

WHO is WHO & WHAT DO THEY DO

Who can go to Day Camp?

Campers – anyone in years 1 to 8 at any school. (Campers are years 1 to 7, with a pre-leadership program for yr 8s).
Helpers – anyone in year 9 up to 17yo. – preferably with a connection to a church or past attendance at Day Camp. You will need a reference.

Leaders – anyone 18yo+ - preferably with a connection to a church or past attendance at Day Camp. You will need a reference, a Blue Card and complete the Uniting Church Safe Ministry with Children course (email mucdaycamp@gmail.com for more details).

Who are helpers and what do they do?

A helper is someone in years 9-12 (up to 17yo). They support and assist the team leader with “crowd control”, cooking, taking kids to the loo, gunyah building, chatting with the campers, playing with the campers and generally having fun.

The helpers most often have been campers themselves through primary school, and come back to be helpers. Some are new to Day Camp and come with another helper friend. Most helpers come from the local area.

Who are leaders and what do they do?

Team leaders are adults (18 years +) who are responsible for the supervision and safety of a team of approx. 8 campers. These adults get to share their knowledge and experience with the campers, while doing fun, outdoor activities. Team leaders generally run the devotions for their group, using material provided by the camp director. Sometimes they may elect for a chaplain to help with the devotions. Leaders and helpers are given training each year and this helps provide quality supervision and care.

Some of the team activities are scheduled, so the team leader is responsible to make sure the team gets to the activity on time. When the team doesn't have a scheduled activity, the team leader is responsible for working out with the campers and helpers what they want to do and when.

Team leaders also oversee the gunyah building...though the helpers and return campers are usually really good at this and know what to do.

Mostly the leaders are from the local area, from local churches, are past campers/helpers/leaders, are parents of campers, are youth workers, are school chappies...

What training and requirements are there for leaders and helpers?

Helpers (years 9 to 17yo) – reference preferably from a church, attend 2 training sessions where they learn basic fire starting, team games, behaviour strategies, safety procedures etc.

Leaders (18+) – as above plus current Blue Card and complete the Uniting Church's Safe Ministry with Children course every 2 years.

Why are year 8s different? What do they do?

In the past, Day Camp finished at year 7 with the next step being a Day Camp helper. It was found that year 8 was often a bit young for the responsibility. Year 9 was a much better age for the young people to start as helpers. However, the kids love coming to Day Camp so the Year 8 program was created a few years ago. The year 8s are campers, they are in a team with leaders, they cook their lunch, they build a gunyah, they kayak and decorate hats, however they have some extra skill building activities. They learn a bit more about team dynamics through team exercises, how to run games, a bit about behaviour challenges, how to start a fire for cooking lunch and other skills. It is a program to help them transition from camper to helper.

How are the teams worked out?

Teams are divided into boys and girls and then by school grade. There are approximately 8 campers per team. When registering, there is opportunity to list any specific friends your child might like to be in the same team with. (Note: teams are not mixed gender.) If the children are in different school grades, please state why you are requesting for them to be together (eg a cousin from out of town who doesn't know anyone else). As some activities are age dependent, and some activities the teams work out for themselves (ie not scheduled), it is best to keep the same age together. One school grade different is ok but not more than that.

All requests are read and considered. We try to accommodate everyone's requests if possible.

If there are no requests on an application, we endeavour to keep children in teams with others from the same school.

If your child is really not happy with the team they are in, then please let them know that they can talk to their team leader to ask if we can possibly change teams. It is much easier to do this on the **first morning** rather than after the teams have started working together.

Likewise for helpers and leaders, if you have special requests for people to work with, for a particular age group or for particular campers in your team, please state this in your registration and we will try to accommodate you. We may contact you for clarification or to discuss your request. We do try to keep males with the boys teams and females with the girls teams, depending on the balance of numbers.

Why is there a kitchen and kitchen staff?

The kitchen staff are very important to the campers as they judge the cooking and hand out the team prizes each day.

Teams can create their own unique damper each day as well as any other cooking they wish to make. All cooking is taken to the kitchen where they are awarded points for creativity, effort, taste, manners etc. Whether to cook or not is a team decision. Some do a lot while others choose to spend more time on other activities.

The kitchen supply the basic damper ingredients and the team cooking box (containing matches, pans, utensils etc).

The teams supply anything else.

The kitchen also has a small supply of food (noodle cups) if a camper forgets their lunch, or accidentally drops it in the river...

There are always boxes of fruit out for anyone to help themselves at any time.

Helpers and leaders can make themselves tea or coffee – preferably in their own lidded travel mug. However, campers are not permitted hot drinks (safety reasons).