

THE SALVATION ARMY MIDLAND DIVISION

SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION



WELCOME...

...to the 2025 Salvation Army Camp Mihaska summer camping season for the Midland Division! Your summer will be filled with opportunities to create exciting memories as we experience God's creation together in new ways.

Time spent at Camp Mihaska has proven to make a lasting impression and productive on-going change for countless kids and adults. We focus on evangelism and discipleship in all that we plan. Through intentional programming and more importantly showing God's love and acceptance to each camper, we strive to lead many into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ or deepen their walk with Him.

It is our prayer that every program and activity will reflect the love of God to those He has entrusted to us during these weeks.

GENERAL INFORMATION

DIVISIONAL LEADERSHIP

Divisional Commanders: Majors Robert and Lisa Mueller

Divisional Youth Secretary: Captain Matt DeGonia

Divisional Candidates Secretary: Captain Gini DeGonia

CAMP MIHASKA

Phone: 573-732-5239

Camp Director: Terry Mahurin

Address: 1466 Highway N Bourbon, MO 65441

Guest Relations Director: Joanie Mahurin

NO VEHICLES WILL BE PERMITTED BEYOND THE MAIN PARKING LOT

MISSION STATEMENT

PURPOSE OF SALVATION ARMY CAMPING

The purpose of Salvation Army camping is to serve the needs of campers: physical, social, and spiritual. For physical needs, our aim is to help campers develop good healthy habits in cleanliness, proper rest, balanced diet, exercise, and care of the body. To meet social needs, the camp provides an opportunity for each camper to contribute to and receive from a group living experience. The experience aims to help campers make their own right decisions, stimulate creativity and foster independence.

The fact that The Salvation Army is a Christian organization makes it possible for its camping program to integrate concern for the spiritual dimensions of life. We believe in God, His Word, and what it teaches, and a pattern of living exemplified by Jesus Christ.

These purposes are achieved through carefully selected staff, well-planned programs and the highest standards of health and safety.

GOALS OF SALVATION ARMY CAMPING

1. To promote an awareness of God, His love, and the grace of Jesus Christ.
2. To aid toward spiritual growth and knowledge of basic human values.
3. To give children, youth, and adults a fun-filled, healthy, safe, educational, and inspirational experience in the outdoors.
4. To help develop an understanding, appreciation, and sense of stewardship for the outdoors, the natural environment, and all living creatures.
5. To help individuals grow in understanding themselves and each other. Especially for children to experience relationships with staff as caring adults and to offer opportunity for individuals of varied cultures to develop compassion and love for one another.
6. To provide a loving and supportive environment where families can learn to cope with and solve their problems.
7. To facilitate creative self-expression through thought, worship, song, work, play, physical activity, and the development of new skills.
8. To allow everyone to participate in planning programs and in establishing limits and responsibility for the safety and welfare of all.
9. To assist in developing an appreciation of the wonder and joy of the miracles of everyday living.

CAMP DESCRIPTIONS

TSAO Camp

Dates: June 16-19 (Mon-Thu)

Age requirement: Must be age 11 by 6/16/25, and no older than 16

Description: TSAO Camp is The Salvation Army Outdoors Camp. At this camp, campers will experience life outdoors as they learn about outdoor survival, cooking outdoors, and sleeping in a tent! Other activities may include hiking, ropes course, swimming, fishing, and learning about God through nature.

Kids Camp

Dates: June 23-26 (Mon-Thu)

Age requirement: Must be 7 by 6/23/25 and no older than 9

Description: Kids Camp is a great introductory experience to camp. Campers will participate in a variety of activities and classes that have to do with various aspects of camp and being outdoors. Activities may include swimming, hiking, fishing, arts, crafts, and many others. This camp includes the presentation of the gospel.

Music Conservatory

Dates: June 23-28 (Mon-Sat)

Requirements: Must be 11 by 6/23/25 and no older than 16 and play a Musical Instrument.

