

A LEADER Guide to Girls Camp 2026— Joliet, Illinois Stake Youth

Camp Theme: Jesus Christ Is the Treasure

*...Remember and always focus on Jesus Christ. He is our... greatest treasure. As you come to Him, you will be rewarded with **STRENGTH** to face life's challenges, **COURAGE** to do what is right, and the ability to fulfill **YOUR MISSION** in mortality. - Elder Renlund*

Please see “A PARENT Guide to Girls Camp 2026” for additional information, including deadlines, packing lists, expectations, etc.



Deadlines: March 15 - Online registration complete

April 1 - Permission Slip & Medical Release Form submitted

May 1 - Camp fees due to units

June 1 - Transportation Form submitted (if you are driving to/from camp)

Adult Leaders: Each unit should provide *two adult leaders for the first five YW, plus one more for every additional five YW*. All leaders must complete Youth Protection Training, follow two-deep leadership, be approved by their bishop/president, register for camp, and submit a Medical Release form. Leaders do not need to pay for camp. *Any leaders beyond those required by the numbers of each unit must be approved by the stake YW president prior to attending camp.*

Shirts/Swag: The stake will be providing camp T-shirts for each participant this year. Any other identifying unit shirt or bandana or fashion statement is up to you. But it is not required.

Decorations at Camp: This is optional! Whatever is put up must not leave holes or do any damage to walls and buildings. Our 2026 theme has a pirate slant. Have fun with it!

Traditions (Secret Sisters, Pillow Treats, etc.): We will be hosting a stake-wide “First Mate” initiative at camp this year, similar to secret sisters. Each participant (adult leaders included) will be given a First Mate from a different unit at the beginning of camp. Please plan to have everyone bring three small tokens or gifts for their First Mate totaling no more than \$10 combined. This can include handwritten notes, a favorite scripture shared, a sheet of stickers, or something made at our craft stations at camp. Get creative! The stake will have backup First Mate gifts at camp should a YW forget or need assistance with this.

First Mates is not meant to replace any unit traditions. Feel free to organize your own Golden Sister, Secret Sister, pillow treats, etc. however you would like, but it is not required.

Schedule: The Stake Youth Camp Leaders have been meeting regularly for months to brainstorm and organize incredible activities and experiences for ALL of our young women. A copy of the final schedule will be made available at the beginning of camp and posted daily. Every effort has been made to ensure a good balance of free time and scheduled time, and each activity has been planned with a purpose, keeping our theme, “Jesus Christ Is the Treasure,” at the center of all that we do.

Morning Devotionals: Prepare to provide 30 minutes each morning for unit devotionals, led by unit YCLs or leaders. Topics may follow the 2026 youth theme or focus on the current needs of your young women. The goal is simply that mornings begin with a moment of spiritual enlightenment and prayer.

Testimony Meeting: Testimony meeting this year will be held by unit, most likely on Wednesday morning. Plan for a sacred hour of sharing and reflection focused on our Savior.

Bishop/Branch President Visit: Join us Wednesday, June 17 at 1:00 pm. The YM and YW will be combined at this point. You are welcome to arrive at any time that morning and join the YW for lunch at noon on Wednesday, but official bishop activities will not start until 1:00 pm. Bring a towel (and possibly a change of clothes) and especially your fun and adventurous attitude!

Pray for Miracles: President Russell M. Nelson teaches “...the Lord will bless you with miracles if you believe in Him, ‘doubting nothing.’ Do the spiritual work to seek miracles.” We know many of our young women are in need of miracles, and camp can be a place where those miracles can occur. We invite you to join stake youth and adult leaders in praying NOW that there will be an outpouring of heavenly blessings prior to and at our camp.

Thank You: We deeply appreciate your service. Your dedication blesses lives—and we pray blessings in return for you and your families.

Questions: For more information about registration, camp fees, and facilities, please contact Jen Haglund (Stake YW President) at (615) 414-4841. For information about camp schedules and activities, please contact Jaime Lea (Stake YW Camp Director) at (702) 493-9384. Forms and more information can be found at jolietstakeyouth.wixsite.com/youth.