



Music Camp 2026

Counsellor (Youth Leader) Handbook

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“ When heaven comes in touch with the earth, there is music and song,--"thanks-giving, and the voice of melody.”

The Youth's Instructor, March 29, 1904





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General Information

Dates

Youth Leadership Training: Thursday January 1 - Sunday January 4 2026

Camp Dates: Sunday January 4 - Sunday January 18 2026

Location

Elim Heights Youth Camp
5760 Putty Rd, Colo Heights NSW 2756

Contact Details

Mobile Number(s)

Julie Dearham - 0423 628 085
Emmanuel Higgins - 0468 321 559

Email

pr@mus.camp

Web

www.mus.camp

Youth Leadership Training

It is essential for all youth leaders to attend youth leadership training, even if they are a returning counsellor.

Leadership training commences Thursday evening before Camp. Please aim to arrive by 6pm. YLT is free, with accommodation and meals provided.

YLT is an important time of team-building, connecting with your co-counsellor and personal preparation to serving at camp.

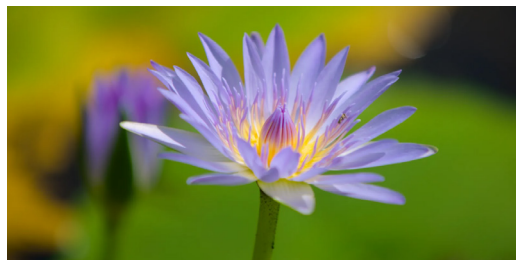
If you are flying

Please schedule your incoming flights to arrive at Sydney Domestic or International airport before 3pm. We will have transport to camp available for those flying in.

Note: Do not book flights until your application has been approved.

Departure Time

Please schedule your flights to depart after 2pm on Sunday from Sydney Domestic or International airport.



Cancellations

Once accepted as a counsellor, we will be counting on you being there. If a cancellation is necessary, please notify us immediately so we can make arrangements to fill your role.

We appreciate your consideration of others in this matter. A full refund will be given provided cancellation has been made prior to camp. Refunds cannot be made after camp begins.

Problems at Camp

Our aim is to optimise the camp experience. It can be unfair to others when someone refuses to abide by the rules of camp. We therefore expect staff to follow all camp codes and policies. Each must also be willing to accept the leadership of your head counsellor and/or the camp coordinator and leaders of camp.

Personal Preparation

Please join us in prayer and personal spiritual preparation leading up to camp. Through the example of camp staff, younger participants are shown a picture of Christianity that will leave lasting impressions.

The unconscious unstudied influence of a holy life is the most powerful example we can be.





Spiritual Focus

As you serve at Music Camp, we pray that this will also be an opportunity to come aside from the busyness of life to re-connect with God.

We especially ask that you refrain from promoting controversial or unclear doctrinal subjects which tend to create division. Refusal to do so may result in a request to leave.

Madison Missions supports the ministry and evangelism of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

We uphold the plain teachings of the Bible as our guide and authority in life and place emphasis on the Spirit of Prophecy (writings of Ellen G White) as inspired by God, to illuminate and magnify scripture.

Remember

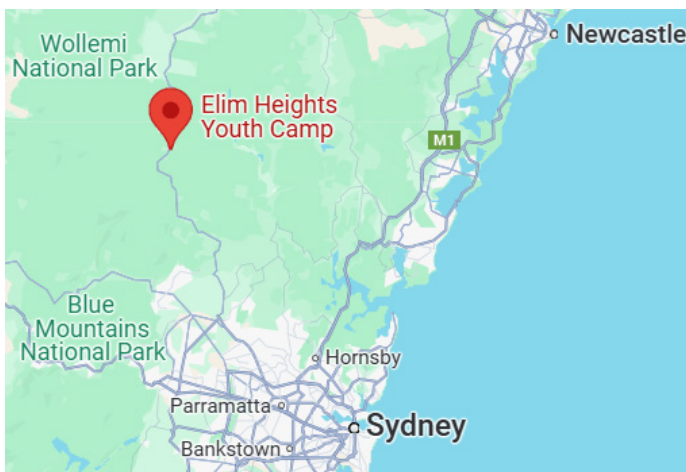
- ✓ Intense/romantic relationships during camp may be a distraction to you and your campers.
- ✓ A genuine walk with Christ, energy and enthusiasm and being a 'loving and loveable' Christian will bring you success as a youth leader!
- ✓ We will be praying for you.



