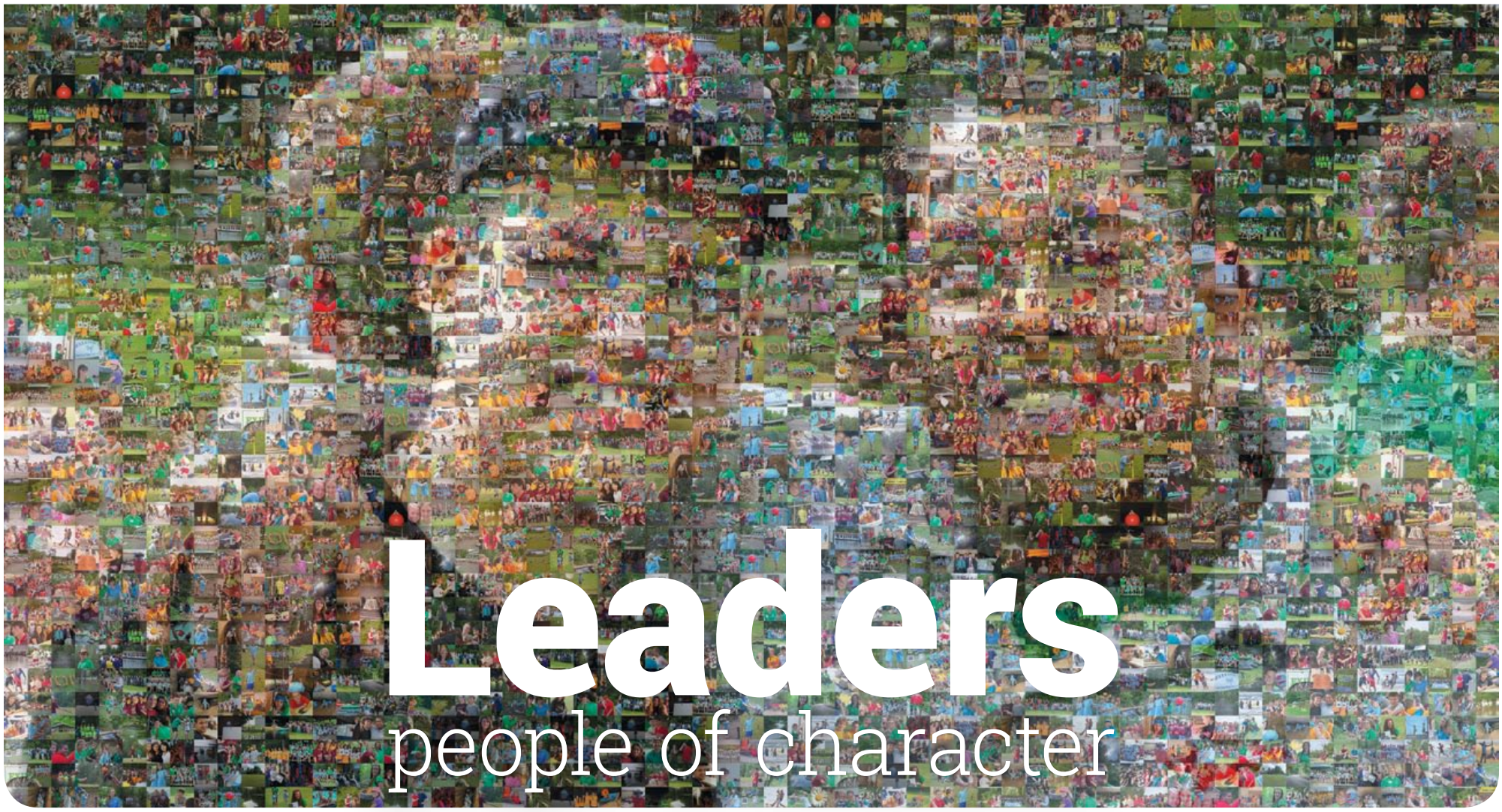
United Youth Camps 2014

presents



Leaders

people of character

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Letter from the President

Dear campers, parents and camp volunteers,

First thank you for making so many campers happy over the past two decades through United Youth Camps in UCG. Your support, encouragement and financial generosity has contributed to the success that our God has facilitated. At top priority of the United Church of God has been an ongoing camp program for youth.

I was present at our first board meeting of the United Church of God in May 1995. The very first order of business was to establish regional youth camps throughout the United States for that summer. The camps needed to be up and running in as little as six weeks. And they were! We put our whole heart into providing this experience for our children. Our camp program has continued uninterrupted for 20 years now and has provided a venue for us to interact and educate our children in an an attractive and exciting way.

We have added pre-teen camps, challenger programs and a winter camp as well. Our motivated youth leaders have produced quality programs that have remained memorable for our youth for life. Many of our new, young Church leaders can point to a UYC camp experience that helped them think more maturely about friendships, boy-girl relationships, reputation and many more aspects of our Christian walk.

Leadership will be emphasized at this year's camps. The Christian living theme will be "Leaders: People of Character." It will teach the leadership from the inside out. Those who lead must be people of integrity who must live an example. Ultimately, it's what people see in each of us that they will follow.

Activities, projects and social events are also well-planned and an essential part of the camp experience. Our camp directors and their staffs go all-out to produce an energized program. My wife Bev and I plan to go and work as staff members to one of this year's camps.

I thank you again for your support of this program for our youth. If you can help financially to provide a scholarship for a young person who could not otherwise afford to go, I invite you to do so. It will indeed be an investment in their future and Christian development. We want to ensure that as many as possible have this opportunity.

May God bless and keep you. Thank you for your faithfulness and support.

With love in Christ's service,

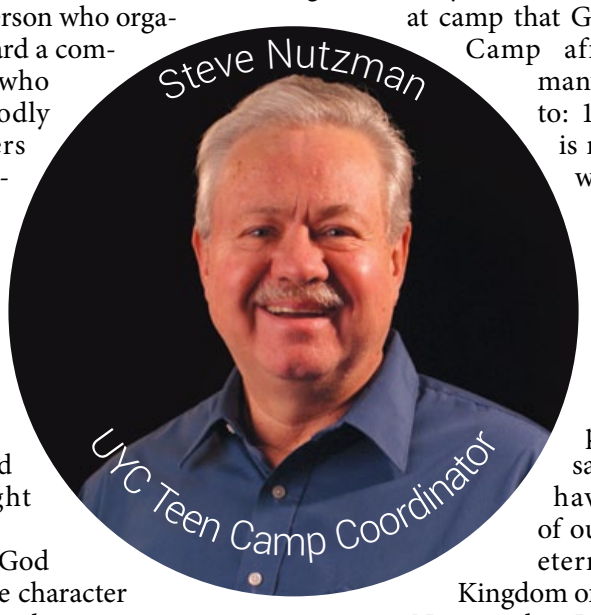
Victor Kubik

Leaders: People of Character

by Steve Nutzman

We are very excited to announce the Christian living theme at all UYC locations this year: "Leaders: People of Character." But what is this concept of being a leader about? And what is character?

