-loving college counselors as their mentors modeling it well with them. **In our digital world, teaching kids early how to be present with others and share life with them can't be missed.**

The hope is that while they are at camp they learn about who they are, how to thrive based on that knowledge, and how to walk with others in light of that knowledge.



SPIRITUAL IMMERSION

Our desire at Pine Cove is to remove the distractions of everyday life and encourage campers over and over to focus their attention on Jesus. As we do, we pray that God would soften their hearts and turn that attention into affection. We do this practically through small group Bible studies, large group teaching times, individual hang times with their counselor, activity class applications, Bible memory, and more. We're serious about Jesus at Pine Cove, and we believe the best way to interact with Him is as often as possible!

Through limiting distractions and continued efforts of intentional redirection, our staff make sure that campers have ample opportunities to hear the life-giving good news of Jesus Christ.

In summary, camper parents may ask, "Are we sure we want to leave our precious child with a bunch of crazy college kids all week who love Jesus?" The answer: "Duh!"

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