



**Episcopal Summer Mega Camp**  
**in the Diocese of Kansas at Camp Wood YMCA**  
**June 4-10, 2017**  
**For those who have completed grades 3-12**

Attending a week-long Christian summer camp has benefits beyond being fun. “The Christian summer camp experience has **positive and lasting impact** that extend well beyond the temporary high of a week at camp, affecting family devotional practices, church participation, personal well-being, and faith commitment. These impacts are clear and recognizable in camps that are intentionally Christ-centered, relational, participatory, safe, and different from home.” Read more about the Effective Camp Research Project here: <https://edokoyouth.wordpress.com/2017/03/30/effective-camp-research-project/>

But, we get that it can be hard to send your child off to camp when you don't know a lot about it, or don't know any adults who will be there. Our mission is to provide a safe, loving, and wholesome atmosphere for all young people in grades 3-12 with adults who authentically model the Christian faith.

Each age group at Mega Camp will have its own dedicated staff including a Camp Director, Program Director, Nurse, Chaplain, and Cabin Counselors. These staff members are volunteers from the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas. Camp staff must be known to their parish for at least six months. All camp staff must complete Safeguarding God's Children training, diocesan youth event training, pass a criminal background check and sex offender registry check. Elementary and Junior High campers will have 1 Episcopal Counselor and 1 YMCA counselor in their cabin. Senior High campers will have two Episcopal counselors in their cabins.

Episcopal staff do a full 24-hours of training before campers arrive. We train our volunteers on being welcoming, acting as good role models, supervision and safety, having a positive attitude, leading small groups, child/adolescent development, dealing with harassment, bullying, and teasing, Christian discipline (we use a lot of Love & Logic), conflict resolution, handling homesickness, confidentiality, and handling crisis issues.

The YMCA staff at Camp Wood are on hand to provide daily Y-Time activities such as horseback riding and swimming, meals, and support for our Episcopal staff. All YMCA staff are screened by completing detailed applications, a comprehensive interview, three reference checks, criminal background checks and internet searches. YMCA employees have two weeks of training which includes CPR/First Aid, child development, friendship building skills, and an extensive child abuse prevention-training program. YMCA employees are mandated to report any suspected abuse. Camp Wood leadership says the five most important things to remember as a camp staff member are: The Kids, The Kids, The Kids, The Kids, The Kids!

**Campers** are asked to adhere to the following safety rules:

- Do not enter any cabin except your own.
- Do not sit on anyone's bed except your own.
- Change clothes in the stalls in the restrooms/bathhouses.
- Always use the "truddy" system ... instead of a buddy-system, we ask students to walk around camp with three people for increased safety.
- Make sure your counselor or another adult staff member knows where you are.
- Shoes or strap-on sandals must be worn outside your cabin. (no flip-flops ... too many twisted ankles occur with these types of foot ware)
- Report any accident or illness to the camp nurse.
- Carry your water bottle everywhere, wear sunscreen and bug spray!

**Adult staff** are asked to adhere to the following rules.

- Shower at separate times from the campers.
- Dress and undress in the stalls of the bathhouses.
- Know where their campers are at all times. We do "cabin checks" at the start of each activity and ask counselors to make sure each camper from their cabin is present.
- One-to-one conversations will be done in an open, public place where private conversations are possible but occur in full view of others.
- The full Safe Church policy and requirements can be viewed here:  
<https://edokiyouth.wordpress.com/safe-church/>

**Still have questions?**

- You can read more about Episcopal Summer Mega Camp or sign-up here:  
<https://edokiyouth.wordpress.com/camp/>
- See the Frequently Asked Questions:  
<https://edokiyouth.wordpress.com/campfaq/>
- Is your child ready for summer camp?  
<http://mamadweeb.com/2013/03/how-to-tell-if-your-child-is-ready-for-summer-camp/>
- 12 tips to prepare your camper for camp: <https://edokiyouth.wordpress.com/2016/03/30/12-steps-to-prepare-your-camper-for-camp/>
- Check out our Facebook page (it's public and can be viewed even if you don't have a Facebook account). <https://www.facebook.com/EDOKYOUTH/>
  - Scroll down to see multiple videos from Karen Schlabach answering questions about Mega Camp.
  - Look at the photo albums for introductions to all camp staff.
- Call Karen Schlabach, Youth Missioner for the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas. She's been staffing Episcopal Summer camp for 10 years. She may also be able to give you the name of someone from your parish who has attended in the past. 913-708-5927 or [kschlabach@episcopal-ks.org](mailto:kschlabach@episcopal-ks.org)

