

Welcome from the Executive Director



Welcome to Animate! You've joined Samford University's summer camp in worship and the arts for teens and their adult mentors, and we are so glad you are here. This week, we get to journey together through creativity, community, faithful worship, and the deep, rich story of the gospel. You may not know it yet, but you are part of something truly special.

The more we've prepared for Animate, the more we've sensed God stirring expectation in us. Yes, we are excited to welcome you to Samford's beautiful campus for the week. But even more than that, we are hopeful. We believe God has brought you here on purpose, and we cannot wait to see what happens as we worship, write, listen, learn, sing, play, and pray together in this sacred space.

This summer, we are exploring what it means to practice gospel-shaped songwriting. Together, we will follow the story of Jesus in Philippians 2: the one who came down in humility, entered fully into suffering and death, and was raised and exalted in glory. Along the way, we will discover that Christ's story is not just something we sing about. It is the story that shapes us. As we trace the movement from creation, to exile, to restoration, we will learn to write songs that sound like the gospel: songs marked by humility, honesty, hope, and resurrection life. You are invited not just to attend, but to participate, to listen deeply, to create boldly, and to offer your voice as part of the song God is still writing in and for our world.

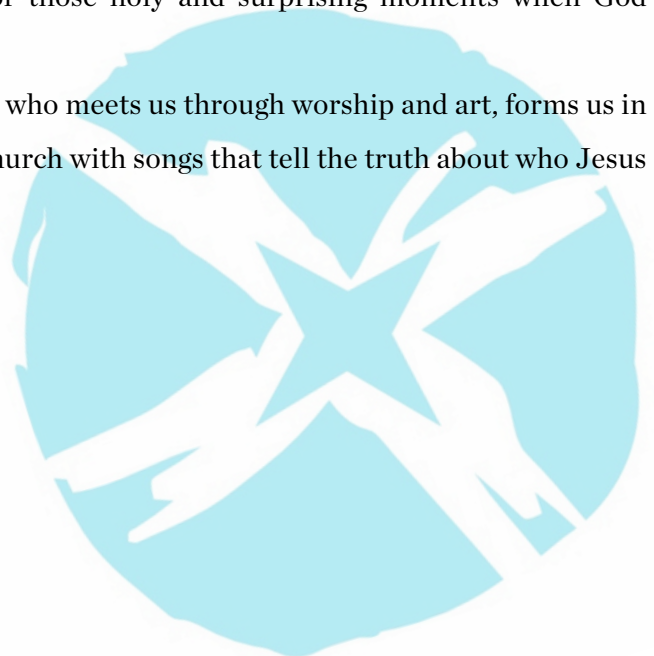
So, be ready to LEARN. Be ready to PLAY. Be ready to IMAGINE. Be ready to CREATE. Be ready to SERVE. Be ready to RELAX. And be especially ready for those holy and surprising moments when God SHOWS UP in ways you did not expect.

Because ultimately, this week is about our faithful God, who meets us through worship and art, forms us in the likeness of Christ, and sends us out to strengthen the Church with songs that tell the truth about who Jesus is and what he has done.

For the glory of God, for the good of the Church.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Snider Andrews". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Emily Snider Andrews
Executive Director
The Center for Worship and the Arts



Animate Story

Founded in 2014, **Animate** is the flagship summer camp of Samford University's Center for Worship and the Arts, bringing together teens and their adult mentors for three days of worship and arts formation on Samford's campus in Birmingham, Alabama.

Animate is open to any student who has completed 7th grade through 12th grade (and their adult mentors and ministry leaders). Animate is designed for those interested in becoming a better worshiper, honing artistic skills, and exploring the intersection of worship, theology, and the arts. Animate is run by the CWA executive staff as well as Samford student staffers.

Using biblical, Christ-centered principles, Animate students become conversant in multiple styles and expressions of worship, connect with both adult mentors as well as their peers, and catch a vision for intergenerational worship – then carry these new skills and ideas back to enrich the life of their own congregation... for the glory of God, for the good of the church!



Gospel-Shaped *Songwriting*



Animate 2026's theme of Gospel-Shaped Songwriting is meant to help the church realize that **anyone** can write worship songs. Students, teachers, lay people, worship leaders, non-musicians, musicians, beginners, and experts can all benefit from the spiritual practice of songwriting. This spiritual practice helps us to lift true and authentic worship to God through our own words and voice.

Singing someone else's words can be powerful, but we believe that it is formative for congregations and individuals to vulnerably express worship through the creativity and craftsmanship that God instills in us. **As songwriters shape their songs, both the process and the songs themselves, in turn, shape them.** This is what we want you to experience at Animate, so that you can go and share it with your friends, families, congregations, and ministries.

We want to give you the opportunity to develop and refine a new skill alongside the guidance of professional songwriters, giving you practical tools for writing your own worship songs. Even if you have never written a song before, this is a practice through which everyone can be shaped, and we hope that you learn to have fun doing it!

House Rules

Community

We encourage campers to build community by interacting with others in a positive and supportive attitude. With any extended time of interacting with others, problems can develop. It is imperative to show mutual respect and consideration for one another. Before you act, think about the consequences.

Alcohol, Drugs, & Smoking

Students may not possess or consume alcohol on the campus. The use of illegal drugs or abuse of prescribed medications is also prohibited. Violations will result in removal from Animate without a refund. No alcohol or illegal drugs are allowed on campus at any time. Smoking/Vaping is prohibited on campus.

Quiet Hours & Curfew

Each program participant has a right to an atmosphere helpful for sleep beginning at 11:00 p.m. every evening. All students enrolled in the program must be in their assigned residence halls by 10:15 p.m. All students must be in their assigned rooms with lights out by 11:00 p.m. each night.

Vandalism & Damage

Any theft or unauthorized possession of University or personal property is prohibited. Student program participants vandalizing University or another's property will be removed from the program, without a refund. Any damage to a residence hall room or its furnishings will be charged to the occupants of the room.

Program Mentors & Hall

Program Staff will serve as "resident assistants" in the dorms and will be the primary contact and first responders to the students during their stay. Additionally, Residence Hall Staff are available in the dorms and may be contacted with an issue related to the dorm itself, or in case of emergency.

Phone Policies

Cell phones, music players, tablets, or any other electronic devices are not allowed during some program activities unless the use of that device is for the express purpose of engaging in that activity. If someone is found using one of these at an inappropriate time or in an inappropriate way, the device will be confiscated and returned at the end of the week, or mailed home at the participant's expense.

Additional Phone Guidelines

- Use of Animate's BAND App or a personal Bible app are permitted when necessary and appropriate.
- Personal use during designated free times is also appropriate.
- Staffers and campers should not text or call each other during Animate sessions unless there is an emergency. In the case of an emergency, contact Samford Public Safety first, not the entire camp group.