Description: Music Conservatory Camp is designed to help campers continue to develop their God-given musical talents, preparing them for future performances through their corps/church in worship and school. Prior musical instrument knowledge is required. Each participant will be required to audition for this camp prior to registration. Please make sure that campers know that this is considered a "working" camp; music class participation is required daily. The gospel story is shared with all campers.

Music & Creative Arts Camp

Dates: June 28 - July 5 (Sat-Sat)

Age requirement: Must be 9 by 6/28/25 and no older than 16

Description: Music & Creative Arts Camp is designed to help campers develop their God-given gifts and prepare them with skills they can use to lead themselves and their corps/church in worship. We want every youth coming to camp leaving knowing who Jesus is. Please make sure that campers know that this is considered a "working" camp; music class participation is required daily. The gospel story is shared with all campers.

Tween Camp

Dates: July 7-11 (Mon-Fri)

Age requirement: Must be 10 by 7/7/25 and no older than 12

Description: Tween Camp is designed to truly engage campers in new ways! This camp will do camp specific activities as well as creative, hands-on experiences that are geared towards a specific area of S.T.E.A.M. The gospel story is shared with all campers.

Teen Camp

Dates: July 14-18 (Mon-Fri)

Age requirement: Must be 13 by 7/14/25 and no older than 16

Description: At teen camp, campers will get the opportunity to play a variety of games and experience traditional camping activities while connecting with Jesus.

Family Camp

Dates: July 21-24 (Mon-Thurs)

Age requirement: Parents/guardians with children ages 16 and under

Description: Family Camp is designed to strengthen the family unit while learning more about Jesus. Each family will do activities together but also spend time focusing on themselves in various breakout classes that are offered.

Camp Activities/Typical Day at Camp

Camp Mihaska has a lot of activities to keep campers busy: things like arts and crafts, the high and low ropes course, daily devotions, paintball, fishing, hiking, archery, fun evening programs, cabin activities and of course, swimming! Campers are busy from sunrise to sunset at camp. Here's an **example** of a daily camp schedule (varies depending on the camp session/focus and age range).

8:30 a.m.	Breakfast	3:00 p.m.	Camp Activity #4 (Swimming)
9:15 a.m.	Cabin Cleanup & Devotions	4:15 p.m.	Camp Activity #5 (Free Choice)
10:00 a.m.	Camp Activity #1 (Bible Class)	5:30 p.m.	Dinner
11:15 a.m.	Camp Activity #2 (Craft Time)	6:30 p.m.	Camp Activity #6 (Bible Class)
12:30 p.m.	Lunch	7:45 p.m.	Evening Program
1:15 p.m.	Quiet/Rest Time (Can include quiet games)	9:15 p.m.	Call to the Cabins
1:45 p.m.	Camp Activity #3 (Team Building)	10:00 p.m.	Lights Out

CAMPERS NEED TO KNOW...

WHAT WORKS

1. Taking part and being courteous in all planned programs.
2. Being courteous and respectful to all leaders.
3. Doing unto others as you would have them do unto you.
4. Being on time for all activities.
5. Being free of tobacco, lighters, drugs, alcohol, and weapons.
6. Being free of radios, iPods, cell phones, TVs, hand-held games, or other electronics. Please leave these items at home or they will be confiscated for the duration of the camp. We are not responsible for any theft, damage, or loss of personal items.
7. Keeping the dress code (See Dress Code Section)
8. Keeping the camp litter-free and showing respect for camp and personal property.
9. Participating in cabin clean-up.
10. Staying out of other cabins and/or rooms that you are not assigned to.
11. Remaining on campgrounds at all times.
12. Handing in all medication, even if it's over the counter, to the camp nurse.

IF DISCIPLINARY ACTION IS NECESSARY

1. The counselor will first intervene with the camper.
2. If this proves unsuccessful, then the Youth Department will speak to the camper and develop a behavior contract.
3. Last resort is for the camper to be sent home. This decision is made by the Divisional Youth Secretary.

