



2023

PARENT/CAMPER HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to STOMP Day Camp! Grab your swimsuits, pack the towels, don't forget your lunches, and hold onto your hats because we are embarking on another summer of FUN at STOMP!

Each summer is filled with opportunities for our campers to try new things, learn, grow, and make friendships that last forever. Whether you are a new camper or a seasoned pro, we are pleased to welcome you to our camp family!

This handbook has been created as a reference guide for both parents and children. It contains vital information and policies about our summer program. Please take time with your child to read and review the entire handbook at least once before coming to camp.

We are so glad that you have chosen to spend some memorable moments with us this summer!



ON YOUR FIRST DAY

Monday July 10th, 2023 marks the beginning of a new camp season, and we can't wait for your arrival! If you are attending the Cambridge campus STOMP camp you will come to 127 Hespeler Road, enter through the front atrium doors and check in at the Camper Sign In/Out desk. If you are attending the Ayr campus STOMP camp you will come to 173 Northumberland Street, enter through the back doors and check in at the camper sign in/sign out desk. Lastly, if you are attending the Kitchener Campus STOMP camp you will come to 9 Conway Drive and enter the back doors and check in at the camper sign in/sign out desk. Upon arrival, you will be greeted by our cheerful morning staff, who will make sure your campers are signed in, and they will show the campers where their belongings should be placed. After the belongings are stored, there is usually a little time left for the campers to greet old friends, make new friends, and play before activities officially begin at 9:00 a.m.

Sometimes the first day of camp causes some anxiety in children. We want you to feel comfortable leaving your child with us and know this is a safe place. If parting seems difficult, please don't alarm yourself or feel guilty – this is one of the great educational benefits of camp that helps children learn to effectively deal with transitions. Any tears or apprehensions are generally gone within ten minutes of the time that parents leave. You are welcome to call the camp later in the morning to see how your child is doing if you would like. We want you to rest assured that your child is happy and having fun.

PICK UP & DROP OFF HOURS/LOCK DOOR POLICY

Kids can be dropped off from 8:00-8:45 a.m. (extra \$5 charge before care) or 8:45-9:00 a.m. and picked up from 4:00-4:15 p.m. or 4:15-5:00 p.m. (extra \$5 charge after care). If a child needs to be dropped off or picked up outside of these hours, they must let the Director know to see if arrangements can be made. Outside of these hours, our doors will be locked to ensure the children's safety and security. (See before/after care fees under **MORNING CHECK IN**).

CLOSED ROOM POLICY

Regardless of the relationship to the camper, parents, guardians, siblings, and all other unauthorized people are not permitted to enter the camp room. Camp staff will bring children to the parent or guardian. This is to comply with insurance policies that require all who have access to children be properly screened and trained. Facility tours can be arranged upon request.

MORNING CHECK-IN

For the convenience of our camp families, we provide early childcare each morning from 8:00-8:45 a.m. There is an extra cost of \$5 per child, per day.

When checking-in your child, please escort them to the check-in desk and sign them in.

Camp activities officially begin at 9:00 a.m. We encourage everyone to be at camp by that time because each morning we have a special kick-off to start the day. This kick-off includes important group announcements and activities. If you arrive at camp after 9:00 a.m. please bring your child to the church office.

ABSENCES

If your child is going to be absent, please call the church at 519-621-6310 or call/text the STOMP cell phone at 905-213-0533 with your name and your camper's name(s). **The STOMP cell will not be active until camp starts on July 10.**



AFTERNOON PICK-UP

Camp activities end at 4:00 p.m. If you need to pick up your child before 4:00 p.m., please call the church office at 519-621-6310 or leave us a note at morning check-in or call/text the STOMP cell phone at 905-213-0533 beforehand. We will try to have your child ready for pick-up at the specified time. To avoid interrupting camp activities, please plan to pick up your child early only in 'have to' situations, such as doctor's appointments.

4:00 p.m. is the designated time for parents to pick up their children. At 4:15 p.m., children who have not yet been picked up will automatically be put into the afternoon childcare service. Afternoon childcare is available for camp families from 4:15 – 5:00 p.m. This is an additional cost of \$5 per child, per day. Please pay this in advance when you register online.

Please note that the afternoon childcare session ends at 5:00 p.m. SHARP! Late parent arrivals are subject to additional fees. The fees are \$1 per minute after 5:00 p.m. We understand there are extenuating circumstances, however we will still have to charge this fee to cover staffing costs.

EXTENDED CARE EXAMPLE

If a child needs before and after care for one day of the week, you would pay \$5 for the morning care, plus \$5 for the afternoon care, adding up to \$10 in total for the day. Remember the prices are per child per day.

