

# Shalom Retreat 2025

## Dear Parents and Students,

Shalom is an overnight retreat for students in grades 9-12 only, an HSM favorite! This year's retreat will begin Friday evening and finish by attending the 11:20AM Gathering altogether. Shalom aims at getting high school students out of the hustle and bustle of everyday life and into an environment where they can rest, experience God, and hang out with friends. Below is a note about this year's theme:



*Life moves fast! With constant noise, endless distractions, and a full schedule, it's easy to feel tired, empty, and disconnected. The Secret Place is an invitation to slow down and return to what matters most: being with God. For Christ-followers, God's presence isn't far away — He dwells in you, which means the secret place isn't limited to a quiet moment at a retreat, but a reality you can live in everyday. Together, we'll learn to be still before God, to listen for His voice, and to let His presence shape our hearts, choices, and the way we live. This year's retreat is about moving from simply visiting God to dwelling with Him, letting the life of Christ flow through us in every moment. When we abide in Him, His presence changes us from the inside out, giving us courage, perspective, and purpose for every part of our life.*

**Check-In @ Highland:** Friday, Nov. 21 at 5pm, members of our staff will be set up at Highland by the Youth Room (Door E). Send your students there to turn in any prescription medications and to receive their bus & room assignments.

Late Arrival/Early Departure: If you will be arriving late or leaving early, please contact [Susie-Spear@Hbcwaco.org](mailto:Susie-Spear@Hbcwaco.org) ASAP.

**Pick-Up @ Highland:** Students will return to Highland to attend the 11:20 Gathering together – this is a part of the retreat. You may then pick your student up around 12:30pm, following that Gathering. Their luggage will be in the classrooms on the first floor of the Education Building.

**Medications:** All students who bring medication must package it in a ziploc bag with a note card explaining all contents included. Please include what to take and when to take it. *They will turn them in at check-in.*

**Phone Policy:** Students are advised not to bring their phones. Please partner with us in advising them to leave their phone at home; otherwise, we will collect phones upon arrival.

**What to Pack:**

- o Bible, Pen, Journal
- o Water bottle
- o Bedding (*sheets or sleeping bag & pillow*)
- o Towels
- o Board Games, Cards\*
- o Clothing\*\*
- o Toiletries
- o Socks & shoes
- o Flashlight
- o Water Shoes\*\*\*
- o Bug Spray

\* Board Games, Cards are optional items to pack. There will be some free time and downtime for students to play if they choose to.

\*\* Clothing (shorts-mid length or longer, Nike shorts are fine; active clothes for cool temps). All attendees will receive a sweatshirt upon arrival at Glen Lake.

\*\*\* There's a trail to a cross and overlook. We will have to tread across a small river, so pack accordingly. This activity is optional.

**Emergency Contact List:**

Glen Lake Camp: (254) 897-2247

Student Pastor: Ryan Oakes (281) 630-2790

Girls Minister: Braya Choquette (310) 908-5628

Student Ministry Admin: Susie Spear (252) 521-6345

# Shalom '25 Schedule

## Friday, Nov. 21

5:00pm: Meet at Highland, Door E  
5:30pm: Leave Highland  
6:45pm: Arrive at Glen Lake (1102 NE Barnard St Glen Rose, TX 76043)  
7:45pm: Session 1 in Chapel  
9:15pm: Settle into lodges  
9:30pm: Pizza, Ice Cream and Hangs in the Gym  
11:30pm: Lights Out

## Saturday, Nov. 22

6:00am: Morning Run with Ryan (*optional*)  
8:30am: Breakfast & Devotional in Lodge (*Guys & Girls separately*)  
9:30am: Session 2 in Chapel  
10:30am: Silence & Solitude  
12:00pm: Lunch in Dining Hall  
1:00pm: Group Photo  
1:15pm: The Train Game  
3:45pm: Hike to the Cross (*optional*), Free Time  
5:30pm: Dinner in Dining Hall  
6:45pm: Session 3 in Chapel  
8:30pm: Break  
9:00pm: Acoustic Worship & Campfire S'mores @ Vesper's Point  
11:00pm: Lights Out

## Sunday, Nov. 23

7:00am: Wake Up, Pack, Clean Lodges  
7:45am: Breakfast  
8:30am: Communion & Worship  
9:15am: Leave Camp  
10:45am: Arrive at Highland  
11:20am: Church

# Shalom Retreat FAQ's

## **Will there be dinner on Friday when I drop off my student?**

We ask that you provide dinner for your student upon arrival to camp. We will have pizza late Friday night, but this may not be enough for your student to feel full.

## **Should I pack food/snacks for my student with food allergies?**

The camp will have food to offer, but it never hurts for your student to bring food they like! (*Food that can be closed/sealed after opening*).

## **What is lodging like?**

The vast majority of our students will stay in guy/girl lodges. It's one large building (gender-specific) containing a meeting space in the middle with four adjoining bunk rooms, each with their own bathroom setup. Due to our growth in numbers, there will also be an extra cabin of senior girls and senior guys, respectively.

## **How can I pray?**

1. The health and safety of each student and leader attending Shalom Retreat.
2. Your students can make lasting connections with their peers and leaders that will encourage them to live out Kingdom Culture!
3. Pray Satan's schemes for evil will be thwarted before they affect those at Shalom and those at home!
4. For your students to understand and experience rest in the Lord.
5. For Braya, Jordan, and Ryan as they teach throughout the weekend.

## **Can my child arrive late or leave early?**

Yes, we can help make that happen! Please contact [Susie-Spear@hbcwaco.org](mailto:Susie-Spear@hbcwaco.org).

## **What if I still have questions?**

Susie Spear helps us coordinate all events for Highland Student Ministry. If you have a question, she'll be happy to help! Reach out to her at [Susie-Spear@hbcwaco.org](mailto:Susie-Spear@hbcwaco.org).