

Colonial Summer Staff

Welcome Parents

Since 1971, Colonial Summer Staff has been a place where college students are challenged, equipped, and transformed as they live out the gospel of the Kingdom. Each summer, we welcome 12–15 college-aged students who spend 9 weeks serving in middle school, high school, and college ministry across both of our campuses.

We know that sending your son or daughter into a summer of ministry is a big step—not just for them, but for you as a parent. This page is designed to give you a clear picture of what Summer Staff looks like and to reassure you that your student will be safe, cared for, and deeply invested in.

What Will My Student Be Doing?

- Receive intentional training each morning through Bible studies, seminars, spiritual disciplines, and personal devotion time.
 - Invest in students in the afternoons and evenings through Bible studies, discipleship relationships, small groups, and outreach.
 - Plan and lead ministries such as weekly gatherings, activities, and summer events for middle school, high school, and college students.
 - Live in Christian community in church dorms with the other staff, learning how to encourage, sharpen, and support one another.
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Safety, Care & Supervision

- Housing & Meals: Staffers live together in secure church dorms with free housing and all meals provided. All buildings are locked 24/7
- Summer Staff Resident Assistants (RA): Previous summer staffers serve as RAs to help ensure the living environment is safe and fun for everyone.
- Full-Time Staff Oversight: A full-time adult church staff member lives in an apartment adjacent to the Summer Staff dorms to provide additional supervision and support.
- Supervision: Summer Staff are directly overseen by our Student Ministries Directors and pastoral staff.
- Security: All church buildings are locked 24/7 and require key card entry. All summer staffers will be given key cards for the summer.
- Boundaries & Accountability: Clear expectations for rest, spiritual health, and conduct to ensure a safe and uplifting environment.
- Medical Preparedness: Each staff member receives CPR and First Aid training, and we have clear protocols for medical care if needed.

What Your Student Will Gain

- Spiritual Formation: Through daily disciplines, prayer, and mentorship.
- Leadership Training: Seminars led by prominent Kansas City leaders.
- Practical Ministry Experience: Hands-on opportunities to disciple students, teach Scripture, and serve the local church.
- Life Skills: Teamwork, conflict resolution, and responsibility that will serve them far beyond the summer.

Compensation & Benefits

- Competitive pay for 9 weeks
- Free housing and meals
- Gas reimbursement
- Two days off each week (Friday & Saturday)
- Holidays off (Juneteenth & July 4th)
- Opportunity to attend one summer camp
- Mid-summer Family Weekend for parents to visit (Housing can be provided for families from out-of-town who wish to attend)
- End-of-summer retreat at Lake of the Ozarks to rest and celebrate

Communication with Your Student

We encourage Summer Staffers to keep in touch with their families throughout the summer. While the schedule is full, staffers will have regular time off and access to their phones to call, text, or video chat. Parents are also invited to our Family Weekend mid-summer—a chance to see firsthand what your student has been experiencing.

Parent Testimonials

“We were a little nervous about our daughter committing her whole summer, but it turned out to be the most spiritually formative experience of her college years. She grew in maturity, leadership, and confidence in her faith. We are so thankful for the Colonial Summer Staff program.” – A Summer Staff Parent

FAQs

Q: Is my student safe?

A: Yes. Staffers live in secure church housing, have RA support, are overseen by a full-time

staff member nearby, receive CPR/First Aid training, and are supervised by experienced ministry leaders.

Q: What if my student gets sick?

A: We have clear medical protocols in place. Directors are available 24/7 for emergencies.

Q: Can my student come home during the summer?

A: Staffers have Fridays and Saturdays off, plus two holiday breaks. Outside of those times, we ask students to remain with the team to foster consistency in ministry and community life.

Q: What if I need to reach my student?

A: Students have phone access, and in case of urgent needs, parents can reach out directly to the Student Ministry Directors.

Next Steps

1. Application & Interview – Students apply and interview with our Student Ministries team.
2. Acceptance – Once accepted, we'll send the student detailed information about summer housing, schedules, and expectations.
3. Parent Connection – You'll receive contact info for our team, along with an invitation to Family Weekend happening mid-summer.

Questions? Reach out anytime to either of our Student Ministry Directors.

- SKC Campus: Lenard Manuel (lmanuel@colonialkc.org)
- OP Campus: Riley Roberts (rroberts@colonialkc.org)