SECURITY AT AFTERNOON PICK-UP

On your child's Registration Form there is a place to list the names of anyone other than a parent or guardian who is authorized to pick up your child. For the convenience of all parties involved, please be sure the proper names are listed. We will be checking photo ID of anyone we do not recognize, and STOMP Day Camp will not release a child to anyone unless they are on the authorized pick-up list. Parents may add names to this list at any time by leaving us a written note. On the note please specify whether this is a **one time pick up** or if you would like the person **permanently added onto the list**. Please remind the designated individual to bring their ID with them.

At STOMP Day Camp, the safety and welfare of our campers is our number one priority. Every effort will be made to ensure your child is safe. If we have reason to believe that a parent or another authorized person on the pick-up list is under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or impaired in any other way, we will not release the camper into that person's custody. We will call a spouse, relative, or someone else on the child's pick-up list.



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Having prior knowledge about a learning difficulty, ADD/ADHD, a recent loss, a major change in the family or child's life, makes a tremendous difference in helping us be sensitive to your child's need for patience, understanding, and reassurance. Please be open with us and let's work together to create a positive camp experience for your child.



MEDICATION

If your child requires medication while at camp, please follow the steps below. It is not uncommon for some of our campers to take medication for ADHD.

1. Completely fill out a Camp Medication Form. (You can request this from the camp director.) Write down **when** the medication is to be administered and in **what dosage**. We strongly recommend sending only enough medication for one week.
2. List any side-effects.
3. List the prescribing physician and his/her phone number.
4. **Sign the form**. This signature gives us permission to administer medication to your child.
5. Send the medication to camp in the original prescription bottle with the **child's first and last name** and the prescribing physician's name. We will not administer any prescription medication unless it comes from the correct bottle with the child's name on it.
6. All medication (even Tylenol) must be given to a camp director. Children are not allowed to keep medication with them at camp. Please see the Camp Director for special circumstances involving asthma inhalers and epi-pens.

Many aspects of the camp program require concentration. In order to ensure your children has the best outcome we suggest keeping the use of their medication consistent. If, you have any questions, please contact the Camp Director.

Sickness Policy

Should your child become sick or ill while at camp, they will be separated and moved to a supervised area until parent/guardian pick up can be arranged. Please note, Ontario Day Camp Guidelines require immediate pickup from Calvary Pentecostal Assembly. Sick campers cannot stay at camp. If we cannot reach the parent, we will then contact the Emergency Contact listed on the registration. In the case that a camper cannot return to camp our cancellation policy will take effect.



PAYMENT SCHEDULE FEE POLICY

Online payment is required at registration. We don't want cost to be a reason for your child not to come to camp. If this is a challenge for you please email stomp@mycalvary.life

CANCELLATION/TRANSFER POLICY

For withdrawals less than a week before camp, a 75% refund will be issued. Withdrawals on the Monday of camp receive a 50% refund. Withdrawals on the Tuesday of camp receive a 30% refund. If a child is withdrawn on the Wednesday/Thursday/Friday of camp, you will not receive a refund. Consideration will be given by the STOMP administration for deaths in the family, loss of job or severe illness. Transfers are allowed within the same family.



DISCIPLINE AT CAMP

Camp is the perfect environment to promote social skills and self-esteem in children. We encourage and work with campers to achieve these skills. The techniques we employ to accomplish this goal include team cheers, age specific groups and activities, low camper-staff

ratios, positive reinforcement, and attention to the individual needs of each child. The staff is trained in preventative disciplinary techniques that are quite effective, but the need for further action is sometimes required. In this case, the leaders are instructed to follow our 4-strike policy as outlined below:

1. Warning, discussing with the child the problem and possible solutions.
2. Take a break off to the side for 1 minute – 5 minutes.
3. Speak with the Camp Director and /or Children's Pastor.

If a camper continues to break rules after discussion with the leader, and after a break, they are brought to the Camp Director, along with a list of problems and measures taken thus far. The Camp Director will discuss the problem with the camper and in most instances immediately call one of the child's parents to notify him/her of the situation.

4. The Camper is removed from camp for a specified time.

If there continues to be problems, the camper may be told to not come back to camp for a day or more, and if there is still no resolution, the camper may be expelled. If a child is expelled or suspended from camp for disciplinary reasons, a refund will not be issued.

We do **NOT** want to expel any campers from camp, but we **DO** want to ensure that everyone is safe and happy. Sometimes disciplinary measures are needed to ensure a quality camp experience for all.

Behaviour deemed inappropriate includes but is not limited to:

- Leaving the instructed boundaries unless accompanied by camp staff
- Threatening behaviour, bullying, offensive or insulting language, verbal or physical abuse to other campers or staff.
- Borrowing of other's possessions without their consent.

Please note that your child must be capable of taking instruction and following direction from camp staff. They must not behave in a manner that negatively affects another camper's experience. They must understand that they may not physically or verbally hurt others, and they will respect the feelings, safety and personal integrity of themselves and others. They must respect church property and other camper's property. Parents / Guardians will be responsible to pay for any damages deliberately caused by their child by defacing or damaging said property.



