

MEGA DAYS

2021

**Counselor and Support Staff
Info Packet and Application**

Hey High Schoolers -

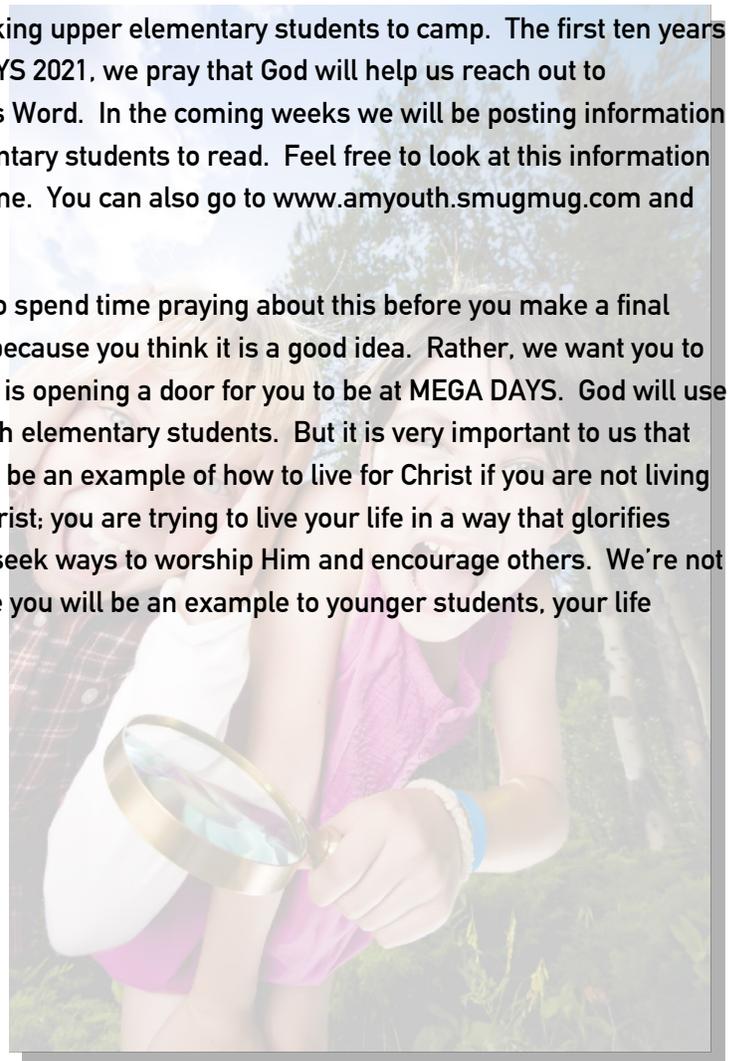
We're excited about the return of MEGA DAYS for 2021. After 10 years of MEGA DAYS, we had an unexpected pause because of the coronavirus. But we are hopeful that as we move toward the summer of 2021, we can kick off summer in a big way with the return of MEGA DAYS.

Here are some details: MEGA DAYS will be June 1-5, 2021. It is a camp just for students currently in 3rd-6th grades. MEGA DAYS is co-sponsored by the youth ministry and the children's ministry, and staffed by students and adults from our church family. High school students serve as our counseling and support staff for the week. We'll take some parents of students in 3rd-6th grades to work as craft leaders, nurse, activities coordinator, etc. As a part of MEGA DAYS, students will get to participate in Bible lessons, crafts, games, swimming, games, devotionals, and friends. MEGA DAYS will take place at a camp called Waters Edge (which is different than Forest Glen.) It's about 2 hours east of B/C near Crockett. (Counselors and staff may need to be available on May 31 if we are able to go to camp to decorate and make final preparations for camp.)

Counselors will have a group of students that he/she would be responsible for during the week. Each counselor will have a co-counselor. Support staff will help Monty and Heather and Jenni with running the events for the week. We do not know how many campers will come to MEGA DAYS this year. It could be a normal amount, or it could be less because of covid. The number of high schoolers who are able to go to Mega Days this year will be related to the number of campers who sign-up. Regardless of how many counselors and support staff we are able to take, if you feel led to apply to be a part of this week, please do. It's a great opportunity for you serve God by sharing his love with younger students. And we'll do our best to take as many high school students as we can.

MEGA DAYS began in the summer of 2010 with the goal of taking upper elementary students to camp. The first ten years were incredibly successful. As we look forward to MEGA DAYS 2021, we pray that God will help us reach out to elementary students with His love and help them to know His Word. In the coming weeks we will be posting information about MEGA DAYS on the youth website for parents of elementary students to read. Feel free to look at this information to learn more about the camp or ask Monty or Heather anytime. You can also go to www.amyouth.smugmug.com and see pictures from MEGA DAYS from past years.

