



# SVP Holy Island Summer Camp Information



## The Week

Camp has 8 dormitories, each with 8 beds. We try our best to keep friends and family members together and each of the dorms have helpers assigned to them. Every dorm helper plays a crucial role in ensuring each child has someone to turn to if needed and they can help the children look after their money, remind them to keep clean and be organised, make friends and also make sure any medical issues or specific requirements are dealt with. Each dorm will do some activities as a team (including keeping their dorm tidy) but the children will have the chance to mix with other children on lots of other activities including 'Silly Sports', a Treasure Hunt, Table Tennis and Football tournaments and the Friday night concert. Many children just love collecting shells or using crab lines at the beach or walking to see new parts of the island. Whether your child's personality is outgoing or introvert, they will have activities to keep them fully occupied every day! Each night the dorms are quietened down with reflections on how they have found the day and a prayer led by the helpers.



## Food Glorious Food!

Meal times are important to us at camp! Lots of energy is used exploring the island and we make sure helpers are on each table with the children to make sure no-one goes hungry!

The meals are varied and healthy.

Many parents/carers are naturally concerned that their child might be a 'bit fussy' and that they may not eat enough, but this is something we are very vigilant with and our helpers are experienced at coaxing a child to eat something each mealtime.

The application form has a section for you to provide us with as much information as necessary about your child's eating habits.

Fresh fruit and juice/water are available in the dining room at all times, for any child who may want something to eat between meals too.

Our Applications Team (Christine and Sarah) are happy to answer any questions you may have. Please email them at

[holyislandapplications@svp.org.uk](mailto:holyislandapplications@svp.org.uk)



Visit our website for the application form, additional information, news and updates!

[svpholyislandcamp.co.uk](http://svpholyislandcamp.co.uk)

## Our Helpers

The staff at the camp are all volunteers who give their time and services freely. Many of them came to camp as children and keep coming back to give other children the sort of experience they enjoyed.

All helpers are subject to an enhanced DBS check (Police Clearance) and no helper is allowed on camp until this check has been successfully completed. A selection process is in place and all staff undergo annual training in Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Diversity, Mental Health Awareness and Ethos.

The helpers are motivated by the fantastic impact that the camp can make on the children who attend. They work as hard as they can throughout the week to make sure that all the children in their care are safe and are having a brilliant time. We want the week that the children spend at Holy Island Camp to be one they will remember fondly for the rest of their lives.

### A Brief History of Camp

The camp on Holy Island has been run by the St Vincent de Paul Society since 1954. The aim of the camp is to provide an enjoyable and affordable holiday for children from a variety of backgrounds, in a safe and caring environment and within a Christian ethos. For the first 16 summers, the camp was simply a number of tents in a field. The success and popularity of the camp led to a building programme which saw the first dormitories open in the summer of 1970. This was followed by the completion of the remaining dormitories and the dining room. This was all made possible thanks to the hard work of a number of volunteers who gave up numerous weekends to travel to Holy Island and help build the camp as we now know it. Many more improvements have been made since then, and today the children are accommodated in eight dormitories, each with four bunk beds for eight children.



### The Island

Holy Island is a small tidal island off England's north east coast. It is located about 9 miles south of Berwick upon Tweed. The island has a long and colourful history and became the centre of Christianity in the north east of England when St Aidan founded a monastery there back in 635AD. Northumberland's patron saint, St Cuthbert, became Abbot at the monastery and settled on the island. The remains of the priory can still be seen on the island, despite several Viking raids and its suppression during the reign of Henry VIII. The island is the perfect place for a children's camp. It boasts some of the finest beaches in the UK and the children really enjoy the wide open space and beautiful scenery. There are only around 150 permanent residents on the island, many of whom are great friends with the staff at our camp. Tourists tend to come and go with the tide and most do not stray far from the village, so we often find we have the island and its beaches to ourselves for large parts of the day.

Holy Island is a very special place and the opportunity we have to use it for the camp is a huge privilege. We hope your child will find the place as magical as many others have over the years!



### Applications online

Applying for a place at camp for your child couldn't be easier! Just go to our website. Click on the link. Fill in the form and send it to us.

[svpholyislandcamp.co.uk](http://svpholyislandcamp.co.uk)

We will then send you a confirmation email, which will include details of how to pay. The cost for a week at camp is a donation of £150.

If your child wants to attend with a friend, you can make a note of that on the online form and we will try our best to place them together, but please make sure they talk to each other and apply for the same week otherwise it might not be possible to do so.

Further emails may be sent to you before your chosen week, so we ask, if you change your email address or phone number can you let our team know.

Our weeks fill up quickly, so the sooner you apply, the better.

If the week you wish your child to attend is full when you apply you will be offered an alternative week or your child may be put onto a reserve list and we would contact you if a place becomes available.

We always keep a small number of places available for children who are in particular need and that schools or SVP conferences identify for us.

**PLEASE  
NOTE...**

### Parent's feed-

A well organised camp where the helpers have years of experience and get the balance perfectly right around keeping your child safe whilst giving them the opportunity to be independent.

Your child will be well cared for with lots of support from the older kids and helpers. The whole homesick worry is a worry for parents, not the children. The children have far too much fun to worry about home!

My daughter got to spend a week being active outdoors with other children and away from screens while learning to be more independent.

It is a fantastic experience for your children and for us as parents too. My child grew in confidence and had a great time away!

We were really worried about our son going away on his own for a whole week. I don't know why because he's never stopped talking about all the things he's done since he got home! Thank you!

A rare opportunity to get your child away from technology, being active outdoors and meeting other children.