



Frequently Asked Questions about Sheltering Tree

1. As a component of Savannah Christian Academy, is the Sheltering Tree program also accredited?

No, Sheltering Tree is not an accredited program. While SCA is accredited through ACSI and SACS, the Sheltering Tree program does not, at this time, have an accredited status. This does not mean, however, that Sheltering Tree operates without standards excellence or guidelines for student performance. Sheltering Tree uses programs that are both well known and highly recommended by those involved in educating autistic children.

2. What is the tuition for Sheltering Tree?

The tuition for attending Sheltering Tree will be the same as the tuition for attending SCA. While there will not be a book fee, other costs that relate directly to the instructional programs of Sheltering Tree may be applied.

3. Does Sheltering Tree have a dress code?

Yes, as a component of SCA, Sheltering Tree abides by the same dress code as Savannah Christian Academy. Since the dress code applies only to the academy and not to the preschool, only school age students will need to follow the dress code; student who are still in preschool will not be required to follow dress code.

4. Does Sheltering Tree follow the same school calendar as SCA?

Yes, the students enrolled in Sheltering Tree will follow Savannah Christian Academy's school calendar. This calendar is located in the back of the SCA Parent-Student Handbook.

5. Does Sheltering Tree have an open enrollment policy or are there stipulations in regards to who may or may not enroll?

*Because the goal of Sheltering Tree is to gradually transfer students from the Sheltering Tree classroom to the SCA classroom, this program is not conducive to all students. For this reason, Sheltering Tree is only able to offer instruction to children who are mildly or moderately autistic. Due to the effectiveness of early intervention and the desire to mainstream students into the regular classroom, Sheltering Tree will not **initially** enroll students who are younger than three or older than eight.*

6. Are the students of Sheltering Tree expected to attend SCA?

Yes. Because Sheltering Tree is a component of Savannah Christian Academy and a ministry of Sharon Baptist Church, and because each program works in tandem with the other, the goal is for students of Sheltering Tree to one day become students of SCA.

7. May students enroll in Sheltering at any time during the school year?

Because there is much preparation that takes place before a child enters the Sheltering Tree classroom, it is beneficial to both the student and the teacher if pre-registration has taken place. This is offered in April for the upcoming school year. While students may be admitted during the school year, it will only be done after the following measures have been taken:

- Documentation of a child's disability has been presented to Sheltering Tree's instructor*
- A parent and student interview has been done by the administrator of SCA as well as by the instructor of Sheltering Tree*
- A current student evaluation and needs assessment has been made by the instructor of Sheltering Tree*

Based upon the outcome of the steps outlined above, a student may or may not be able to enroll in Sheltering Tree once the school year has started.

8. *What happens if the program doesn't seem to fit a child or a family?*

Because it is difficult to know how well something will fit without first trying it on, students entering the Sheltering Tree program will be accepted on a probationary status for the first two weeks. At the close of these two weeks, the parent and the teacher will meet to determine if the child's enrollment will become permanent, if it will stay at the probationary period for an additional two weeks, or if the enrollment will be dissolved. If an additional trial period is needed, then the same procedures will follow at its closure with the exception that another trial period will not be offered.

9. *Since Sheltering Tree is a component of SCA, does it hold to the same mission and vision statement as SCA?*

Yes, it most certainly does! SCA's mission is to glorify God in all areas; spiritually, academically, and physically. The vision of SCA is to raise up students who have a Biblical worldview and who live it out on a daily basis, honoring God as they walk in accordance to His will in their lives. This same mission and vision applies to the students of Sheltering Tree. Because Sheltering Tree desire's to teach Biblical principles that will be reinforced within the home as well as within the classroom, it seeks to link up with families who are like-minded believers in Jesus Christ.