

Dear Campers, Parents, and Families,

MountainCamp 2025 is quickly approaching and we are incredibly excited to share the summer with you! This will be **MountainCamp's 45th year** at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center. (WOW!) We are continuing to hire summer staff, get our gear together for amazing recreational experiences, and finalize MountainCamp programming for another amazing summer of fun and fellowship. Our experienced and well-trained staff is just as excited as you are to be here this summer - eager to lead you in campfire songs, silly skits, exciting new workshops, and playful evening programs. We're pretty sure you'll make some new friends along the way!

A few things to note before you arrive -

TRANSPORTATION, ARRIVAL, & DEPARTURES

Airport shuttle will run from 10am-2pm at the beginning and end of each session for an additional cost. If your camper will arrive at the airport, or needs to be dropped off at the airport, outside of this window, please email youthcamp@themountainrlc.org or call Guest Services at (828) 526-5838.

Session	Drop Off	Pick-Up
Senior High Camp	Sunday, June 8, 1:00- 3:00 PM	Friday, June 20 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM
Counselors In Training (CIT)	Sunday, June 8, 1:00- 3:00 PM	Friday, July 18 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM
Beginner Camp	Sunday, June 22, 1:00- 3:00 PM	Saturday, June 28 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM
Elementary Camp	Sunday, June 22, 1:00- 3:00 PM	Friday, July 4, 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM
Outdoor Skills and Adventure (OSA) Camp	Sunday, June 22, 1:00- 3:00 PM	Friday, July 4, 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM
ASCENDER	Sunday, June 22, 1:00-3:00 PM	Friday, July 18 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Intermediate Camp	Sunday, July 6, 1:00- 3:00 PM	Friday, July 18 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM
Intergenerational Camp	Sunday, July 20, 1:00-3:00 PM	Friday, July 25, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Check in will start promptly at 1:00pm EST on Sunday. There will be signs and staff directing you where to go. If you arrive early, please be advised that we will be unable to accept campers prior to 1:00pm.

Check out will begin at 10am. Please arrange for your camper to be picked up no later than 12:00 pm on pick-up day. A prompt pick-up ensures that our staff is able to clean up camp and properly prepare for the next session. It is very important that you arrive on time. If you feel you may be running late, please call (828) 526-5838 and leave a message if needed.

In order to ensure the safety of your camper, please review and understand the following:

- Be sure to fill out the "Pick-Up Authorization" form at check-in. Remember to list yourself and any other authorized persons for pick-up.
- Please be aware that you will need to present a valid Driver's License or other form of personal identification in order to sign your camper out of camp. Please bring identification with you on pick-up day.

Our cabins, dining hall, and other facilities are located at the "Top" of our mountain. There is a steep, winding road to the Top. Please be advised that the speed limit on this road is 5 mph. The road is a one-lane road with several shoulders that allow traffic to pass. However, it can be difficult to see other vehicles around turns. For your safety, we will have staff at the "Bottom" and Top of the Mountain road to direct traffic.

PACKING LIST

A full [packing list](#) is available on our website. We ask that you also bring a list of all items you bring to camp so that when your camper is packing up to leave, they can be sure they have everything. MountainCamp cannot be held responsible for lost or left behind items. Any lost and found at the end of the summer will be donated to local charities. Lost and found that is shipped back to the camper at a parent's request will be billed to your camp account.

Required items for camp:

- Water Bottle
- Rain Jacket
- Day Pack / Small Backpack
- Essential Clothing
- Essential Toiletries
- Prescription Medications (as needed)

Suggested items for camp:

- Costumes or fun clothing
- Musical Instruments
- Card Games / Board Games
- Books
- Letter writing supplies and stamps

Things not to bring to camp:

- ****Cell Phones, Tablets, Laptops**** or other electronic devices that connect to wifi or cellular networks.
- Handheld electronic games (Switch, Gameboy, etc.)
- Weapons of any kind (slingshots, pocket knives, etc.)
- Tobacco, Vapes, Illegal Drugs, or Alcohol products (possession of these items is contrary to the signed personal agreement and will result in dismissal)
- Food, Soda, Snacks, Candy

"Practicing Presence" Policy:

To foster meaningful connections, presence, and personal growth, The Mountain promotes a "no cell phone" policy at camp. By unplugging from the virtual world, campers are encouraged to engage fully with their surroundings, build real-life friendships, reduce distractions, and immerse

themselves in the unique, supportive community that MountainCamp offers. It is our goal that all campers have the opportunity to experience the sense of belonging and interconnectedness that is possible in a screen-free environment.

