

Where faith, fun, and fellowship meet!



2026 HYE CAMP FACT SHEET



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH (EASTERN)
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES



GETTING READY

Please review the following expectations with your child prior to arriving at camp, and take time to discuss them together at home.

KEEP SNACKS AT HOME.

Due to the rustic camp setting and the presence of severe food allergies among our participants, outside food and beverages are not permitted on campus. This includes snacks, candy, gum, and drinks of any kind. All packages sent to participants during the camp session will be screened for prohibited items.

CLEAN THREADS ONLY.

Clothing that is not conducive to a Christian camp environment is not permitted. This includes apparel with inappropriate slogans, images, or wording – including any words or designs printed on the backside of pants. Participants who are found wearing inappropriate clothing will be asked to change.

YOU BREAK IT, YOU BUY IT.

We ask all campers to be respectful stewards of the Camp Hickory facilities and property. In the event that damage occurs beyond normal wear and tear, it will be evaluated by the Camp Hickory Facilities Manager. Any costs associated with repair or replacement will be the responsibility of the participant's family. We appreciate your partnership in helping us care for and preserve our camp home for future campers.

LABEL ALL YOUR ITEMS.

Many items at camp look alike, so please label all clothing and personal belongings with your child's name. Camp is not responsible for lost items. A Lost & Found box is located in the dining hall, and items are regularly displayed during mealtimes in hopes of reuniting them with their owners. Any unclaimed items remaining at the close of the camp season will be donated.

KEEP COOL AT THE POOL.

Respectful, modest swimwear is required for all participants. Females must wear a one-piece bathing suit. Males must wear shorts-style swim trunks. Participants who are not dressed appropriately will be asked to change.

COME UNPLUGGED.

Hye Camp cannot be responsible for lost or stolen items. We strongly discourage bringing digital devices to camp, including phones, iPods, iPads, MP3 players, speakers, cameras, and similar electronics. Our goal is to foster a focused and faith-filled camp experience. Inappropriate music or media will not be permitted.

PREFERRED PACKING.

Due to limited space in the cabins, we recommend using duffel-style luggage that can be easily stored under your camper's bed. Many paths on campus are gravel and not conducive to big bags on wheels. Cabins are typically full, so please pack thoughtfully to ensure your child's safety and comfort..

LEAVE THE CELL AT HOME.

Cell phones are not permitted in cabins for campers or CITs, and we strongly encourage families to leave them at home. Any cell phones brought to Hye Camp – including smartphones without a SIM card – will be collected at registration and returned on the final day of the session. Campers and CITs will have designated opportunities to call home during the week.



DAILY SCHEDULE

This is a sample daily schedule; it is subject to change.

7:30 AM	Reveille
8:00 AM - 8:40 AM	Breakfast
8:45 AM - 9:15 AM	Chapel - Matins
9:15 AM - 9:45 AM	Cabin Clean Up & CIT Meeting
9:45 AM - 10:25 AM	Juniors Class 1 & Teen Sports
10:30 AM - 11:10 AM	Juniors Class 2 & Teen Sports/Swim
11:15 AM - 11:55 AM	Juniors Class 3 & Teen Swim
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM - 2:00 PM	Cabin Group Time & Staff Meeting
2:15 PM - 2:55 PM	Teens Class 1 & Juniors Sport
3:00 PM - 3:40 PM	Teens Class 2 & Juniors Sports/Swim
3:45 PM - 4:25 PM	Teens class 3 & Juniors Swim
4:30 PM - 5:45 PM	Canteen & Cabin Group Time
5:45 PM - 6:45 PM	Dinner
6:45 PM - 7:15 PM	Prepare for Evening Activity
7:15 PM - 8:45 PM	Evening Program
8:45 PM - 9:15 PM	Snack and W-HYE News
9:15 PM - 9:30 PM	Chapel - Vespers
9:30 PM	Juniors (8-12) to Cabins
10:00 PM	Lights Out Juniors
10:30 PM	Teens (13-15) to Cabins
11:00 PM	Lights Out for Teens
12:00 PM	Lights Out for CITs
1:00 AM	Lights Out for Staff

MEDICAL INFORMATION

MEDICAL PACKET & IMMUNIZATIONS

There is a two-page medical form that must be completed and signed by both the physician and the parent/guardian. This form includes the medical examination as well as the Standing Orders for the Administration of Medications. A completed form is required for each participant.

