



2022 SUMMER CAMP FAQ's



REGISTRATION PROCESS: Camp registration is now open at rivervalley.net/student-summer-camp. Registration on our end is taking place so far in advance due to the way Snowbird does registration. For the past decade, Snowbird has either sold out or nearly sold out their summer camps within a couple of hours of opening registration. That means, when Snowbird's registration opens in September, we must be ready to commit to dates and a number of attenders. That is why we are asking you to register your students now. We have set two camp registration deadlines.

Everyone registering before August 10 will receive a free camp hat and t-shirt. They will also be entered into a drawing that will take place at Student MIDWEEK on August 11 to have their entire summer camp paid for!

Final registration deadline is January 28.

At that point we will be making the decision on the number of students that will be attending and lock in our trip to Snowbird.

CAMP LOCATION: Snowbird Wilderness Outfitters is located in the beautiful Snowbird Mountains of western North Carolina nestled into the corner of the state not far from the borders of both Georgia and Tennessee. The camp is located in a small town called Andrews. Andrews is located about 2.5 hours from Atlanta, GA; 2.5 hours from Knoxville, TN; and two hours from Asheville, NC. While Andrews is a smaller town, they have all the amenities that are needed should an issue arise and emergency medical treatment is available in Murphy, NC which is 20 minutes from the camp. Snowbird is located about 9 hours from River Valley and is an easy one-day trip.

CAMP DATES: Our plan is to attend camp on August 1-6, 2022. This would allow us to go the same week that camp took place this year. However, because of the way that Snowbird does their booking process we will not know the exact dates until camp registration opens in September.

CAMP COST: The cost to attend camp is \$439 per student, plus transportation, and spending money. However, if you have seen our other communications about camp you know that we are only charging students \$100 to attend camp. That means students will be required to participate in fundraising activities to cover the remainder of the camp cost. In addition to the \$100 that is due at registration, students will need spending money for the trip. This includes meals and snacks while travelling to and from camp (required) as well as money for the Snack Shack at Snowbird (not required but encouraged). All meals are provided at camp but not while travelling. We will have some snacks, but students may want money for other things. Snowbird says that the average student spends \$50 at the Snack Shack (more or less is always a possibility) and we plan to have two meals travelling in each direction. **We recommend that each student bring a minimum of \$100 cash for the trip.**

Will There Be Other Groups at Snowbird While We Are There?: Yes, there will be other groups at Snowbird while our group is there. Our students will eat, sleep, and have discussion groups with our group, but the remainder of camp is with other groups. There will be about 500 people total at camp during our time there. This makes it a great opportunity for us to worship with and hang out with other believers.

Transportation: Transportation to camp will ultimately be dictated by the number of students and leaders that are attending. However, we can tell you that we will be renting 15 passenger vans to accommodate the number of students that we need to transport. These vans will be driven by our adult leaders that attend camp with us. Once at camp, students will have the option to participate in off-campus recreation options (see Camp Activities below). Snowbird will provide transportation to and from those off-campus recreation sites via their busses with their drivers.

Camping Housing: Snowbird housing is in cabins located on their property. Our students will be divided male and female for sleeping. There will never be a time where a male is allowed in a female cabin or a female in a male cabin. All of our students will be housed together and there will be a same-sex leader in each cabin with the students.

Camp Supervision: We are required by Snowbird to have at least one male and one female leader that attends camp with our students. These leaders will typically come from our Student Adult Leaders Team, but for anyone else that attends as a leader they will go through the same interview, background check, and recruitment process of any other leader. River Valley's adult leaders will be the ones that lodge in the cabin with our students at night. In addition to our leaders, Snowbird also hires over 200 summer staff every year. When we arrive at camp, we will be assigned a minimum of one male and one female leader who will be responsible for our group. The number of Snowbird staff we are assigned is dependent upon how many students we bring. The Snowbird staff will be pursuing relational interaction with your students while they are at camp and leading small group discussions until bedtime, when our leaders are then responsible for our students. So, our leaders will lodge in the same cabin as our students, but the Snowbird staff assigned to us will utilize separate housing.

