

Changes Coming to Camp Smoky Christian Retreat Summer Camps

Boys and girls coming to Camp Smoky Christian Retreat this summer will see changes. Nestled in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, the camp is in a perfect place to weave an outdoors theme through the Bible instruction and camp activities, so leaders plan to place a greater focus on God's great creation, the outdoors. Adventure Camp 1 will be the new name for summer camp, with Adventure Camp 2 coming in 2019, and so on.

The reason Camp Smoky Christian Retreat exists is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to continue the great purpose of why its predecessor, Smoky Mountain Academy, was founded in 1915, said Robert Nichols, Director of Missions for Sevier County Association of Baptists. An early school catalog expressed, "Smoky Mountain Academy lives, not for itself, but for the boys and girls of mountain vigor and talent, to whom the world must look for standards of leadership and valor, both in religion and national life."

Nichols and Pastor Sam Steele of Sevier County Missions Church will co-direct the children's summer camp this year. The association is the owner of Camp Smoky, and the retreat's operations are under its leadership. In these last few years, the retreat has undergone a restoration including the addition of a swimming pool.

For the first time in many years, girls and boys will be attending separated camps. The first camp will be the Girl's Adventure Camp 1, beginning Sunday evening, June 24, 2018. Registration begins at 6:00 P.M., and the camp runs through Wednesday morning, June 27 to 9:00 A.M., ending with a parent/camper breakfast. Boy's Adventure Camp 1 begins Wednesday evening, June 27, 2018. Registration begins at 6:00 P.M., and the camp runs through Saturday morning, June 30 at 9:00 A.M., ending with a parent/camper breakfast. Each camp is for three nights and two full days. You can indicate on the camper registration form whether or not you as parents will attend the camp's closing breakfast with your child. The camp fee is \$110 per child. Nichols says that the goal is for "each child" to have a wonderful camping experience. Youth Camp will be welcoming back Donny and Lisa Hatfield as co-directors July 15 through 20, 2018. The fee for this camp is \$130. Assistance scholarships are available; information on these may be found through the Sevier County Association of Baptists. Campers may go to campsmoky.com to submit a form for attendance to this summer's camps. Interested parents may fill out the pdf file at campsmoky.com under Camp Forms: 2018 Summer Camps: Camper Registration. Forms may be completed and emailed to robert@sevbaptist.org or printed and mailed to Camp Smoky, PO Box 4099, Sevierville, TN 37864, or dropped off at the association office at 835 W. Main Street in Sevierville. Half of the registration cost, (\$55 or \$65) is due along with the registration forms by May 1st. The second half, (\$55 or \$65) is due upon your child's registration on the first day of camp. If paying by check or cash, the rates

remain the same flat rate of \$110 or \$130. If paying by PayPal on line on our campsmoky.com Home Page through the “Donate” link, add 3% for the surcharge. If you do not have a PayPal account, it’s ok, you use your credit card on a separate link under the “Donate” link for anyone who doesn’t have a PayPal account. Be sure to include camper’s name and the camp dates on the memo line.

Camp directors are seeking volunteers to work in this ministry. For those interested, a form can be found at campsmoky.com under Camp Forms: 2018 Summer Camps. For more information, please visit this same website or contact Robert Nichols at 865 453-0124 (o) or 865 603-0701 (c). (written by Veta King)