OUR PROGRAM

The success of our camp is centered on our age-specific groups, our excellent staff, and our wide variety of activities. At STOMP, we provide traditional camp activities like swimming, art, crafts, music, dance, sports, games, group initiative activities and most importantly, sharing the Word of God. Throughout the week, campers look forward to our off-site trips. This camp not only offers a wonderful program in an excellent facility, it also builds self-esteem in children, and provides them with an excellent opportunity for individual growth and maturity. On-site leader/camper ratio is 1:10.



OFF-SITE TRIPS

Our campers go on adventurous trips each week. Our leader/camper ratio, while on trips is **1:5**.



WRISTBANDS & T-SHIRTS

Each camper will be given a STOMP wristband and a STOMP t-shirt to wear on all trips, allowing us to easily identify our campers. The camper will receive the wristband & t-shirt each morning of our day trips and return it when we arrive back to the church. If your child loses a t-shirt the replacement fees is \$10/t-shirt.



LUNCH AND SNACK

Please remember to bring a lunch, snacks and a water bottle for your campers. Labelling your child's items reduces the risk of losing something. Refrigeration is not available. We suggest using coolers, icepacks or frozen juice boxes to keep lunches fresh. We provide a snack break in the morning, a lunch break, plus an afternoon snack break. **PLEASE DO NOT PACK ANY FOOD PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN PEANUTS OR NUTS DUE TO SEVERE ALLERGIES.** If a staff member sees a nut product, it will be confiscated and returned in a Ziploc bag at the end of the day.



WHAT TO WEAR

Campers should wear modest shorts, pants, t-shirts, sweaters, socks and running shoes or sandals, and hats. Please no inappropriate slang or graphics, no crop tops or really short shorts. For swimming trips, we request that only one-piece bathing suits or tankinis are worn or that a t-shirt be put over any two-piece bathing suits. Younger campers aged 5-6 must wear a life preserver. If you own one, please send it with your child, if not one will be provided for you. Please note that older children that do not pass their swim test they will also be required to wear a life preserver.

SUNSCREEN

Kindly apply sunscreen once before arriving at camp. Please send a labeled sunscreen bottle along with your child to be applied again when outdoor activities happen. Leaders will remind the children to apply this at the appropriate time.



COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

Besides speaking with you daily during drop-off/pick-up times, we will communicate through the use of handouts, posters/signs, emails and social media. We will strive to tell and show you some of the activities the campers are doing, and your feedback is always welcome to help improve our camp!

Facebook & Messenger: <https://www.facebook.com/stompcamp/>
Instagram: @stompcamp

ITEMS FROM HOME

Campers can bring water bottles, sunscreen and extra clothing and a backpack/bag to carry everything in. Please clearly label your camper's items with first and last names. We cannot guarantee the safekeeping of items and are not responsible for the loss or damage of items. Forbidden items include gum, iPods, cell phones, video games, toys or anything deemed dangerous. If a camper is seen with any of these items, a staff member will confiscate the item, give it to the Director and it will be returned at the end of the day to the parent in a Ziploc bag.

LOST AND FOUND

We provide a lost and found rack. We will make every effort to keep all campers' belongings in their backpack or on their person. We will display found items throughout the whole summer on the same rack. Remaining items at the end of summer will be donated to charity. Please make a quick check each day of your child's backpack. Lost items are much easier to locate on the same day they are lost.



PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOTAPING

Photos and/or videos may be taken of your child while at STOMP for promotional reasons, for great memories and to share with the social world what STOMP is up to. If you do not want your child to be photographed or videotaped, please let the Director's know upon registration and remind them upon arrival at camp.

QUICK REFERENCE CHECKLIST

Did you remember to send...

- ✓ A lunch plus 2 snacks for our snack breaks
- ✓ Water bottle
- ✓ A jacket or sweatshirt for cool mornings/days
- ✓ Sunscreen
- ✓ Swimsuit and towel (Tuesdays)
- ✓ Life preserver (campers 5-6 years old)
- ✓ Change of clothes (recommended)
- ✓ Remember to label all items with your child's name
- ✓ Backpack / bag

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

Church Phone: 519.621.6310

STOMP Cell Phone: 905-213-0533

Web: stompcamp.com

Email: stomp@mycalvary.life

Facebook & Messenger: <https://www.facebook.com/stompcamp/>

Instagram: [@stompcamp](https://www.instagram.com/stompcamp)

Campus Information

Calvary Cambridge

127 Hespeler Rd
Cambridge, ON
N1R 3G9

Calvary Ayr

173 Northumberland Street
N0B 1E0
Ayr, ON

Calvary Kitchener

9 Conway Drive

N2A 2C4

Kitchener, ON