The form must clearly indicate which medications – both prescription and over-the-counter (such as calamine lotion, Bacitracin, Tylenol, Pepto Bismol, hydrocortisone cream, etc.) – the child's physician and parent authorize the Camp Nurse to administer.

Please note: We CANNOT administer any medications available in the Nurse's Station – including medications specifically prescribed for your child – without the required signatures and/or stamps from both the camper's physician and parent.

In addition, all participants will need to submit their immunization records. All documents must be uploaded to the CampInTouch Family Portal no later than July 15.

BRINGING MEDICATIONS

Please bring all required medicine in original containers, including prescription and over-the-counter medication. All medications must be turned in to the nurse at registration and kept in the Nurse's Station. Illinois State regulations require all medications to be housed in the Nurse's Station. **Campers, CITs, and Staff may NOT keep any medication in their cabins.**

MENINGITIS VACCINATION

You will be asked to complete an online form acknowledging receipt of information regarding the Meningococcal Meningitis vaccination, which explains this extremely rare yet serious disease. While the vaccine is not required for participation, all families must electronically submit a completed Meningococcal Meningitis Vaccination Response Form. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the medical forms, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

If an emergency arises while camp is in session, you may contact the Camp Administrator, Jennifer Morris, at **248-648-0702**, the Camp Director, the V. Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian, at **773-457-4122**, or the Assistant Camp Director, Fr. Andreas Garabedian, at **914-888-3527**. If there is no answer, please leave a clear and detailed message indicating your child's full name, your name and phone number, and a specific message explaining the nature of your call. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.



PACKING LIST

Participants must bring enough clothes and towels for the full duration of their camp stay. This means packing for a 7-day trip, with enough extra clothing and towels just in case things get dirty. **We do NOT provide on-site laundry, so please pack accordingly!** Below are suggestions of how many items of each piece of clothing your camper should bring. To avoid losing your child's clothing, please mark all items in permanent ink or iron-on tags.

CLOTHING

- T-Shirts (12)
- Long-Sleeve Shirts (6)
- Warm Fleece or Jacket (2)
- Sweater/Sweatshirt (2)
- Shorts or Capris (10)
- Jeans (2)
- Sweatpants (2)
- Socks (12+)
- Underpants/Undershirts (12+)
- Pajamas (2-3 sets)
- Nice Outfit for Church & Dance (2)
- Olympic Clothing (Red and Blue)

BEDDING & TOWELS

- Twin Sheet Set for Bunk Bed
- Pillow & Pillowcase
- Blanket or Sleeping Bag
- Bath Towel (2+)
- Face/Hand Towel (2+)
- Pool Towel (2+)
- Laundry Bag

NECESSITIES

- Rainwear (Boots, Umbrella, etc.)
- Bathing Suit (2+)
- Sneakers (2+)
- Flip-Flops for Pool/Shower (2+)
- Sunglasses
- Hat/Visor (2+)
- Flashlight & Batteries
- Reusable Water Bottle - Clearly Labeled
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Soap & Washcloth/Loofah
- Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- Comb and/or Brush
- Deodorant
- Sunscreen *
- Bug Repellent *