By "disconnecting" from screens, campers can better connect to our community. Electronics that can be connected to wifi and cellular networks are a distraction to the individual and the community. Possession of these electronics also breaks one of our Big 4 Rules by being inherently exclusive. We have found in the past that campers who stay "connected" to their outside world have a harder time adjusting to the camp atmosphere and schedule. Please leave these items at home or they will be confiscated by Staff and kept in a safe place until the end of the camper's session. (Note: Cell phones traveling with campers arriving/departing from airports are the exception. These campers will be expected to deliver them to Staff upon arrival to MountainCamp. ASCENDERS may also possess cell phones, for use only during permissible times.)

Food, Soda, Snacks, Candy

We provide three nutritious meals daily in our dining hall (with consideration for dietary restrictions and preferences), as well as one snack each afternoon and one snack each evening. We do not allow outside food to come into camp during camper sessions. This long time policy is to deter bugs and other unwanted pests from making a home in our camper cabins as well as ensuring fairness between cabins and within the cabin life. Any food sent to camp either upon arrival or in care packages will be confiscated.

SENDING AND RECEIVING MAIL

Our campers love to receive mail! Please make sure all mail is sent no later than the last Wednesday of your camper's session. Each day Staff will distribute packages and letters (unless marked with a specific date for distribution). All e-mail communications to campers will be printed and placed in camper mailboxes each day. Outgoing mail will also be delivered to the post office daily.

To email campers -

To: youthcamp+letters@themountainrlc.org
Subject: [Camper Name] and [Cabin #]

To send packages and letters by post to campers -

For Letters and USPS Mail:

MountainCamp
Session Name
Camper Name, Cabin #
PO Box 1299
Highlands, NC 28741

For Packages:

MountainCamp
Session Name
Camper Name, Cabin #
3872 Dillard Rd/1299
Highlands, NC 28741

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER!

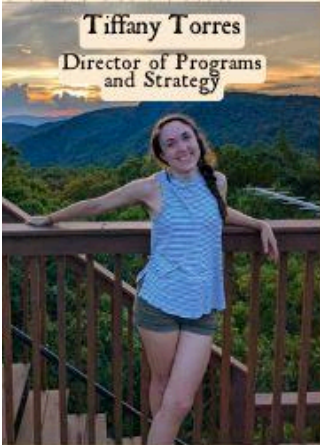
Rock Climbing will be offered at an additional cost as an **OPTIONAL** activity for many camp sessions, excluding Beginner Camp and Elementary Camp. To register your camper for rock climbing, please visit the [CampWise Registration Portal](#).

This year, **Rafting** on the Nantahala River and **Tubing** on the French Broad River are **INCLUDED** at no additional cost to campers. The Mountain has included the additional costs in the price of registration in order to make these enriching recreational activities available to as many campers as possible. Signed waivers will still be required for each activity.

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We are looking forward to greeting past campers and meeting new campers soon! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Camp Leadership.


Youth Programs at The Mountain



Tiffany Torres
Director of Programs and Strategy

Tiffany first discovered The Mountain's magic in 2005 after attending a Youth CON with her UU Congregation in Jacksonville, FL. She quickly found a home at The Mountain through summers spent at MountainCamp, and returned seasonally as a Camp Counselor, Program Coordinator, Camp Director, and most recently a Consultant. For nearly a year, Tiffany has provided strategic support for youth and adult programming at The Mountain, often drawing on inspiration gathered in her Masters in Leadership for Sustainability at the University of Vermont. Tiffany is passionate about transformative learning and wellbeing in K-12 settings, and brings over 15 years of experience in the Farm to School sector.

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(850) 792-5226



Blake Burks
Youth Programs Manager

Blake grew up in Virginia and graduated from Lenior-Rhyne College where he studied Psychology. He attended various summer camps as a child, with 4-H Camp as his summer staple. Blake comes to The Mountain with over 15 years of experience in the camp industry, and immense passion for experiential education. Blake is excited to join the Mountain family and can't wait to connect with the many wonderful youth and adults that call The Mountain home.

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828-256-5838 ext 250

Tiffany Torres

Director of Programs & Strategy

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Blake Burks

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