WHAT TO BRING...

Items to pack for ALL camps:

- Bible, if camper has one (we are happy to provide one if your child does not have their own)
- Spending money for the Sweet Shop (every child must turn in their spending money which is tracked by camp. Snacks & drinks cost between \$0.25 and \$2.75)
- Clothing for each day and one extra outfit
- Adequate amounts of underwear and socks
- **Two pairs of shoes, including tennis shoes** (in case one gets wet/muddy/broken)
- Jacket or sweater for cool evenings
- Swimsuit (Two-piece swimsuits should be of the "tankini" style and not bikini style. Breasts/cleavage must be fully covered. You may wear a dark colored t-shirt to cover up)
- Towel, wash cloth, and a pool towel
- Soap, toiletries, toothbrush, and toothpaste
- Comb or brush
- Sunscreen
- Sleeping bag & Pillow (ONLY for TSAO Camp)
- Raincoat or umbrella (optional)
- Flashlight (optional)
- Insect Repellent (optional)
- Backpack/bag for carrying swim gear (optional)
- Instrument (for those attending Conservatory & Music & Creative Arts Camp)

We highly recommend labelling as many items as possible with your child's name.

What NOT to bring to camp

- Clothes that do not pass dress code (See section: Dress Guidelines)
- Anything expensive that you would be upset if item is lost/broken/stolen
- **Cell phones**, mp3 players, iPods, radios, TVs, video games etc. **Please see Electronics policy.**
- Tobacco products (including vaping paraphernalia), alcohol, illegal drugs (including marijuana)
- Weapons of any kind
- Fireworks

The Salvation Army and Camp Mihaska are not responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged personal items. We also reserve the right to confiscate any items brought to camp either because they are not allowed on the property or because they become a hazard or nuisance.

DRESS CODE

With many cultures, backgrounds and upbringings, dress guidelines can be very difficult. What is acceptable to one is a stumbling block to another. Clothing that is revealing or that advertises a lifestyle which is not in line with the values of The Salvation Army is considered unacceptable.

Basic Principle: Certain body parts must be covered at all times.

Clothes must be worn in a way that genitals, buttocks, breasts, and undergarments are fully covered with opaque fabric.

Individuals Must Wear, while following the basic principle above:

- A **Shirt** (with fabric in the front, back, and on the sides under the arms), **AND**
- **Pants or the equivalent** (for example, a skirt, sweatpants, leggings, a dress or shorts), **AND**
- **Shoes/Sandals.**

Individuals Cannot Wear:

- Violent language or images.
- Images or language depicting/suggesting drugs, alcohol, vaping, or paraphernalia (or any illegal item or activity).
- Hate speech, profanity, or pornography.
- Images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment.
- Any clothing that reveals visible undergarments.
- Accessories that could be considered dangerous or could be used as a weapon.

If at any time your clothing is unacceptable, you will be asked to change.

SWEET SHOP INFORMATION

The "Sweet Shop" is our shop on camp that is open several times throughout the week. Some of the items offered at the Sweet Shop include chips, candy, ice cream, soda, juice, popcorn, nachos, soft pretzels, and more. The camp store also sells Camp Mihaska items such as cups, sunglasses, clothing, etc. (varies based on availability). Everything is reasonably priced, so you do not need to send your child with a lot of money.

We recommend sending your child to camp with a minimum of \$5 to spend, but you may send more. All cash should be turned in when you drop off your child at camp (or given to the Salvation Army leader who is transporting your child). **Please DO NOT put cash in your child's suitcase/backpack.** Cash **MUST** be turned in at registration. Our Sweet Shop coordinator will track your child's balance and any leftover money will be returned on the final day of that camp session.

PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF

If your local Salvation Army is providing transportation to camp, please reach out to them for times and other details regarding pick-up and drop-off.