A leader is a person who organizes others toward a common goal and who does so in a godly manner. Leaders are servant-leaders following the example of Jesus Christ (see below).



Character is knowing right from wrong (morally and spiritually) and doing the right thing.

True leaders of God are filled with the character of God. God is the ultimate source of righteous character.

The character of a person is his or her inner makeup—it's who they are. Younger people in our society may think if what they want to do doesn't hurt someone else, then it's okay. But is it?

God states that "you reap what you sow" (Galatians 6:7). Our actions eventually will catch up with us. So doing the right thing always pays! What you do today affects your tomorrows.

I once heard this definition of character—"doing what is right when no one is looking." God sees everything we do so it doesn't matter if "no one" is looking. Since God cares for you He desires the very best in your life. And since actions have consequences for good or bad, God says to choose the way of character and you will be blessed.

At United Youth Camps we learn about character, how to serve, how to lead in the dorm and how to work as a team for the good of everyone. And we prove each day at camp that God's way works. Camp affords campers many opportunities to: 1) LEARN what is right and 2) DO what is right.

Leadership, at its core, is about service. Jesus Christ was the world's greatest servant-leader. He died as a perfect spiritual sacrifice so we can have forgiveness of our sins and have eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

Notice what Jesus Christ said about the style of leadership in this world versus what servant-leadership is about in Matthew 20:25-28: "But Jesus called them to Himself and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.'"

A teen king

At age 8 young Josiah (read this inspiring account in 2 Kings 22-23) was crowned king of Judah. He had been taught that God's laws make for a beneficial and secure life, yet he had to make the decision to follow them. And to make it even harder, he was surrounded by adults who worshiped idols instead of the true God.

Josiah did what a godly leader does—he followed God. He destroyed anything in the land that offended God—idols in particular. Surprisingly, people began to cheer him on and they appreciated what this young leader did in the land. Just think, Josiah was a young person at this time, yet he inspired many adults through his choice to live the way of character. Youth do inspire adults when they are young people of character. Josiah became a great leader as king of Judah and reigned for many years. God blessed all of Israel because of him. What made Josiah a truly great leader was godly character that was developed during his youth.

Leadership—the way of character

Leaders are doers! They are successful and contribute to society, to God's Church, to their family and at work.

Character inspires others!

Like Josiah every teenager can be a leader in character. When you do what is morally and spiritually right, you will positively affect others, including your parents, family, friends, teachers and those around you at camp.

Godly leaders resist negative friends and influences!

King Solomon wisely observed: "He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed" (Proverbs 13:20).

Leaders don't give up!

They look to God for help. Young King Josiah followed God's rules for successful living and God blessed him for it. Psalm 62:6-8: "He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God. Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah."

Teens, your years between 12 and 19 are an excellent time to make wise decisions that develop moral character and help you become true servant-leaders of God. We look forward to seeing you at a camp later this year when we explore this vital subject further!

The Value and Purpose of Christian Living Themes at Camp

by Rex Sexton and David Goethals

From the moment a camper arrives on campus until the time the parents pick them up to depart, he or she will experience 192 hours of a positive, nurturing, encouraging, learning environment. An environment where God's way is taught, practiced, lived and reinforced through the daily themes.

Why and how do the camp themes work to teach biblical principles?

We begin with the end in mind—with what do we want the campers to leave camp?

We want the campers to leave with a package of practical truth that they can remember long after camp and bring those principles to mind during the coming year.

Each year the camp directors and management team meet to decide on the overall theme for camp that year. The theme chosen needs to be one that can be subdivided into five daily themes that can be taught and illustrated in a practical way in camp activities.

After the overall theme is decided, the work begins on the daily themes and Christian living lessons. Memory verses at the core of the daily themes are also chosen and included in the lessons.

The Christian living themes provide a framework to teach, demonstrate, live, and retain God's principles during the 192 hours of UYC summer camp. This coming year our overall camp theme will be *Leaders: People of Character*.

The camp day begins

As each camp day begins, placards with the daily themes are posted in a visible place in each dorm. A large banner in the dining hall also has the daily theme placards placed on it so campers can be reminded once again during mealtime.

The daily Christian living classes are built to teach and discuss the daily theme and scriptures. The staff instructors begin each activity by reviewing the theme and applying it. This active and verbal reinforcement helps campers remember the lessons. Dorms often practice memory verses walking between activities and at campfires.

The daily themes all build upon each other as the week progresses. The Sabbath sermon at the end of camp ties all of the themes together with the overall theme, with the intent that the campers will long remember what they have been taught and experienced during the week.

Having the camp program built around biblical themes has changed the nature of our camp program. The themes:

1. Provide an outline for each of the aspects of camp
2. Provide a consistent teaching theme to which all staff can contribute with their given strengths
3. Allow for many opportunities to hear a different voice (tone) with the same message
4. Give a framework to build spiritual momentum
5. Provide the framework for all to speak the same "language"
6. Include repetition of spiritual points that allow for a wide variety of learning experiences
7. Drive the overall camp schedule from ties from the moment the camper gets up with the posting of the daily theme, to prayers, dorm goals for the day, the dorm's daily improvement plan (growth plan), to activities, meals, conversations, evening activities, campfire, dorm meeting, ending the day with the dorm parents visit and prayer

the way counselors start the day with the posters to how each activity can reflect that day's theme (in this way, campers learn to live the theme, not just hear the theme)
8. Provide specific teaching points to be included in every aspect of camp activi-

We look forward to a blessed camp year in 2014. All of those involved in camp—from the coordinators to the staff to the counselors—are greatly looking forward to helping our youth to learn and live the theme this year *Leaders: People of Character.*

Facing the Challenge of Aquaphobia

by Katrina Slocum

I've had aquaphobia—or the fear of water—ever since I almost drowned when I was 6 years old.

