

CAMP HOLLYMONT FOR GIRLS

BEYOND THE BUBBLE

How Summer Camp Prepares Campers for College



Sending your daughter to Camp Hollymont does more than keep her entertained for the summer. Camp teaches life lessons, creates better students, and can even prepare your daughter for the transition to college life.

Any former Hollymont camper, parent, or staff member could easily tell you that camp has always been about more than just fun! Our days are packed with skills, games, and night activities, but there's a mission behind all of it.

By: Emily Levy, Camp Director

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Acceptance

Probably the most pivotal lesson from camp that translates to college, campers learn the only things they have control over are their mindset and response when faced with a challenge. Cluster assignments are decided before we arrive, and sometimes our friends aren't with us. Perhaps friends chose to attend a different session than in previous summers, or we were placed in 4th skills swimming instead of having it first thing in the morning like we prefer. We could struggle with these changes, be angry or upset when it happens, and let whatever is bothering us ultimately ruin the camp experience, or we could find a way to accept the change, experience the new opportunities, and learn through the lesson God is using to teach us. In college, roommates, friendships, and even majors change. Dealing with change isn't easy, but it's necessary. We learn that our ability to accept what we can't change encourages a trusting relationship with the Lord—and camp starts that process.

"Camp Hollymont taught me how to get out of my comfort zone and try new things!" - Kate, camper

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Individuality

We all have dreams and aspirations, strengths and weaknesses, likes and dislikes, successes and failures, and parts of our personality that help us tell our story! If all of those were the same for our fellow camp friends, camp would just be boring! Some campers choose to fill their skill sheet with art and dance, while another camper couldn't imagine her summer days without soccer and basketball. There are some girls who take to the talent show stage with confidence, while others would much rather prefer to cheer on their clustermates. There were those who apply for leadership roles such as tribal chief and others who would rather not. All of us had a safe place to grow at Camp Hollymont. College campuses and courses widen that playing field too, but those of us who went to Hollymont learned at an early age that we could be ourselves and be proud of our individuality. It's those lessons our alumni admit to reaching for in the dorm room during moments where they feared that they might not be enough. Camp is a safe place for girls to explore and figure out who they are. With every success comes confidence in their new skills!

"Camp Hollymont taught me how to be myself, embrace my differences, ask for help, and be confident in who I am... because that is who God made me to be!" - Stella, counselor

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Resilience

For many girls, camp is the first time they are away from their families for more than a night. At one point or another, all of us have probably had a twinge of homesickness, but at camp there was often someone with a friendly shoulder, an ear to listen, or open arms for a hug that lessen the feeling and reminded us that this season will eventually come to a close. Homesickness happens at college, too, but at camp we learned there's always someone to help, whether it's your roommate, friend, counselor, professor, or advisor. Our alumni tell us that they were even better equipped to handle homesickness in college because they remember what it felt like at camp and how they overcame it. Homesickness is real, but it's manageable. Our campers learn that lesson at camp.

"Camp Hollymont taught me that camp friends are seriously the best! My counselors and friends always have my back!"

Katie, camper

So Much More!

We polled campers, parents, staff & alumni to get their thoughts...here are the lessons they learned:

■ "Camp Hollymont taught me how to LOVE God and to always be thankful for my camp friends!" - Hilty, camper

■ "I learned how to be a leader, care for others, and always have my sisters' backs." - McKenna, counselor

■ "I was encouraged to break out of my comfort zone and be my true self!" - Cate, counselor-in-training

■ "Hollymont taught me that honesty and integrity will take you far in life." - Paige, alumni

■ "Camp Hollymont challenged my daughter to try new things, embrace change, be a leader, and speak her mind! She now has a stronger relationship with the Lord and has made lifelong friends that will always be there for her!" - Kelly, parent

■ "You can always be yourself no matter what, and your real friends will celebrate your differences with you." - Reid, camper

■ "When my daughter went off to college, I wasn't worried at all! She learned how to be responsible, organized, and independent all while having fun and meeting new friends at Camp Hollymont." - Lisa, parent