If you are considering applying for MEGA DAYS, we ask you to spend time praying about this before you make a final decision. It is mucho important that you do not just sign-up because you think it is a good idea. Rather, we want you to sign-up because you want to serve God and you feel like God is opening a door for you to be at MEGA DAYS. God will use faithful high schoolers in powerful ways to share His love with elementary students. But it is very important to us that our high school students are truly living for God. You can not be an example of how to live for Christ if you are not living for Him yourself. That means: you are seeking to grow in Christ; you are trying to live your life in a way that glorifies Him; you are not involved in sinful behaviors or actions; you seek ways to worship Him and encourage others. We're not saying you have to be perfect – only Jesus was – but because you will be an example to younger students, your life needs to line-up with Christlike actions.



Here is what is involved in being a counselor or a part of the support staff at MEGA DAYS:

Counselors are responsible for a group of 3rd, 4th, 5th, or 6th graders for the 5 days of MEGA DAYS. This means you'll be taking care of them and making sure they are okay throughout the whole week. You'll have many opportunities to offer encouragement, to motivate and to have fun with your group of students. It will be a big responsibility, but it will be a great way to serve God by loving children.

You will also help teach Bible lessons and help lead nightly devos. Lots of our teaching will be done in a "big group" setting, and we will do the teaching in these times, but there are also some times when you will need to lead your group in lessons or devos.

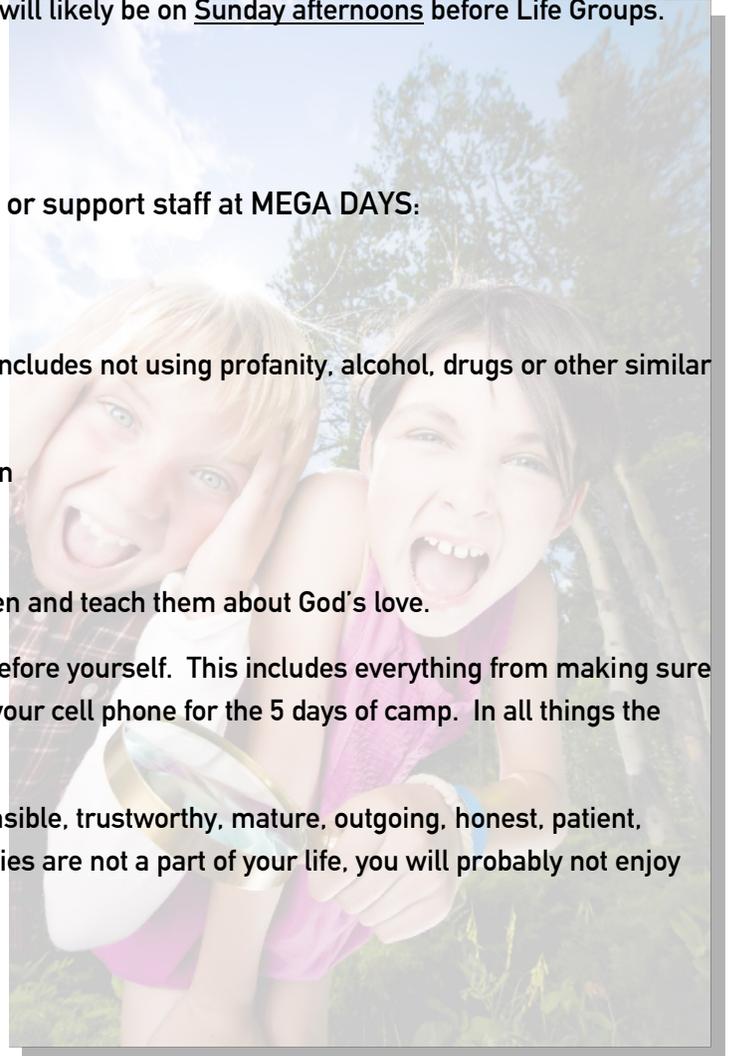
Our support staff will work closely with Monty and Heather and Jenni making all of the events of Mega Days happen. You'll work directly with the campers many times throughout the day. This is a serving role (just like being a counselor) and so you'll need to be willing to work to make camp great for the 3rd-6th graders.

For all counselors and support staff, your primary importance for the week will be your group of students. We will be putting their needs in front of our own. We'll be doing our best to make sure they have a great week at camp. You will need to have an "others first" mindset in order to be a successful counselor. You will have no "time off." Really, your entire time at camp will be spent with the students...without any time off. And this is not a week when you can hang out with HS students. The elementary students are our priority for the week. It will be a busy week and it will be a hard week, but it will be a great week.

