

LIFEWAY CAMPS LGBTQ+ CAMP POLICY

Lifeway Camps is open to all kids and students who have completed 2nd-12th grade. We strive to create an environment that values equality and fosters respect for all people. We welcome all persons, regardless of ability, age, cultural background, ethnicity, faith, gender, gender expression, gender identity, ideology, income, national origin, race, or sexual orientation as guests and as full participants in all of our programs. We believe every kid and student should have the opportunity to experience the fun of camp while also hearing the gospel and learning about Jesus. Our staff are trained to share the love of Jesus with all campers and provide a safe space for them.

While we welcome students who may be questioning their sexual and gender identity or who identify as LGBTQ+, we do not condone or approve of homosexuality or transgenderism. If you have students in your group who identify as LGBTQ+, we ask you to please make note of this in the notes section of the Participant List so we can plan accordingly.

To better understand our views in these areas, please refer to the links below:

Lifeway's Doctrinal Guidelines | Nashville Statement

To create a safe and respectful environment, the following policies are to be followed at camp in order for concerns around these issues to not become a disruption. Please share these in advance with parents of children in any of the categories noted above.

1. Any camper who is harassing another camper for any reason may be asked to leave camp. Also, any camper who harasses or makes a significant issue of a camper who is identifying as LGBTQ+ may be asked to leave.
2. Any camper identifying as LGBTQ+ must not use their camp experience as an opportunity to force other campers to accept their viewpoint on sexual or gender identity. If the expression of their sexual or gender identity becomes disruptive, we may decide to remove the camper, for the benefit of that camper as well as other campers.
3. Those campers identifying as transgender will be housed with their biological birth gender. If this housing arrangement proves to be disruptive for the camper or other campers in the assigned housing, we will make available private housing for transgender students as our camp locations allow at no extra cost. This private room arrangement would require a parent/guardian(s) to accompany the student to camp, so he or she are not housed alone.
4. Outside of housing bathrooms, campers are to use the restroom that corresponds with their biological birth gender. Any camper who has a need or desire for increased privacy, regardless of the underlying reason, should use a single user restroom, if possible, or their housing bathroom.
5. All campers should change clothes in private areas. Nudity and disrobing directly in front of other campers are prohibited.
6. For gender-specific activities, we will use a camper's biological birth gender to determine which activities they may attend. Other activities will be available as needed. For example, a biological male will not be allowed to participate in a "For Girls Only" class.
7. Our desire is for ministry, and we know that belonging is important to all students. Because of potential confusion or disagreement surrounding gender pronouns, our posture will be to use the camper name as provided by the group leader on the Participant List.

Note: We are invited guests by our camp locations. In the event a host location's policy on this topic differs, we will defer to their policy regarding participation and housing.