Eight years later in July 2012, I arrived at Northwest Camp. I was excited to be able to see the friends I've met from all around the world and to meet new people. This was my third year at camp Magruder, and I was in the youngest dorm again.

After breakfast one morning, our Christian living class, and a dorm prayer for help throughout the day, my dorm and counselors headed to a lake outside of Camp Magruder for water skiing. This would be my first time. I was 14 years old. Traveling in the vans from camp to the lake for the water skiing activity, I felt excited but nervous at the same time. It was obvious that the rest of my dorm was eager to get into the water. The lake is shallow with a wooden floating dock. The weather was partly cloudy and freezing. Aside from the ski boat and the waves brushing up against the dock, it was a quiet summer day.

When we arrived, every person in my dorm took their turn water skiing. While watching each one of my dorm mates water ski, my feelings began to change; I became full of anxiety and scared. When it came to my turn, I told my counselors that I didn't want to do this activity; that I was too scared to do it. The motto for camp is that you are to try every activity and use all your effort. So I gathered my courage and walked onto the dock with a mixture of determination and fear. Waiting for my turn, I talked with one of the ski crew, Mrs. Holladay, and told her how scared I was to try this activity. She encouraged me and gave me some tips to help me learn. She also told me that at first it looks scary, but once you try it, it turns out to be really fun. She was confident that I would do great.

When I got into the water, it was cold. I wanted to get out, but I stayed and listened to the directions from Mrs. Hansen. She explained how to hold the rope with your arms fully extended and legs bent into a sitting position. Once she was finished with the directions, she asked me if I was ready to get up. I nodded my head and said yes.

Their instructions worked! When I rose out of the water I could hear my dorm cheering for me and supporting me with their encouraging words they shouted. While gliding on top of the water for a couple of seconds, I was surprised to be enjoying this activity. I started having confidence that I could do it!

Then something started to go wrong—my skies went out from under me, and I ended up face planting into the frigid water. I thought to myself, "That wasn't quite the way I wanted to stop." Getting back into a floating position, I was coughing and sniffing out water. Waiting for Mrs. Hansen to come help me, I started to feel proud of myself for facing my fears.

When Mrs. Hansen arrived, she said that I looked great, and asked me if I wanted to try it again. I said yes, determined to be able to stay up longer on the water. I put my thumbs up to let the observer in the boat know that I was ready for a second go. I emerged from the water a second time.

Once I got off the boat and onto the dock, everyone told me how good a job I had done. Mrs. Holladay gave me a big hug and told me how pleased she was that I not only tried it once, but tried it a second time. All 16 of my dorm mates gave me high-fives, and my two counselors told me how proud they were of me for trying something new.

This experience was important to me because I faced a long-time fear of water. Water skiing that year at summer camp impacted me because I saw how positive peer pressure and encouraging words could persuade me to try something I wouldn't have tried on my own. I hope that others may see, as I have, that you have to take a risk at something scary in order to gain confidence. Allowing fear to keep you from doing things just keeps you fearful. Facing challenges while at UYC summer camps teaches lessons that will last a lifetime.

It's a Beautiful Miracle

by Elysia Dowd

As hard as we try to separate ourselves, we live in the world. Our daily bombardment of all things negative slowly wears us down, until we just feel so lifeless and drained in our struggle. Every day at school I (and a lot of God's other teens) work to maintain my principles and stay strong and positive, but my thoughts begin to be poisoned if I'm not careful. I beat myself up inside, and yearn more and more for the short break the Sabbath gives us. But in the dead of winter, I need more!

When the world leaves us feeling so thoroughly disgusted, compromised and failures, we need a reminder of God's beautiful plan and the support of His people even more. So winter break is transformed into Winter Camp break. For struggling, tired teens, it can be quite the miracle.

The people at camp are all going through the same messes, and the support structure that we build each year seems unshakeable! Take my dorm for example. One of our counselors patiently listened to our silly boy questions, and then answered with sound biblical advice while setting a stellar example. Our other counselor related with our frustrations, and then gave us

fantastic lessons from her own limited life experience.

The girls there were such an amazing example too. The abundant joy, the positive and reassuring attitudes, and the downright decent conversations you could have with every single one of them was like eating a piece of cake after suffering through jar after jar of pickled beets! And I must say the guys fit that bill too. They gave you some hope in humanity, that at least there are some people striving and growing in God's way aside from the small circle of people in your local congregation. At times like the dance, the contrast from the world was just marvelous. It was such a blessed feeling!

On top of all the great people, for whatever reasons the messages and lessons this year seemed to connect with me on a much deeper level. The pastors and elders had great stories to relate to bring home the point. We held such fantastic discussions where all of us had something to contribute, serving to both edify and reaffirm each other. It was a great inspiration for me to study God's Word even more.

However, none of this would have had the same effect if it weren't for one crucial element—we were unplugged completely. We never left the campus, so we never left that amazing atmosphere called the Zone. Electronics were confiscated, only to be used for maybe an hour after dinner, so we weren't drawn into our worldly lives to the exclusion of the campers we were there to bond with. What was amazing is that when the electronics were available half of the kids didn't even take advantage of it! It really was like we had completely left the world behind, with no Facebook notices or texts or homework or even people we would come in contact with to draw us back! It was a breath of crisp, clear godly air after weeks of worldly smog.

The encouragement, the learning, the just plain fun and fellowship, was more amazing than I can put in words. I wished everyone could experience such a blessing. After we leave, all charged up from the Zone, we have so much more strength to grow and endure. There is only one way to explain the experience: It's a beautiful miracle.

Never Been to Camp—Should I Still Serve on Staff?

by Angel Reeves

Most of the young people are aware of the opportunity to serve at United Youth Camps. Many campers, when old enough, make the transition to staff. But what if you've never been to camp before? Maybe you think the work will be too hard or you're just not a people person? Should you still volunteer? The answer is absolutely yes! Once upon a time, I was leery. I finally decided to apply as staff, and it was one of the best decisions I ever made in my life.