Directions

Address

Elim Heights Youth Camp
5760 Putty Rd, Colo Heights NSW 2756



Transportation

Airport / Bus / Train Information

Airport

A pickup service to/from Sydney airport is available for counsellors arriving before 3pm on Thursday before camp for Youth Leadership Training and flying at the end of camp from Sydney airport after 2pm. A fee of \$20 per direction applies.

Please Note: Do not purchase any flight tickets before you have been accepted. Once accepted, it is then your responsibility to send a copy of your itinerary/ticket to us at least two weeks before camp starts.

What to do when you arrive:

Unless you have made other arrangements with us, proceed to baggage claim and collect your bags. Remain by the luggage carousel until a representative from Music Camp picks you up. Look for someone with a sign saying "Eastward Music Camp"

Bus/Train:

If you will be traveling by bus or train and require pick-up or drop-off, please notify us asap so we can make the necessary arrangements.



Uniform for Filming

Please pay careful attention to the following information regarding the uniform for filming, which will be taking place during the second week of camp.

Music camp uniform this year will be similar to previous Music Camps where we have provided some of the uniform.



What We Are Supplying

We will supply **blouses** for the girls and **ties** for the boys.

What You Need To Bring

Girls need to bring a **long black skirt**.

Boys need to bring **black pants** and a **long-sleeve white shirt**.

Both need to bring **smart black closed-toe shoes**.





Camp Organisation

Registration & Check-in

All youth leaders meet for special prayer at the registration area at 1:30pm Sunday afternoon at the opening of camp, prior to commencement of registration.

Daily Briefing Meeting

A daily briefing and de-briefing meeting will take place with counsellors and head counsellors. Location and time TBA, please ask your head counsellor or the camp coordinator.

Prayer Bands

A special prayer unit will be formed for parents and staff to pray throughout the day, and during the evening campfire messages. Prayer is powerful!

Participant Units

Participants will be divided into units of 6-10 participants with 2 counsellors assigned to each unit.

Unit names will be posted on the unit lodgings and listed on the name tags. Each unit has an identifying colour which appears on the name tags and unit signs.

Lodgings

If their parents are not present, participants will stay with their counsellors in their unit room.

Name Tags

All participants and staff will be issued a name tag. Name tags should be placed in plain sight on your outer-most garment, just below the left shoulder. Name tags should be worn at all times.

Line Call

Line calls are held throughout the day to prepare for the next activity and to make sure no one is missing. Counsellors are required to get their unit to Line Call on time.

The first unit dismissed for each meal is responsible for clean-up/dish duty.



Volunteer Agreement



A Note from the Eastward Music Camp Team

Thank you! We are excited that you have decided to apply as a youth leader at Eastward Music Camp. This role is one of the most important at camp. You will be a role-model for your younger friends.

Our aim is to inspire, equip and encourage others to know God and share the good news of the gospel, and help young people experience God for themselves.

Volunteer Agreement

This simple agreement outlines our relationship within the context of volunteer staff at Eastward Music Camp run by Madison Missions.

This agreement is not intended to be a legally binding contract between us and it may be terminated at any time by either us or you.

Music Camp Youth Leader Role

The position of Staff (or Counsellor) at Eastward Music Camp is a spiritual appointment on a volunteer basis. This means that, if you accept the role, you perform all duties on a voluntary basis and you will not receive remuneration or payment for your work.

Neither Madison Missions or you as camp staff, intend for any employment or contractual relationship to be created (ie. you acknowledge that you are not an employee, independent contractor or consultant at Madison Missions). If this changes at any time, and there is a possibility that you might undertake paid work for the organisation or be involved in vocational training, we will discuss this and document the arrangement in a formal employment contract, contract for services or other written agreement.