Camp Teaching: One of the main reasons that we have chosen to attend camp at Snowbird is because of the teaching and worship. If your student is a regular attender of our Student Ministry at River Valley the Snowbird teaching and worship time should look very similar to what they are used to. While at camp (excluding the first and last day where there is only one), students will participate in two worship and teaching services every day. Snowbird also has lots of choices for Breakout Sessions that students will participate in throughout the week. They will also spend time each day as a group with their Snowbird staff member(s) discussing the teaching and being disciplined. The teaching, much like we do here at River Valley, is expositional going verse by verse through the Bible. The topic or theme for camp in 2022 will be released at a later date and, at that time, we will let you know what that will be.

Camp Activities: While we are most excited about the teaching, worship, and discipleship that will take place at Snowbird, we also know that your students will have an incredible amount of fun with everything they have to offer. Many of these activities are things that our students would likely not be able to do if they did not attend camp or some other outdoor adventure location. All activities are supervised by the Snowbird staff who have gone through extensive training to safely operate and oversee that particular recreation activity.

On our first day at camp, students will sign-up for the recreation options they want to participate in each day. Activities Include but are not limited to:

White Water Rafting on the Nantahala River	Poopie Pole	Rec Field
Mountain Biking	Paintball	Basketball
River Tubing	Gun Range	Waterslide
Lake Tubing	Archery	Horseback Riding
Canoeing	Disc Golf	Archery Tag
3-Man Swing	Putt-Putt	Quick Jump
Goliath Swing	Gaga Ball	Aerial Park
	Horseshoes	Climbing Tower

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR STUDENT IN AN EMERGENCY - CALL IN THIS ORDER:

1. Pastor Gavin 574.286.7175 (cell)
2. Snowbird Office (8:30am-12pm & 1pm-4:30pm) 828.321.2210
3. Spencer Davis, Risk Management Director at Snowbird, 828.557.1463

Please only contact Spencer if it is truly an emergency.

How Will I Know How My Student is Doing?: Prior to leaving for camp, Pastor Gavin will contact all parents with students attending camp and ask if they would like to be include in a group text that will be used to keep parents updated on how things are going. If you choose to receive these messages you will receive an update upon arrival, at least twice per day, when we leave for home, and when we are about an hour out from River Valley. If there is an emergency or we need to reach you for any reason, you will receive a phone call from Pastor Gavin.

Why?: We know that the biggest question that you probably have when it comes to Summer Camp in 2022 is, "Why?". Why so far? Why so expensive? Why another change? Why this camp and not so many others? Let me address the change issue first. It has been our plan now for over a year to attend Snowbird. In fact, we had hoped to do so this summer, but with lingering concerns over where we would be with COVID restrictions, a decision had to be made last August and September before Snowbird's registration opened. We made the decision that, for 2021, we would put on our own camp closer to home. Now that we have moved to preparing for 2022, we are ready to follow through with the plan to attend Snowbird. This is not so much another change as it is just continuing with the plan that we already had in place. The remainder of the questions can be answered together. Our goal as a ministry is to always give our students the best experience that we can while also making sure the events and things that we do are in line with the beliefs, theology, and practices of River Valley. For that reason, after extensive research, we have chosen Snowbird Wilderness Outfitters. When it comes to aligning with River Valley they were by far the best option. Add to that the amazing camp and adventure activities they offer and Snowbird rivals any camp in the country. As with everything we do as a Student Ministry, our primary focus is on the gospel being taught and our students being disciplined. We feel that Snowbird is the best place for that to happen in a camp atmosphere. Snowbird says that they are about three things: "Bold Expositional Teaching, High-adventure Recreation, and Gospel-centered Discipleship." This embodies exactly what we were looking for in a summer camp experience. While it may be farther away and have a higher cost, we are working toward making camp accessible to everyone and feel that all the benefits of attending Snowbird will drastically outweigh any downside.

Snowbird Wilderness Outfitters | swoutfitters.com
Pastor Gavin Hutchison | ghutchison@rivervalley.net | 574.286.7175