Why is going to camp so important? For me, being on the dish crew (the job I applied for) helped me discover new strengths, both mentally and physically. It put my leadership skills to the test. And my shyness didn't even become an issue! I met and worked with all kinds of good people, and although the work was exhausting, interacting with all these people made it so fun. But that wasn't even the most surprising aspect. My whole outlook on life and personality changed. I went from being a

girl scared of people, their judgments and the possibility that I couldn't function in society, to being filled with confidence and knowledge that I never had before! I could perform well and accomplish what I set my mind to. I learned that when you surround yourself with good people who are kind, godly and ethical, there's nothing to be afraid of. I'm still shy, but I've learned to assert myself more in life and to take advantage of its many opportunities. Every year that I serve at camp reinforces this!

There are many reasons to choose to serve at a United Youth Camp. It is rewarding to know that the service you provide is greatly appreciated. Each camp needs volunteers to help in order to successfully operate. You are also surrounded by God's beautiful creation. I love seeing all the trees and greenery by day and all the shining stars and constellations by night. Additionally, you get to be with so many of God's people. You get to make new friends or see old ones again, while being a good example to the campers. I personally love watching the campers emulate the examples we're setting for them while they have fun. Through the Christian living classes, the campers are taught God's Word and you get to have your own knowledge refreshed in a youthful way.

All my experiences at camp have made it so worthwhile. If anyone is ever considering applying and they're just not sure if it's worth it, I would say go for it! You may end up loving it! I look forward to it each year with the utmost glee! So no matter how tired I am from my work at camp, I know that it is important that I am here. And when I'm getting to play with the campers, take part in camp activities, or just sit on the benches under the stars watching the campers put on their hilarious skits, I think, "This is all the reward I need."

My First Time at Camp

by Zach Pflaum

Every year, after seeing the camp video at church, my family would try to persuade me to go. I was always hesitant because I felt like I would not fit in or that people would not like me. I was insecure about what I might be asked or what I might not know. The Zone was not an experience that I was willing to try.

Eventually, after being encouraged by my minister, I decided to attend Camp Woodmen. It was an experience that I will never forget. Everyone, from the staff to the campers, was very welcoming and caring. Even though I was new, I felt like I belonged. I made lifelong friends and feel like we are all family. The activities were amazing. I learned valuable spiritual and life lessons that have become part of my daily life.

This will be my third year attending United Youth Camps. I can definitely say that the experiences have changed my life forever. The Zone is a great place to be. I wish that I had taken advantage of the opportunity sooner.

So to any hesitant teens who feel that camp is not for you, please reconsider! Once you have experienced the Zone, you will never be the same! Perhaps I will meet you at camp this year!

Counseling: A Life-Changing Opportunity

by Maggie Reamy

Why is camp important to those who serve as staff? Camp is important because it helps build our individual character—it strengthens our personal, mental and (most importantly) spiritual growth and well-being. The rest of the year, it becomes more and more difficult with every day that passes to escape the corruption that Satan has infiltrated into our society. It is everywhere. But during the week of camp, we can each escape the depressing and almost dehumanizing environment that surrounds us. We get to join together in a peaceful, loving environment with our brothers and sisters in Christ. For that one week, we have the opportunity to build lasting relationships that are grounded on the foundation of truth: God's way of life.

As a staff member, we get to be a positive and encouraging light to the youth of our Church. Having served a few times as a camp counselor, it is quite normal to say that we have the hardest, yet most fulfilling role at camp. We are with the teens 24/7. For one week, we become their big brothers and sisters.

As a camp counselor, we have the chance to show how fun, exciting and rewarding it is to live God's way of life. Plus we get to do it in our own unique way. With each of the various activities, we apply our own personal experiences, fears and challenges to bond with our campers. All the while, growing and learning ourselves. Being on staff is one of the most rewarding experiences one can have.

I will never forget my first time serving as camp staff. I was in a very rough place, feeling lost and unsure of what I needed to do. I was praying fervently and seeking an answer from God. I decided that the best thing I could do was to walk away from my trial and volunteer to the youth of our Church. I went to camp that summer filled with joy and excitement, ready to give my all. I knew that being there for the youth would be an extremely rewarding experience. How could it not? I put forth all I had to offer and wound up having that entire week be the direct answer I was seeking from God. That year, my campers gave me the strength and encouragement I needed. It was, and to this date is, the most rewarding experience I could have ever asked for.

What you get back from the campers you work with is priceless. I strongly encourage everyone to volunteer at least once on camp staff. It truly is one of the most important and rewarding experiences one could have.

Learning Lifelong Skills As a Counselor

by David Browning

Every year I look forward to receiving the camp edition of the *United News* because it means it's only a few months until summer camp! I have had the privilege of growing up in the United Youth Camps program because my parents were very involved in serving at various camp locations. I treasure all the years that I was able to be a camper and all the lessons and knowledge I have gained from my various camp counselors. But now that I have the pleasure of being a camp counselor myself, the camp program has a whole new meaning.

Last summer marked my fifth year on counseling staff. Serving as a camp counselor is so satisfying as you watch your dorm come together day by day, something that I imagine parents experience as their children grow. During the camp week, you are helping campers through various situations, helping them overcome fears, or work through a stressful situation.

Being a camp counselor also means you encourage the campers in their spiritual growth. With an entire week centered around a godly theme, emphasized by various Bible classes and lessons, you support and then observe as they begin to understand and apply the principles that are being taught. As counselors, we find ourselves growing alongside the campers. The campers always have questions and often feel comfortable asking you. There is no better feeling than walking into your dorm in the evening and listening to your campers talking about the Christian living classes that they heard that day.

Skills learned as a camp counselor are ones that you will use for the rest of your life. Campers are constantly putting you on the spot with questions and life situations. They turn to you for answers and you have to be prepared to give an answer, just as God instructs. This opportunity gives us the chance to be strong godly examples for the youth of the Church. We as counselors have to be on our toes to make sure that we are setting a good example for the youth.

Camp counselors are very important to the United Youth Camps program For seven days we are role models and examples to the campers, encouraging them to stay in the faith, showing them that God's way of life truly works. I recommend that anybody who has considered counseling to do it—it's an experience that you'll never forget.

Accidents Happen

Even when you think you've done all you can to avoid them, accidents still happen. The question is, when they do, are you prepared?

The Church provides an accident-medical policy to help cover some of the cost for injuries that can occur at camp. There is a modest sickness benefit included as well. The Church desires to provide this coverage each camp year, but that is subject to change based on availability and affordability.