If your local Salvation Army is not providing transportation to camp, or you wish to drop off/pick up your child yourself, please note the following:

Camp registration is from 1:30-3:00 pm on the first day of each camp session in the dining hall. All vehicles must remain in the main parking lot. Adults bringing campers to camp must stop at the dining hall and take the camper through the entire registration process before leaving. Please leave luggage in your vehicle upon arrival. Campers will undergo a lice check, deposit Sweet Shop money, and check-in any medication.

Most camps end at 11:00 am on the final day and adults picking up campers must plan to arrive at camp by 11:30 am. The exceptions to this are Family Camp & Music & Creative Arts Camp. More information will come regarding Family Camp and Music & Creative Arts Camp has a concert on the final day and ends in the afternoon. Camper pick-up is in the dining hall, where you will pick up camper medicine and leftover sweet shop money. Once you have completed the check-out procedure, we will call your child to meet you outside, where they will pick up their luggage and check the lost and found. After luggage is loaded into your vehicle, you may leave.

WALKING AT CAMP MIHASKA

Those who are new to Camp Mihaska should understand that all campers and staff are expected to do a lot of walking. Our camp is very spacious with a lot of acres, and we strive to utilize as much of it as possible.

LOST AND FOUND

Every summer, we collect a variety of items that belong to campers. Throughout each camp, staff collect items that campers have left behind. On the final morning of camp, all lost & found items are gathered and set out with the luggage in the Rock Pavilion. Campers should claim their items before they go home. If items are left after the camp has completed, we will hold them until the end of the summer.

If your child is missing something, you can email midlandyouth@usc.salvationarmy.org to inquire if it has been found. In any case, we highly recommend that items belonging to your child are labeled with their name so we can get them back to your family.

COMMUNICATION WITH CAMPERS

Parents/grandparents and/or guardians are welcome to send mail to their campers. It is always fun to get mail at camp. Send mail to:

Your Child's Name
c/o Camp Mihaska
1466 Highway N
Bourbon, MO 65441

You are also welcome to send an email to your camper. We will print it out and deliver it during a mealtime like regular mail. Send emails to midlandyouth@usc.salvationarmy.org. We only print emails ONCE per day and deliver the emails at dinner time. Therefore, we ask that you limit emails to once per day.

Camper cell phones are not allowed at camp; please see our electronics policy in subsequent pages. If you have an urgent message that you wish for your child to know, you may call the camp office at (573)732-5239. We will take a message and relay the information to your child.

Because of the potential for increasing or causing homesickness (for your child and others) parents/guardians are discouraged from visiting and/or calling their campers during the week. For the safety of our campers, no visitors will be allowed without first talking to the camp director or divisional youth secretary. For concerns, please contact camp leadership at (573)732-5239.

RESPONSE TO SELF HARM

Self-harm is prohibited at Camp Mihaska. If a camper discloses that they are or they are discovered to be engaged in self-harm, a counselor will immediately notify the Divisional Youth Secretary. At that time, a heightened level of supervision will be instituted for the remainder of the camp, and objects that might be used for the purposes of self-harm will be kept away from the camper in question. Parents will be notified, and the appropriate authorities, as needed. The camp leadership reserves the right to send a child home for their own safety and well-being.

ELECTRONICS POLICY

Help our campers “unplug” – please leave all electronics at home! **Our Electronics Policy is designed to:**

- Encourage your children to spend more time in the outdoors
- Promote socialization between campers
- Remove the divide between “the haves and the have-nots” in each cabin
- Reduce the stress associated with the damage to and theft of electronics
- Give your children a much-needed break from the world of technology
- Ensure that your children are not exposed to age-inappropriate material
- Ensure that your children cannot post their camp photos on the internet
- Ensure that your children are not focusing on situations revolving around their friends at home
- Prevent your children from hearing about situations and incidents concerning home and family before their parents have a chance to communicate with them

The use of electronics at camp is counter to the values we teach and uphold at Camp Mihaksa and interferes with an important peer aspect of the overnight camp experience.