Sometime in late April or in May, we will have some counselor training sessions. All counselors must go through counselor training before they can go to MEGA DAYS. These will likely be on Sunday afternoons before Life Groups.

Here are the requirements to be a part of the counseling or support staff at MEGA DAYS:

- Current 9th-12th grade student at A&M Church of Christ
- Have a solid relationship with Christ
- Be striving for personal holiness in your own life. This includes not using profanity, alcohol, drugs or other similar behaviors.
- Regular church attendance and youth group participation
- Passing grades in your classes at school
- A willingness to spend time with elementary age children and teach them about God's love.
- A willingness to put the needs of elementary students before yourself. This includes everything from making sure they have their food before you get yours...to not having your cell phone for the 5 days of camp. In all things the campers come first.
- A counselor should have these qualities: faithful, responsible, trustworthy, mature, outgoing, honest, patient, enthusiastic, caring, helpful, encouraging. If these qualities are not a part of your life, you will probably not enjoy Mega Days.



A few final things to know:

It is our goal that every high schooler who wants to participate in Mega Days be able to do so. Obviously, we don't know how many elementary students will sign-up, and we don't know exactly how many counselors we will need. The number of counselors we have will be based on the number of 3rd-6th graders who sign-up. We anticipate needing 6 HS guys and 6 HS girls for MEGA DAYS. Before you sign-up, please know that we will do our very best to be fair in the selection process of counselors. Maybe it will work out so that every high schooler who wants to be a counselor can go, but it might not. We will be prayerful about this process. This is not a youth ministry that shows favoritism, and we do not want it to start being that way.

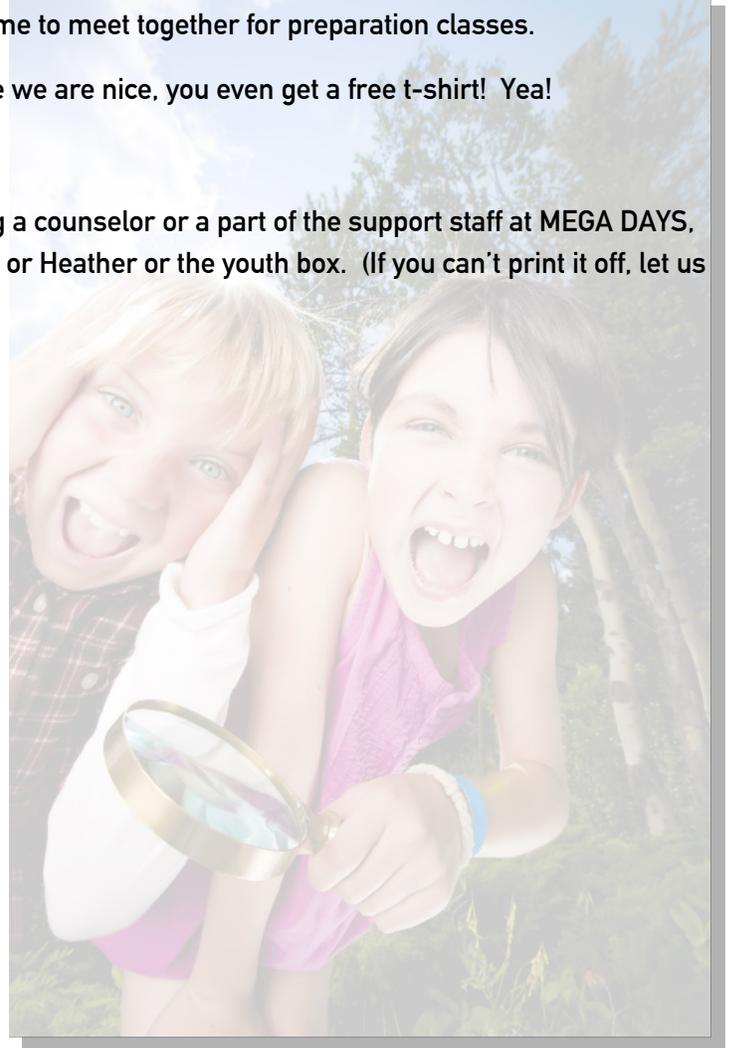
In the event we have more high schoolers sign-up than we have spots available, students will be selected based on these areas: the answers given on the application, experience, church participation, seniority (grade level), and possibly the order in which the applications are submitted.