As camp approaches, a copy of the policy will be provided so parents and volunteer staff can see what is and isn't covered. Be sure to check it out at http://uyc.ucg.org/camp-accident-insurance in early June for the 2014 policy and claim form. Here is a brief description of what is typically included:

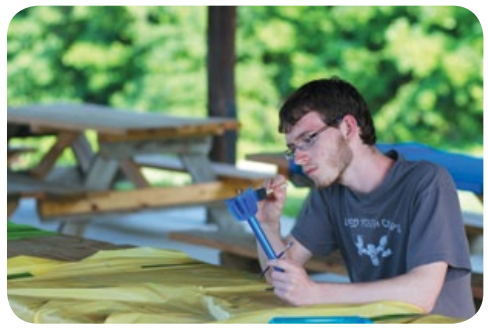
- A sickness component, covering up to $5,000 in medical expenses should that occur.
- The policy will pay primary (first) before other personal or group insurance.
- There is no deductible.
- Notice of the incident to be filed within 30 days and initial medical expenses must be incurred within 90 days.
- Benefits paid for expenses incurred for up to three years after the incident.
- Includes a $10,000 accidental death benefit (subject to a policy aggregate maximum).
- The accident expense limit is $25,000.

In the event of an accident, the camp director will send a partially completed insurance claim form home from camp with an injured camper. However, timely notification to the insurance carrier and filing of the claim is the responsibility of the camper's family and not United Youth Camps or the medical facility where they may be treated.

Ohio — Camp Cotubic — June 15-22

Details

Dates: *June 15-22 (staff should plan to arrive for Sabbath services June 14)*
Camper age range: *12-18*
Staff minimum age: *18 (high-school graduate)*
Camper tuition: *$265 (for applications prior to May 1); $280 (after May1).*
Staff fee: *$0 for experienced staff, $130 for junior staff*
Send signed forms and check to:
Frank Dunkle
690 State Route 551
Waverly, OH 45690
E-mail: *frank_dunkle@ucg.org*
Phone: *(740) 835-8446*



Plan for an fun and exciting week of camp in Ohio at Cotubic! Camp Cotubic includes a 14-acre lake and 150 acres of open and wooded grounds near Bellefontaine, Ohio. It's located approximately 60 miles northwest of Columbus and about 60 miles northeast of Dayton.

The dates for Camp Cotubic are June 15-22, 2014 (with staff arriving June 14). Campers should plan their arrival sometime between 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, June 15, and departure by 10 a.m. on Sunday, June 22. Arrival by airline is possible through the Columbus International Airport. We will offer no-cost transportation between Camp Cotubic and the airport.

To learn about God's way of life and to build good relationships with each other, we will begin each activity day with a dynamic Bible study. Additional question-and-answer sessions (focusing on biblical and Christian living topics) will also be offered during camp. Every day will end with a lively campfire program that will include songs, skits, stories, challenges and games. Your talent and imagination will be very welcome at Cotubic! Along with many activities, there will be enough free-time to enjoy talking with friends, old and new. Camp will wrap up with a restful and inspiring Sabbath, to be followed with a final dance.

Housing for campers and staff are in comfortable cabins and lodges, with sufficient shower and bathroom facilities.

Activities planned include basketball, volleyball, soccer, archery, wilderness skills, swimming, high ropes challenge course, arts and crafts, climbing wall/zip-line/giant swing, media, and dance. (Activities are subject to change, depending upon staff qualifications and other factors.) Swimming at the lake includes access to the blob, trampoline, 170-foot water-slide and boats. We also expect the newly-built (including safety features) slip n' slide to be in operation this summer.

To view this fine facility, visit the Camp Cotubic website: http://www.campcotubic.com.

Age range for campers is 12-18 (including 2014 high-school graduates). Adults who are at least 18 and graduated from high school are encouraged to apply as staff. We are looking for mature, fun workers whose first priority is serving the needs of the campers. Camper tuition is $265 (for applications submitted before May 1) or $280 (if after May 1). There is no cost for most staff, but there will be a few junior staff positions for some first-time, younger staff at a reduced tuition rate of $130.

Apply early online using the website and help make this year at Camp Cotubic another great one! We look forward to having you there.

Please check the camp website regularly for updates. I will be posting letters and information forms from time to time. This will help you stay informed—and it saves a lot of time in communicating with staff and campers. Thank you for your help in this regard.

Frank Dunkle, Camp Director

Missouri — Camp Pinecrest — June 20-27

Details

Dates: *June 20-27 (staff should arrive June 19)*
Camper age range: *12-18*
Staff minimum age: *18 (high-school graduate)*
Camper tuition: *$290 (if submitted on or before May 1, $305 if after)*
Staff fee: *$0*
Send signed forms and check to:
Gary Smith, Camp Pinecrest
2519 Diamond River Drive
Rosenberg, TX 77471
E-mail: *gary_smith@ucg.org*
Phone: *(713) 582-0050*
Make check payable to:
Pinecrest Camp Fund

Camp Pinecrest is located in the wooded, rolling hills of southeastern Missouri. For more than 16 years, we have offered an activity-packed week filled with challenges for the mind and body.

Activities

Campers will have the opportunity to sharpen or develop new skills in a variety of sporting activities including softball, volleyball, and speedaway. Teamwork is promoted at the ropes course and the amazing race special Pinecrest version. Other activities include archery, riflery, swimming and launching off "the Blob" into the lake. The Pinecrest canoeing program includes a day on the campus lake for training and then a day on the scenic Black River. New to the program this year will be a session of rock climbing and rappelling. The week will end with a dance.

The dorms are comfortable and air-conditioned. The showers are hot and the food a camper's delight. All of this is available for less than $40 per day (if you pay by May 1).

While fun is definitely a part of the program at Pinecrest, the camp is more than just activities and challenges. God and His Word are central to the design and fun of the United Youth Camp program. In fact, it is our goal that all young people would come away from camp with the crucial lesson of remembering their Creator while still in their youth (Ecclesiastes 12:1).

Each day starts with all campers gathering for Christian living. The 2014 theme is "Leaders: People of Character." A portion of this theme will be emphasized in the dorm at the campers begin their day. Right after breakfast each day, a presentation will be made in regard to this theme. Throughout the day the theme will be emphasized by the staff. Each activity day will end with a program that will include the Christian living theme along with songs, skits, stories, and challenges. So bring your talents and imaginations with you.

Finally, relationships are an important part of the UYC program. The schedule will also include plenty of fellowship time for everyone throughout the day.