OPTIONAL ITEMS

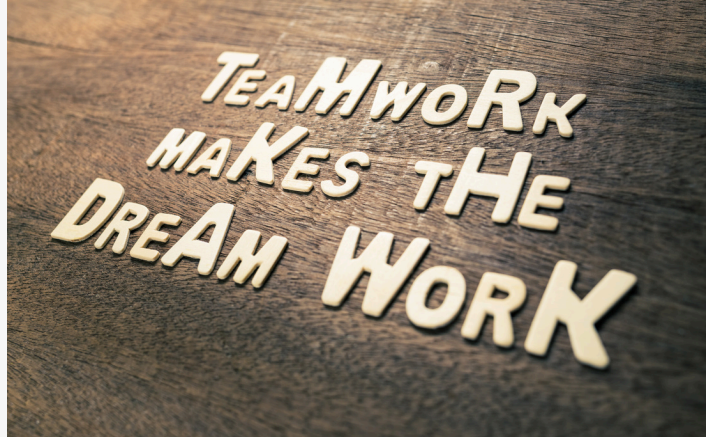
- Stationary & Stamps
- Pre-Addressed Envelopes
- Sports Equipment**
- Old Blanket for Campfire
- Books
- Talent Show Items (eg. Instruments)
- Cards, Games, Etc.
- Pens/Pencils
- Bible
- Notebook

* All sunscreen and bug repellent will be collected by their cabin counselors, and they will help administer it safely outside of the cabin. Please label your bottles.

** All sporting equipment will be provided. However, you may send your child with personal sports equipment. Make sure it is labeled with their name!

CAMP STARTS AT HOME

Here are some important things you can do to help acclimate your child to the camp experience before their arrival. Thank you for working with us to ensure your child has the best camp experience possible this summer at Hye Camp!



HYGIENE

Make sure that your child is accustomed to a hygiene routine that includes independently showering, brushing teeth, combing hair, and changing clothes. Teach your child to sneeze and cough into their elbow, and the importance of washing their hands often while at camp.

SPORTSWEAR

Closed-toed/athletic shoes are a requirement for all outdoor activities. This will help avoid slips, trips, and falls, which could cause injuries. Stress to your child the importance of wearing socks and closed-toed/athletic shoes to prevent a toe, foot, ankle injury, and/or blisters.

CLOTHING

Send enough clothes so your child can wear layers. Mornings can be chilly, and by the afternoon, it will be hot. This enables your child to peel their layers off as the weather warms. They change a lot throughout the day, and clean clothes often get mixed in with dirty clothes...so having extra clothes is helpful.

FATIGUE

Fatigue plays a part in injuries. Explain to your child that camp is not like a sleepover. Stress that they should NOT try to stay up all night, and the need for getting a good night's rest. They will come home tired!

SUNSCREEN

Don't forget to send sunscreen, and prepare your child for the habit of using sunscreen. Counselors will be supervising and assisting the campers while they are applying sunscreen.

HYDRATION

Staying hydrated is very important in the summer. We will have chilled water coolers throughout the campus. Your child should pack a reusable water bottle, clearly labeled with their first and last name.

CIT + STAFF TRAINING

Hye Camp at Camp Hickory
26202 WEST NIPPERSINK ROAD
INGLESIDE, IL 60041

CITs and Staff must arrive at camp for Training on **Wednesday, July 22** between **5:00 and 7:00 PM**. Registration will take place in the camp office. Please be sure all forms and tuition are submitted **BEFORE** your arrival. A pizza dinner will be served at **7:00 PM** in the Main Lodge. Training will commence at **8:00 PM** in the chapel.

**WEDNESDAY,
JULY 22, 2026
to
SATURDAY,
JULY 25, 2026**



OPENING DAY SCHEDULE: SATURDAY, JULY 25

2:00 - 4:00 PM: Arrival and Registration
4:30 PM: Parent Departure & Camper Welcome
5:00 PM: Dinner for Campers, CITs, and Staff
6:00 PM: Camper Orientation

PARENT ORIENTATION will take place on Zoom prior to the start of the camp season. We will email parents through ACTIVE with the date and time as we get closer to the summer.