What you can expect when volunteering as Staff at Music Camp

Madison Missions values its volunteers and we will endeavour to provide you with:

- ✓ a full induction, orientation and any training necessary for the volunteer role
- ✓ a safe environment in which to perform your role
- ✓ respect for your privacy, including keeping your private information confidential
- ✓ a supervisor, so that you have the opportunity to ask questions and get feedback
- ✓ reimbursement for your reasonable expenses so you are not out-of-pocket as a result of volunteering for us
- ✓ insurance to cover you for the volunteer du-

ties you are authorised to perform

What Madison Missions asks of its volunteers

We ask that you:

- ✓ support our aims and objectives
- ✓ participate in all relevant induction and training programs
- ✓ only undertake duties you are authorised to perform and always operate under the direction and supervision of nominated staff and obey reasonable directions and instructions
- ✓ understand and comply with Madison Missions' code of conduct, risk management strategies, policies and procedures
- ✓ hold a current NSW Working with Children Check, or equivalent inter-state check.
- ✓ notify your supervisor or another member of staff of any health and safety issues or potentially hazardous situations that may pose a risk to you or others and report any accidents or incidents relating to staff, volunteers, or the workplace
- ✓ behave appropriately and courteously to all staff, clients and the public in the course of your role
- ✓ use any property or equipment given to you in your role safely and only for purpose of the role and return it to the organisation when you finish your volunteer role
- ✓ let us know if you wish to change the nature of your contribution (e.g. hours, role) to Madison Missions at any time
- ✓ comply with the law at all times, and
- ✓ be open and honest in your dealings with us and let us know if we can improve our volunteer program and the support that you receive.

Contact person

Your contact person at Eastward Music Camp will be Emmanuel Higgins or Julie Dearham. If you have any questions or concerns about your role, your health and safety, or if there is any assistance you need to help you undertake your role, please contact us as soon as possible.

Emmanuel: 0468321559, eman@eastward.edu.au

Julie: 0423628085, julie@eastward.edu.au

By applying to attend Music Camp as staff you are agreeing to the terms of this volunteer agreement. If you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact us before you apply.

Camp Codes and Policies



Food

Camp food (which is delicious!) is all plant-based. Camp food service is not able to cater to individual dietary requirements. Participants with food allergies or sensitivities must take personal responsibility to avoid such items. Anyone needing to bring specialised food items to accommodate their dietary needs must clear this in advance with camp administration. Such food items must be stored in the camp kitchen. No food items may be stored in your lodgings.

Clothing

For Ladies

- ✓ modest, sturdy skirts or dresses falling well below the knee
- ✓ no low-cut, see-through, tight, or sleeveless tops

For Gentlemen

- ✓ neat casual clothing, such as jeans or long cotton pants, t-shirts or long-sleeve shirts.
- ✓ no low-riding pants/shorts, tank tops or sleeveless tops. Shorts must be knee length.



For Both

Be sure to bring cool clothing! It will be quite hot this time of year. Some days may be cooler so we recommend bringing some warmer clothing too.

During filming sessions you will need a sun hat in case of delays.

Participants should bring sturdy clothing and shoes for hiking to filming locations or participating in other outdoor activities.

Please avoid any questionable lettering or pictures on clothing.

Please note: Participants who breach the dress code will be asked to change and dress accordingly.

Laundry Facilities

Laundry facilities are available, but please bring enough clothes for one week. No towels or sheets will be washed at camp by our laundry staff.

Thank you

We wish to thank you in advance for your cooperation with our camp codes and policies. You will find that your happy, positive attitude toward any camp rules will indeed enhance your experience whilst at camp.

Our Vision & Mission

Our Vision

Every church member connected with Christ, active in evangelism, experiencing and proclaiming the gospel, and preparing the world for Christ's return.

Our Mission

Creating opportunities for education and evangelism.





Code of Conduct

It is our policy at Eastward Music Camp to create and sustain a friendly, safe environment for children, physically and spiritually, where they will feel comfortable and secure. The following is a summary of the Risk Management Strategy that we have in place which we expect all staff members to abide by at all times during the camp.

