

Thank you for your inquiry about Episcopal Day Camp. Since we generally have a waiting list, we do not send out a brochure. I hope this will give you the information that you need.

Episcopal Day Camp (EDC) is held at St. Columba Conference Center, a 145-acre property owned by The Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee. The property has one secured entrance and is completely enclosed by a 6-foot fence with barbed wire. We are equipped with video surveillance and have radios and cell phones for constant communication on the property. The safety of our children is our primary concern.

EDC is an unusual day camp, as its functions and activities are much like those of an overnight camp. St. Columba, with its acreage of woodlands, meadows, creeks and a central lake, provides the perfect setting for our campers to experience and enjoy nature, and our activities take advantage of this. Activities include arts and crafts, music, adventure, the infamous mud hole, a water slide through the woods, water games, swimming in the lake, boating and canoeing and much more. Lunch and snacks are provided daily.

Camp is held during the last three full weeks in July, and there are about 200 participants at each week-long session. Campers can sign up for one, two or all three sessions. We have four levels of counselors: seventh and eighth grade counselors-in-training, ninth and tenth grade junior counselors, eleventh and twelfth grade senior counselors and adult counselors. Children begin attending camp as rising first-graders, and as they progress through the years, they learn and practice leadership skills. When they reach seventh grade, they are eligible to become counselors. We are very proud of the success of this aspect of our program.

In addition to the regular St. Columba staff, we have a licensed EMT from LeBonheur on camp staff at all times. Certified lifeguards supervise all lake activities, and life jackets are required for all swimming and boating. All of our counselors and staff are required to attend training sessions, including a diocesan-sponsored class on the prevention of sexual misconduct.

We look forward to seeing your camper. If this is your child's first year at camp, our experienced staff are ready to help them transition. Children adjust better if you remain in your car and continue through the carpool line in the morning. We will work with your child and give him/her special attention if he/she is hesitant on the first day. Camp is a wonderful setting for children to overcome emotional obstacles.

Due to the size of the property and the number of campers and counselors, it is very difficult to determine if visitors are authorized. We cannot take a chance on unauthorized people having access to the children; therefore we ask that parents and caregivers remain in cars when at the campground. We regret that parents cannot observe their children, but safety concerns necessitate this policy.

St. Columba is a safe, nurturing environment for children to play, learn and experience the wonders of God and His Earth in community. If you have further questions, please let me know.