We have been asked if they can use their electronic devices to tell the time or as an alarm. The problem with this is we have found that having devices holds too much temptation to check texts, emails, social media, etc. Campers are always allowed to ask camp staff what the time is, and Cabin counselors are responsible for waking up their campers. If a camper wants to wake up at a certain time, all he/she needs to do is ask the counselor.

Cell Phones

It is our policy that campers are NOT PERMITTED to have a cell phone at camp. If campers do travel to camp with cell phones, they will be asked to turn them in during registration. The cell phones will be kept in a locked box, and will be returned upon camper dismissal.

Digital Cameras

Campers are allowed to bring inexpensive (point and shoot type) cameras. However, please discuss proper handling of the camera and how pictures should be taken of other campers ONLY with their permission. If we find out that your child is taking pictures of people without permission, we will confiscate the camera, delete the picture in question, and return the camera to your child upon dismissal. Leave expensive cameras at home.

Do not bring to camp:

- Cell phones
- iPads, tablets, kindles, etc.
- Laptops or computers
- iPods or mp3 players
- Gaming devices, any kind of hand-held electronic games

If found, we will confiscate any of the above listed electronic devices and return them upon dismissal.

One last word on Electronics

We recommend that your child powers down, unplugs, and takes what we're certain is a well-needed break from the world of electronics. Campers are welcome to bring other “interactive” things, like playing cards, checkers/chess, word games, etc. Please be respectful of the usage and content limitations we have in place. We are confident that “unplugging” will result in more time playing together, enhanced interaction between cabin-mates and more overall fun. When campers bring electronic devices to camp, not only does it remove them from the camp experience, but devices can sometimes get lost, broken, or stolen. **Camp Mihaska and The Salvation Army cannot take responsibility for their loss or damage, nor does our insurance policy cover their replacement.**

ANTI BULLYING POLICY

Bullying is behavior that is intentional, hurtful, and repeated by one or more persons. Bullying is prohibited at Camp Mihaska. Counselors will discourage bullying and intervene as necessary when it is discovered. The Divisional Youth Secretary will be notified of continued patterns of bullying behavior and will take steps to talk with and potentially separate the bully and his/her intended victim. The camp leadership will also be notified of the behavior patterns. Pranking is considered a form of bullying and is not allowed at camp. If it is determined that bullying has occurred, the camp leadership reserves the right to send the offending camper home.

CODE OF CONDUCT

I agree to conduct myself in a matter that will be a credit to me, Camp Mihaska, The Salvation Army, my Corps/Service Unit, and all involved in the camp program by:

1. Dressing appropriately for recreational purposes and wearing whatever clothing and/or equipment is deemed necessary by the Youth Department, The Salvation Army, or their representatives.
2. Showing respect for the rights, privacy, and property of others.
3. Showing respect for the property and facilities of the camp and The Salvation Army. Anything damaged will be replaced by me or my family.
4. Complying with the schedule for programs and activities, including reasonable curfew and mealtimes, and limitation of off-duty activities.
5. Staying out of cabins to which I have not been assigned. I will especially avoid being in rooms of people of the opposite sex.
6. Not possessing or using any alcohol, tobacco, or drugs during camp, unless prescribed by a licensed physician and so noted on the medical form, nor bringing to camp any flammable or explosive materials, poisons, weapons, pets, or pornography.
7. Taking responsibility for my personal property.
8. Demonstrating cooperation with and respect for The Salvation Army leaders (Officers and lay leaders), other participants, representatives of the camp and The Salvation Army, and their invited guests.
9. Agreeing to abide by all local, state, and federal laws.
10. Understanding and obeying any rules and regulations issued by camp staff and The Salvation Army or their representatives, including COVID-19 regulations put in place for the safety of the staff, campers, and myself.
11. Being present and behaving appropriately in Camp Mahaska classes, sessions, and worship services.