Counselor applications should be turned in no later than Wednesday, April 21. They can be turned in to the Youth Box (in the Refinery across from High School room door.) We will contact the HS students who will be serving as soon as we can. The 3rd-6th graders will be signing up by early-May, so we won't have a final number of HS students needed before then, but we hope to have a really good idea. After we find out who will be the counselors and support staff for MEGA DAYS, we'll work with everyone's schedule to find the best time to meet together for preparation classes.

There is no cost for serving at MEGA DAYS. And just because we are nice, you even get a free t-shirt! Yea!

If you have read all of this info and you are interested in being a counselor or a part of the support staff at MEGA DAYS, fill out the application on the next page and turn it in to Monty or Heather or the youth box. (If you can't print it off, let us know and we'll print a copy for you.)

We look forward to a great year at MEGA DAYS!



Mega Days 2021 Counselor Application

Your Name: _____ Current Grade: _____ School: _____

Tell us some things about your relationship with God: _____

Have you been baptized yet? If not, are you thinking about it? (feel free to elaborate as much as you are comfortable doing...there are not wrong answers on this...just a chance to let us know about your walk with God.)

What summer camps have you been to (church/sports/etc)? _____

When have you worked with children before? (list classes, camps, VBS, babysitting, tutoring, etc.) _____

Why would you like to be a counselor at Mega Days? _____

What are some activities/characteristics/qualities do you think are important in a summer camp for 3rd-6th grade children? _____

What are some characteristics/qualities you think are important for a camp counselor or support staff member to have?

Please read the following and circle yes or no:

Part of being a Mega Days counselor or support staff member will be to go through some training sessions in late April or early May.
Are you willing to attend these training sessions? Yes No

Are you willing to help with group games, up-front singing, skits, activities, etc? Yes No

Are you willing to spend time preparing for camp by writing a letter to each of the students in your group before camp? Yes No

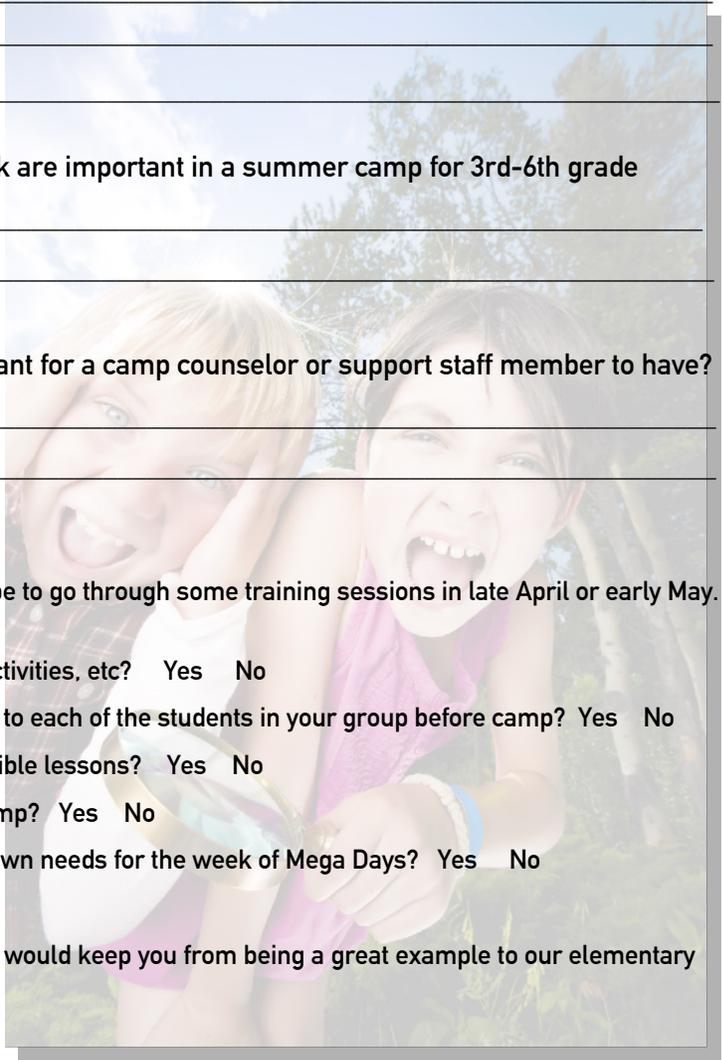
Are you willing to spend time studying and gathering supplies for Bible lessons? Yes No

Are you willing to work before camp to help prepare activities at camp? Yes No

Are you willing to put the needs of 3rd-6th graders in front of your own needs for the week of Mega Days? Yes No

Are you doing your best to live a Christ-like life? Yes No

Is there anything in your life (behavior, hidden sin, attitude, etc) that would keep you from being a great example to our elementary students? Yes No



Turn this page in to the youth box no later than Wednesday, April 21