Staff

Many of our dedicated staff return to Pinecrest year after year, gaining experience and growing in their ability to serve the young people of the Church. A great counseling and activity staff joining together with the campers creates an environment that promotes fun, challenge and spiritual growth.

If you would like to join our staff, please note that staff workers must be 18 years of age or older or need the recommendation of their pastor. Every staff member must complete pre-camp training, and some activity positions require specialized training or experience.

All campers should arrive between 1-4 p.m. on Friday, June 20, and will depart from camp by 10 a.m. on June 27. Staff orientation and training will begin on Thursday, June 19, in Fredericktown, near Camp Pinecrest.

Location

Camp Pinecrest is located 100 miles south of St. Louis, near Fredericktown, Missouri. The St. Louis airport is approximately two hours away. Transportation directly to and from camp will be provided at no charge for those arriving by air.

Gary Smith, Camp Director

Details

Dates: *June 29-July 6 (staff should arrive June 28)*
Camper age range: *12-18*
Staff minimum age: *18 (high-school graduate)*
Camper tuition: *$250*
Staff fee: *$0*
Send signed forms and check to:
Shawn Cortelyou, Camp Woodmen
3516 W. Village Road
La Porte, IN 46350
E-mail: *shawn_cortelyou@ucg.org*
Phone: *(309) 973-6362*

We are looking forward to a wonderful Camp Woodmen 2014! The schedule will include: archery, basketball, Christian living classes, dance class, high and low ropes, riflery, sand volleyball, softball, speedaway, swimming and water sliding, and ultimate Frisbee. Evening activities include novelty olympics, two dances and a fun show.

Dates and Times

Staff members should plan to attend an afternoon Sabbath service on June 28 in the Gadsden, Alabama, area. Staff orientation and training will follow that evening and Sunday morning. Specific details will be sent later to all staff members.

Camper registration will occur from 3-5 p.m. on Sunday, June 29. Checkout and departure for everyone will be from 9-11 a.m. on Sunday, July 6.

Transportation

We recommend the Birmingham airport (BHM) for those flying to Camp Woodmen. Transportation from the Birmingham airport to camp and back will be provided.

Applications

To apply to Camp Woodmen, or for more details, visit the website: http://uyc.ucg.org.

Staff Needs

We are always on the lookout for staff members who hold current certifications in nursing, lifeguarding, first aid and CPR. Questions about specific staff needs should be sent to the camp director.

We would appreciate your prayers for God's blessing on our efforts to build a safe, Christian zone that provides a foretaste of God's Kingdom. Participants can expect a well-structured and safe program that provides challenging activities and the opportunity to make lifelong friendships. Come to Camp Woodmen 2014 and make memories you will cherish forever!

Shawn Cortelyou, Camp Director

Details

Dates: *June 29-July 6 (staff training begins June 27)*
Camper age range: *12-18*
Staff minimum age: *18 (high-school graduate)*
Camper tuition: *$305 (if submitted on or before May 1, $335 if after)*
Staff fee: *$0*
Send signed forms and check to:
Ed Dowd, Camp Hye Sierra
1425 N. Chambers St.
Wichita, KS 67212
E-mail: *ed_dowd@ucg.org*
Phone: *(316) 722-3248*
Fax: *(877) 295-9524*

Welcome to Camp Hye Sierra!

Hye Sierra is a beautiful and serene 160-acre camp located amidst the magnificent pines and regal redwoods of California's Sequoia National Park. As a private camp, Hye Sierra offers us a fantastic isolated location to come together as a family for a full week. As staffers and campers, we leave our everyday environments and submerge ourselves in fun activities, godly relationships and spiritual discussions.

Our focus at Hye Sierra is showing that God's way truly works in this modern age. Hye Sierra's remote location allows us to craft a Zone, where you can focus on growing as a Christian and building lasting relationships with your fellow brothers and sisters. Each morning begins with a compass check, where we focus our thoughts and attitudes toward godly values that we practice in all we do that day. We also separate into interactive Christian living classes each evening, which are designed to help you connect with the day's biblical lesson and learn how you can apply it into your everyday life. During camp we also offer two additional Bible classes that present topics that are current and relevant to our campers. We end the day as a camp family, together by the campfire, where we continue to build relationships, learn biblical principles and have a blast.

At Hye Sierra, we know that building lasting, godly relationships with others is extremely important. We've built a lot of time into the schedule to foster those opportunities for you including: open evening activities, mix and mingle time, as well as our two popular dances, the "fun dance" and our camp-ending banquet dance. In addition, each activity we offer at Hye Sierra has been selected to help you have a lot of fun, push your comfort zone, and experience new things! This year we are excited to offer a wide variety of exciting, challenging activities including kayaking, capture the flag, archery, volleyball, dance, arts and crafts, challenge course, fishing, swimming, speedaway, basketball, and hiking amongst the majestic giant sequoias. Additionally, we are thrilled to once again be operating a rock climbing and rappelling program! New this year is an introductory sign language class! We conclude camp with a formal banquet, which brings campers and staff together for a final evening of conversation, laughter and even some tears. We are looking forward to a great year at camp with you!

Staff Information

We have many service opportunities for good counselors and activity staff. We are also in need of drivers, kitchen staff, those certified in lifesaving, CPR and/or wilderness first aid, nursing and staff experienced in rock climbing. All staff members must arrive on Friday, June 27, by 4 p.m. for staff training.

Transportation and Location

Camp Hye Sierra is located about 45 miles or one hour east of Fresno, California, on Route 180. For those flying into the Fresno airport, we will arrange free transportation to/from camp. Campers need to arrive at camp for registration on Sunday, June 29, between 2-4 p.m. Camp activities begin at 4 p.m.

Departure Information

Camp ends at 8 a.m. Sunday, July 6. All staff and camper departures should occur between 8-10 a.m. Please, do not schedule any departing flights before 11 a.m.

Make plans now, and we'll see you at Camp Hye Sierra!

