

# Summer camps kick off at Mississippi College

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Gospel lessons combine with sports activities and worship services for Mississippi College summer campers.

It's steamy in central Mississippi during early June as the first week of camp kicks off. A little over 500 young people from across the Southeast and other regions are visiting the Clinton campus. They're building their faith, making friends and stepping up their skills as athletes.

For Anna Miller of Delhi, Louisiana, her first visit to MC's Fuge Camp proved to be a blessing.

"It's fun. You get to be active, learn about God and meet new people," said the fourteen-year-old from Newton Baptist Church.

Miller likes the way the camp staff rolls from the early morning through the evening hours.

"They like to get crazy, and they love God," Miller said.

Taking a break from a drama activity, campers noted other positives about the five-day summer camp.

Camper Marissa McAlexander of Denham Springs, Louisiana, says everything at Fuge camp is done for a reason.

"Sports and other stuff relates back to God and the Gospel," says the Hebron Baptist Church member.

McAlexander joined MC campers staying hydrated with extra bottles of water. Adults also gave their first week of camp a thumbs up.

"The staff does a terrific job," says Rikki Jones, youth director at Newton Baptist Church in Louisiana.

The teens were pleased with the food in the cafeteria and praised the contemporary worship band at Swor Auditorium. They were eager to join the basketball tournament, but also wanted to spend more time with God.

"There's plenty of time for the Bible," Jones said.

Cheli Vance, program coordinator of the MC Office of Continuing Education, works with director Ken Gil-



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Students build their faith and take part in sports activities during summer camps at MC. Fuge campers are pictured earlier this month.

liam, to oversee the summer camps. The season ends July 19 with Super Summer camps seeking to enhance leadership abilities for more than 1,000 Baptist youth. By the final day, there will be more than 5,000 summer campers signed up.

As for Fuge camp, Vance sees many of the same kids again.

"A lot come every year because they love MC," she said. In some cas-

es, campers return as MC undergraduates.

During the first week, there were 272 Fuge campers coming from Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Florida and Oklahoma. When counting staff, the number exceeds 300.

Some campers come from communities as close as Sandhill, Mississippi, in Rankin County. Others traveled

from as far away as Shoals Baptist Church in Hugo, Oklahoma.

Rain or shine, MC's student support staff stays busy to help the camps succeed. This summer's team includes Anna Armstrong, Madison Brown, Abby Crain, Kyle Hoskins, Michelle Planchard and Kailyn Skinner. The students distribute water, run errands, check on kids in the dorms at night, and sell snacks.

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