- ✓ The values and principles of this Code of Conduct are the standards of conduct expected of all staff and volunteers toward young children and adults alike.
- ✓ All staff and volunteers will obtain a Working With Children Check and agree to comply with the Risk Management Strategy document.
- ✓ Any child, age 10 or 11, attending camp as a participant will have a parent present at the camp, unless prior arrangements have been made and agreed to by the parent or guardian.
- ✓ This same Code of Conduct will apply to ALL children at the camp facilities, regardless of whether they are a participant or not.
- ✓ Language used by staff and volunteers should be elevating at all times and will never be:
 - sexually suggestive or coarse
 - abusive or intimidating
 - derogatory or insulting or
 - racist.
- ✓ Behaviour by staff must always be of the highest standard. There should never be
 - unwelcome or unwarranted touching of any nature;
 - encouragement given to any form of precocious sexual behaviour; or
 - the administration of physical discipline.
- ✓ Staff or volunteers will avoid being alone with individual children or young people or conveying them alone in their vehicles.
- ✓ Professional staff such as teachers, nurses etc should uphold their professional codes of conduct at all times in relation to working with young people and children.
- ✓ Staff and volunteers will be alert to bullying, abuse or exploitation and will report these forms of behaviour through the appropriate channels as outlined in detail in the Risk Management Strategy.
- ✓ Senior staff will be available to counsel with young people or children with the appointed personnel being made known to all camp staff, volunteers and children.
- ✓ If staff and volunteers are faced with an ethical dilemma and there is no specific direction available, there are certain guidelines to follow in the Risk Management Strategy.
- ✓ Emergency contact details of participants will be available through the camp office.
- ✓ A nurse or qualified first-aid personnel will be available throughout the entire camp and will be made known to all present at camp.
- ✓ The camp environment will be scanned for potential dangers and the appropriate actions taken or warnings given.
- ✓ All physical activities will be age appropriate and suited to the skill levels of the participants with no-one being pressured to participate if they do not wish to do so.
- ✓ Where activities are conducted off site, appropriate records, reporting structure and supervision will be in place.
- ✓ Any breach of this Code of Conduct will be viewed seriously and may result in exclusion from Eastward activities and camps.

For full details contact us for the Risk Management Strategy document.



What to Bring

- ☐ Musical Instrument(s)
- ☐ KJV Bible
- ☐ Study material for personal devotions
- ☐ Uniform
- ☐ Water bottle
- ☐ Everyday clothes (see previous pages for the camp dress codes)
- ☐ Clothing you don't mind getting dirty in case such an activity necessitates this
- ☐ Sabbath clothes
- ☐ Sturdy, but comfortable walking shoes
- ☐ Daily changes of socks and underwear
- ☐ Laundry bag
- ☐ Pyjamas
- ☐ Bedding: sleeping bag, pillow, sheet
- ☐ Shower shoes (eg. thongs)
- ☐ Towel and washcloth
- ☐ Toiletries: toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, hairbrush, comb, shampoo, deodorant
- ☐ Sunscreen and hat
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Torch and batteries
- ☐ Money for church offering
- ☐ Notebook or note pad
- ☐ Pens and pencils
- ☐ Prescription medications you must take or may need (eg: asthma medication)
- ☐ Small Backpack - to carry around water bottles, hats, class materials etc

What Not to Bring

- ☐ Portable electronic gaming devices, and such things
- ☐ Portable audio devices
- ☐ Card games
- ☐ Secular reading material
- ☐ Food, gum, drinks
- ☐ Jewellery (including rings)
- ☐ Wrist or Ankle Bands
- ☐ Make-up, nail polish
- ☐ Tobacco, alcohol, drugs
- ☐ Weapons, fireworks
- ☐ Pets
- ☐ Any other item that may detract from the goals of camp



Thank You

Again, thank you for being willing to serve as a youth leader at Music Camp. Please keep us in your prayers while we plan and organise the camp between now and January. We will be praying for you too!



Questions? Comments?



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