Ed Dowd, Camp Director

Details

Dates: *July 20-27 (staff should arrive June 19)*
Camper age range: *12-18*
Staff minimum age: *18 (high-school graduate)*
Camper tuition: *$350 (U.S. dollars only)*
Staff fee: *$0*
Send signed forms and check to:
Rex Sexton, Director
P.O. Box 317
Wauna, WA 98395
E-mail: *rex_sexton@ucg.org*
Phone: *(360) 798-2921*
Fax: *(866) 221-5926*

Northwest Camp will once again be held at Camp Magruder on the scenic Oregon Coast. It's hard to imagine a more perfect or beautiful place for a summer camp! Campers enjoy a clean, nearly private mile-long lake as the eastern border of camp, and over a half-mile of pristine beach on the West. The dorms, dining hall, and other camp facilities are among the best in the region and improvements are made every year. The sandy beach is a great location for memorable campfires as the sun sets over the ocean.

It's hard to fit in all the activities we offer in just one week. Everyone enjoys the beach activities: volleyball, speedaway (one boundary of the field is the ocean), skim-boarding, and riding boogie boards in the waves. Other activities include swimming, waterskiing, a kayak trip down the Wilson River, archery, dance class, and softball. We will also have two dances during camp. The dance instruction classes have been a huge success over the years. Most of the campers know the line and group dances plus the traditional swings and waltzes.

Christian living lessons and memory verses are the core of each day. Each activity, lesson, and campfire story is designed to help campers understand the principles and how to apply them when they return home.

Every year campers build friendships that will last a lifetime. Living in a world where evil and negative influences are everywhere, friendships with teens of like mind are vitally important. Our goal is to establish a godly atmosphere in which campers can be enriched for a lifetime.

Transportation

Camp Magruder is located about 1 1/2 hours drive time from Portland, Oregon. Campers should arrive between 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, July 20th. Departure will be on Sunday, July 27th, between 10-11 a.m. If you fly to camp, we will provide transportation to and from the Portland airport between 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on July 22. Departure flights should be after 1 p.m. on July 29th. Please be sure and fill out the transportation form and confirm that it has been received if you plan to fly!

Staff

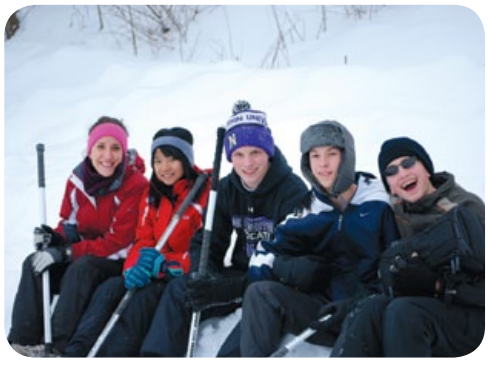
The camp experience is made possible by our dedicated volunteer staff. For those serving on staff, camp is a week of lots of hard work, not much sleep, and many rewarding memories as we are privileged to be a part of helping God's young people grow in His knowledge. Counseling staff will need to arrive on Friday, July 18 by 1 p.m. for training and team-building. Activity staff should plan to arrive in time for Sabbath services at 2 p.m. on July 19th.

The deadline for staff and camper applications is May 1, so apply as soon as you can. We are looking forward to a great experience for everyone on the beautiful Pacific coast this summer!

Rex Sexton, Camp Director

Details

Dates: *Dec. 24-31 (staff should arrive Dec. 23)*
Camper age range: *12-18*
Staff minimum age: *18 (high-school graduate)*
Camper tuition: *$300*
Staff fee: *$0*
Send signed forms and check to:
UYC-Winter Camp
6165 Glen View Parkway
West Bend, WI 53095
E-mail: *dan_dowd@ucg.org*
Phone: *(262) 299-1039*



Winter Camp carries on a beautiful tradition of brisk outdoor and warm indoor activities, plus enjoyable social-mixer events in the evenings. But the Christian living and other Bible instruction tailor-made for campers forms the core of the camp. Camp Timber-lee is located on 650 beautiful acres of rolling hills and lakes in the Kettle Moraine region of south-central Wisconsin - all of this in a snowy setting making Winter Camp a truly unique experience in the UYC program!

This year Winter Camp will operate for seven days (one more day than in recent years), from camper check-in on Dec. 24 until check-out on Dec. 31. Staff will arrive on Dec. 23. No-cost transportation will be provided between camp and these airports: Mitchell (Milwaukee); Chicago (O'Hare and Midway). Arriving flights should be on December 24th by Noon. Departing flights should be on December 31st no earlier than Noon.

Activities for 2014 will be: arts and crafts; the Amazing Race; animal encounter; broomball; cross country skiing; dance; field sports; game room; leather shop; science center; service project; team building; tubing/tobogganing; winter survival; writing class; and zip line. All these will be supplemented by Bunco and two dances! The spiritual component of winter camp will include daily compass checks, Christian living classes and seminars, Bible class, Bible Q&A sessions, Sabbath services and plenty of fellowship time!

Held concurrently with winter camp will be the winter leadership camp. Young adults (ages 18-30) are encouraged to participate in this camp serving alongside activity staff and counselors. You will enjoy some of the regular winter camp activities as a group, but you will also have additional Bible classes, seminars and Q&A's focused on leadership in the camp setting, local congregations and life in general. There will be many opportunities to lead and serve including giving speeches and sermonettes, planning and hosting one of the camp dances, and serving daily snacks to the campers. If you are a young adult graduating from the teen camp experience, we would love to have you come and give back to the UYC program and to begin to learn more about godly leadership. Tuition for winter leadership camp is $200. You

will arrive on Dec. 23 and leave Dec. 31. Apply as staff and select the leadership camp tab.

Take a look at photos from Winter Camp 2013 on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/8372327890/

Dan Dowd, Camp Director

Details

Dates: *July 27-Aug. 5*
Ages: *18-30+*
First Registration Deadline: *April 1*
Camper tuition: *$100*
E-mail: *matthew_fenchel@ucg.org*

Backpacking in rugged, beautiful mountains. Crossing rushing streams on makeshift log dams. Camping above 10,000 feet in altitude. Climbing challenging rock cliffs. Catching beautiful (and large!) trout. Deer, moose, and yes, maybe the occasional bear. Training in spiritual character and leadership through mentoring, group dynamics, and opportunities to "be in front."

These adventures and more await participants of Challenger West 2014, which takes place from July 27-Aug. 5, 2014. Challenger West is designed to take a small, select group of young adults (ages 18-30+) who are serious about their commitment to God's truth and Church, and provide them with opportunities to develop qualities of leadership in an outdoor setting. The program revolves around close mentoring and group dynamics. The purpose is to provide both physical and spiritual apprenticeship to young adults who desire to grow in godly character, leadership, and serving others.