CAMPER REGISTRATION will be held on **Saturday, July 25**, from **2:00 - 4:00 PM**. We plan to hold our registration line outdoors, weather permitting. Please have your child ready with all outstanding forms, tuition, canteen money, cell phones, and medicines with them as they register. Once unpacked, campers will be under their counselors' care, and parents can then leave the campus.

Photos and videos will be provided via SmugMug on a daily basis, so parents can view the highlights of the camp day and relive their child's camp experience at home! We will send the link via email, and encourage you to follow us on social media, Facebook and Instagram.

Please plan to arrive at camp on **Saturday, August 1** at **9:00 AM** for an outdoor pick-up.

CAMPER REGISTRATION

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

CAMP CURRICULUM:

The Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries at the Diocese continues to provide a unique and enriching program to meet the growing educational and spiritual needs of our campers. Our theme this year is "The Spirit of God." The core curriculum consists of daily classes: Religion, Armenian Language & Heritage, and Arts & Crafts. In addition, participants are engaged in daily sports and swimming.

TALENT SHOW:

There is a Talent Show every year at Hye Camp, where participants will have an opportunity to be in the spotlight as a cabin group and also show off their gifts as individuals. Help your camper start planning now with any special talents that s/he might be interested in sharing, such as dancing, singing, playing music, joke-telling, etc.

FRIDAY NIGHT DANCE:

Our Friday night activity is a camp-wide dance, featuring both Armenian and American music. Participants dress-up for a great night of fun to wrap up a great camp week!

TELEPHONE:

Hye Camp discourages and reserves the right to limit children from calling home while at camp unless there is an emergency. We want to teach our campers and CITs self-reliance and independence, and we want to eliminate homesickness as much as possible. This is difficult if participants are constantly calling home or receiving phone calls. Although we recognize the safety concerns associated with equipping your child/children with a cellular telephone, campers and CITs will not be allowed to use cellular phones at camp, as their presence disrupts the program. Any cell phone (or smartphone without a SIM card) found in the possession of a camper or CIT outside of designated cell phone office hours will be taken away and returned at the conclusion of camp. Please inform your child/children of this policy.

MAIL:

It means a lot to campers to receive a letter or postcard from home! We encourage you to write letters and send packages to your child. Letters help to uplift campers, whereas phone calls often intensify feelings of homesickness. Avoid using language like "We miss you!" or "Wish you were here!" Instead, tell them how proud you are of their independence and send lots of words of love! **Please remember that no food items should be included in care packages.** You can write to your child at the address below:

Hye Camp at Camp Hickory

ATTN: (Child's Name)
26202 WEST NIPPERSINK ROAD
INGLESIDE, IL 60041

CARE PACKAGE IDEAS:

- Books
- Magazines
- Playing Cards
- Stuffed Animals
- Travel-Sized Games
- Art Supplies
- Stationary



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Curious about camp? Here are some of the most common questions our parents ask as they prepare their child for a positive summer camp experience:

WHAT DOES THE NURSE LOOK FOR DURING THE HEALTHCARE CHECK-IN?

As part of the registration process, each participant will check in with a healthcare professional. During this time, the nurse will review allergies, medications, and overall health, and conduct a brief head-to-toe assessment to ensure there are no signs of communicable illness. Medical clearance from the healthcare professional is required before a participant may be admitted into the camp program. If a communicable condition is identified (such as lice, strep throat, pink eye, etc.), the participant may be required to return home for treatment prior to being admitted to camp.

HOW MANY MEALS A DAY ARE OFFERED?

Hye Camp offers three nutritious meals a day, plus an evening snack. There is also an opportunity for campers to have a snack from the canteen once a day. On Sundays, we offer a big brunch after Divine Liturgy, along with dinner and an evening snack. Our food service is run by Camp Hickory with a professional cook and a very experienced staff.

WHAT MEDICAL CARE IS AVAILABLE ON SITE?

