

# Shrine Mont Camp Annual Report 2024

## General summary

Shrine Mont Camp (SMC henceforth) ran a successful year of programming in 2024. This season we served 404 campers across a 6 week period with a total of 12 sessions of camp. We employed 76 individuals throughout the summer. SMC's program structure runs as a single camp (or 'one body'), with the different sessions offered to parents throughout a given summer (our many parts).

The Diocese's summer camp ministry says goodbye to the Director of 2 years James Williams, Camp Registrar Jennifer Cox who served for 1 year, as well as Nursing Coordinator Lynn Gray, who has served camp over 16 years.

## Highlights

- We are glad to make use of our new photo communication system (Pixieset); this is in response to parent surveys that labeled communication as a place of growth for camp. Parents are now able to see camper photos throughout a session.
- Camp bounded forward in encountering God's Creation in 2024. We placed an emphasis on outdoor recreation this summer, with 10 out of 12 sessions going camping!
- We have continued efforts to increase diversity and equitable access to our program. This season we established a mechanism for families to voluntarily disclose their racial/ethnic background, allowing for an accurate understanding of who camp can and does serve.
- Two of our newer sessions, All Saints and Lil's, doubled their attendances from 2023. Thank you to the parents who said yes to trying these new sessions on the mountain.
- We were able to both partner with Shrine Mont and raise the visibility of our scholarship funds for families by offering the **100 for 100th Scholarship**. This gave each family 100\$ off their tuition for 2024, and will continue into the 2025 season to celebrate Shrine Mont's 100th Anniversary!
- Camp had another successful year in collaborating with our partnerships.
  - In particular, we were glad to have campers from our partnership Grandparents as Parents (GAP). GAP is based out of Emmanuel Episcopal in the Shenandoah Valley and is a grandparent/caregiver support group for families in the surrounding area.
  - Thanks also to the continued support of Santa Maria De Iglesia of Falls Church, the congregation that sent the most campers for the past two summers, as well as our partnership with Center Pole and the The Kelly Foundation - based out of Montana, The Kelly Foundation graciously help campers make the journey to Virginia to join in on the summer fun!
- In collaboration with the Bishop, camp established an Advisory Council. This group is Chaired by Bishop Ted Gulick and assisted by Vice Chair Mary 'Boo' Elmore.

- In the transition period after James Williams' departure on August 30th, Ministry Architects has been contracted to continue the ministry forward, as well as guide the selection process for a new Director. A selection committee has also been formed to assist in this process.
  - Part of their work was to conduct an independent assessment of the program, which was shared with the Diocese at large via email. This assessment spoke with 48 stakeholders of the program to create their report.

#### Camp Surveys - sharing from last summer, looking toward 2025

Since 2022, Shrine Mont Camp has contracted with Sacred Playgrounds to solicit direct feedback from our parents and campers about our program. Sacred Playgrounds works annually with 60+ faith-based camp organizations from across the United States to tell the story of how transformational camp ministry is in creating lifelong disciples of Christ. The results of 2023, summarized below, were used to influence camp programming in 2024.

Camp is conducting parent surveys for the summer of 2024, as well as having added camper surveys to our measurements, so as to have both parent and camper feedback in a given summer.

Summer 2023's Parent Survey had 85 parent responses representing 109 individual campers. There were many key takeaways:

- Camp in 2023 was impactful, fun, and transformation for campers: 98% of parents said their children had fun at camp, 95% of parents said there was a clear positive impact from camp on their child, and 97% of respondents said they would send their camp again in the future.
- The survey highlighted key growth spaces for our program, all of which was a priority for summer 2024. Communication was a focus area of growth named by parents, alongside engaging in the outdoors.
- 78% of campers identified as Episcopalian in 2023, with 38% of respondents saying it was their first time at camp.

The ministry hopes to continue soliciting feedback from its key stakeholders, and making use of the 2024 Survey Results to influence the planning and programming for summer 2025.