Hye Camp has a healthcare professional on site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week throughout the entire camp season. We are blessed with loving volunteers who serve as nurses, nurse practitioners, or doctors during the camp week. The camp nurse responds to all health-related needs of the camp. To ensure your child is given the best care possible, please be sure to fill out the Medical Packet properly and completely. In the event of an emergency, a walk-in clinic is 5 miles away and two hospitals are within 15 miles. In addition, Camp Hickory is in a 911 zone.

WHAT IS CANTEEN?

Canteen is held each afternoon, and participants are able to pick a snack if they want. In an effort to simplify the Canteen this year, we will be accepting donations on opening day via cash, check, Zelle, or Venmo. We will not be keeping track of how much each participant spends throughout the week or returning funds at the end of the camp week. In the past, participants have spent about \$20 per week. We thank you in advance for helping to offset our costs with your donations.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS, CONT'D

WHAT IS YOUR STAFF SUPERVISION LIKE?

At all times, we have a 1:8 staff to camper ratio. All staff members are 18 years old or older. Counselor groups are assigned based on the age and gender of the campers. Each counselor group is assigned with both staff and CITs, who are always present with their campers at all activities and events throughout the day. In addition to our amazing staff members, who are often raised through the camp program themselves, we have incredible adult alumni and volunteers who come to camp to lend a helping hand to the program in many capacities.

WHAT TYPE OF TRAINING DOES YOUR STAFF RECEIVE?

Prior to arriving at camp, our CITs and Staff are required to complete online courses through Expert Online Training. CITs and Staff arrive a few days before camp commences and experience a mandatory 3-day training. During the training, our CITs and staff undergo sessions covering a wide array of topics, such as policies and procedures, emergency plans, bullying prevention, physical and mental health and safety, behavior and discipline, daily program schedules, Bible Studies, team building, and so much more! The staff also spends time preparing the campus for the arrival of campers and CITs. Through this comprehensive training, our faithful young adults become better equipped to meet the needs of our campers and CITs. Many of our staff are CPR and First Aid certified.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY?

You may contact the Camp Administrator, Jennifer Morris, at **248-648-0702**, the Camp Director, the V. Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian, at **773-457-4122**, or the Assistant Camp Director, Fr. Andreas Garabedian, at **914-888-3527**.

WHAT DO THE DAILY ACTIVITIES AND CLASSES LOOK LIKE?

Every day, the campers have a full daily schedule packed with fun and learning! On weekdays, they have classes in Armenian Language & Heritage, Arts & Crafts, and Religion, which are taught by our talented staff and visiting clergy. They also have a daily sports program run by the Athletics Director and a daily swim time supervised by the Aquatics Team of certified lifeguards. Our Programming Coordinator organizes an evening program every day. Our evening programs include game shows, scavenger hunts, talent shows, dances, campfires, Capture the Flag, outdoor movies, and so much more!

WHAT IS OLYMPICS?

During the camp week, the Staff organize a camp-wide Olympic-style competition featuring a variety of sports, games, and team challenges. Campers and CITs are divided into two teams—Red and Blue—while staff members serve as referees and judges. Throughout the week, the teams compete in a series of spirited (and often hilarious!) activities and races, building teamwork, sportsmanship, and camp pride. At the end of the competition, one team is proudly crowned the Olympic Champions!

WHAT SPIRITUAL FORMATION WILL MY CHILD RECEIVE AT CAMP?

Every morning, the entire camp attends Matins after breakfast. Most evenings, they also attend Vespers after the evening program and snack. In addition, our clergy and volunteers visit each cabin in the evening for bedtime prayers and discussion. On Sunday, the entire camp celebrates the Divine Liturgy, and all participants receive Holy Communion. Hye Camp is blessed to have many clergy visitors who come and teach some of our classes. Our Primate, Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan, will visit the camp and have time to interact and speak with the campers, CITs, and Staff.