Participants learn practical outdoor and adventure skills, in addition to having constant opportunities for personal exploration and growth, all while helping others do the same. A major premise of the program is that growth in any endeavor does not come unless a person explores or is "challenged" outside of his comfort zone. This is one reason Challenger is in a wilderness setting. Leaders are needed who can not only face difficulties with perseverance and courage, but who will also challenge themselves towards growth in leadership and spiritual maturity. Succeed or fail—there is always something to be learned from challenges, tests and new experiences (1 Corinthians 9:24-27, 2 Timothy 2:3-4, James 1:2-4, 12, 2 Corinthians 13:5, Hebrews 2:10; 5:8-9).

Challenger West will take place in the Wind River Wilderness region near Dubois, Wyoming. The physical setting for this program involves backpacking and camping at an altitude where everything is carried in. Rock-climbing will serve as a main activity in terms of learning to step outside of one's comfort zone and develop the mental, physical and emotional skills and character to succeed at a new adventure. Additional outdoor activities include orienteering and outstanding fishing!

Each day will begin with a Bible study. This year's theme is "the Compass of Leadership" and will focus on profiles of leadership from the Bible. Discussions throughout the day, and an end-of-the-day debriefing will allow participants to see how they are growing in the character of leadership.

There are a number of new components to Challenger West 2014, compared with previous years. First, the program is one day longer, which will give us the opportunity to further internalize leadership lessons for life. Second, our climbing instructors (Andrew and Tiffany Beattie) have scouted out new and more challenging routes that have not been used at Challenger before.

Third, and perhaps most importantly, the aspect of spiritual and leadership exploration has been revamped for 2014. In addition to the Bible studies, participants will be asked to lead groups themselves during the program, participate in group feedback sessions, explore what their true leadership character is through various exercises, and consider what they would like to change about themselves.

Participants will have the opportunity to come out of their normal, everyday lives and experience an inspiring setting, free from the distractions of everyday life, while learning lessons drawn from the wilderness setting. Memories of a dramatic, positive experience help to cement other lessons imparted during the course of the experience.

Preparation and Deadlines

The first deadline is April 1, 2014. Participants can go to http://uyc.ucg.org/camp/challenger-west to download an application and other important information. If you have questions, please contact the Challenger West director, Matthew Fenchel, at matthew_fenchel@ucg.org.

Matthew Fenchel, Director

Letter From the Preteen Camp Coordinator

Dear preteen campers, parents and staff,

We are gearing up now for another fantastic preteen camp year! Last year we had 366 preteen campers and 370 staff members, many of whom were teenagers. Camp is a wonderful opportunity for our dedicated staff to practice Christlike service and make a big difference in the lives of our young campers. This year we will offer seven special summer camps and one winter camp. We hope to provide a wonderful camp experience for even more young campers than in 2013.

There is great excitement and energy at all our preteen camps, and we look forward to more of the same this year. Preteen camp is an opportunity to have fun, make new friends, and see friends we haven't seen since last year's camp. We have lots of fun activities for our children, but we always strive to teach them valuable lessons that will give them guidance throughout their lives. God's way really does work, and it is experienced at our preteen camps firsthand!

We always have room for more staff members who love to work with children and are motivated to help them have a great camp. So if you are a teen or an adult, consider spending a few days of your summer (or winter) serving at one of our preteen camps. In the past we have always had a fabulous ratio of staff members to campers, and I'm very confident that 2014 will be more of the same. This helps insure that our camps are always safe and there is plenty of supervision and care for all our campers.

Along with Christian living classes, Bible games and hymn singing, many of our camps will also offer archery, canoeing, fishing, nature hikes, field trips, horseback riding, rafting, field games, arts and crafts, and many other exciting activities.

Each preteen camp offers a unique environment with unique activities, so each has its own unique camper and staff application and mailing address.

If you would like to participate in a preteen camp, as a camper or on staff, be sure to obtain camp information and applications online on our UYC website, http://uyc.ucg.org. If you have questions or need more information, you may also contact the appropriate camp director listed.

Parents please strongly consider sending your preteen to camp this year. Why not give your child an opportunity to have fun, learn spiritual lessons, make precious memories, have more fun, and develop friendships they will cherish for a lifetime?

Sincerely,
Mark Welch

Camp Tomahawk — Tennessee — June 10-13

Details

Coordinator: *Matthew Puckett*
Phone: *(615) 557-6535*
E-mail: *mtpuckett@gmail.com*

Camp Tomahawk will once again be held at the site of the NaCoMe (Nah-Co-Me) Camp and Conference Center in scenic Pleasantville, Tennessee. Just 10 minutes west of Centerville, Tennessee, NaCoMe occupies the historic site of the Beaver Dam Springs Resort of more than 100 years ago. Today, NaCoMe is an all-year-round ACA accredited camp providing camp and conference amenities to all who apply. This is spacious, well maintained facility.

We'll start off the day with Christian living class followed by activities including archery, caving, arts and crafts, creek walks, nature education, low ropes, a swimming hole, hiking, fishing and Funyaking—just to name a few. Then each night we'll have a special activity planned like movie night with popcorn or novelty olympics complete with the big red ball. We'll close each day with campers and dorm parents reflecting on God's teachings through a compass check. We'll talk about how our actions and words should demonstrate our commitment to God; how we should put him first, others second and then ourselves last.

Come spend this summer with us at Camp Tomahawk! See old friends, make new ones and create great camp memories with God's family, His creation and His way of life in a truly picturesque environment.

Camp Colorado — June 15-18

Details

Coordinators: *Mark & Barbara Welch*
Phone: *Home (918) 247-4325, Cell (918) 724-4166*
E-mail: *mark_welch@ucg.org*

Consider joining us this summer for a fun, exciting, and inspiring camp experience in the beautiful Rocky Mountains of Colorado! Camp Colorado Preteen Camp will be held June 15-18. The location will once again be at the Highlands Camp and Retreat Center near Allenspark, Colorado, 16 miles south of Estes Park. This camp is especially attractive as it lies at the base of majestic Mt. Meeker, which is nearly 14,000 feet in elevation!

Campers, as well as teen and adult staff, will greatly enjoy nature hikes, archery, canoeing, field games, arts and crafts, sing-alongs, campfires, Bible games, compass checks, and daily Christian living classes.

Our camp facility is first-rate, and the food is outstanding! Preteens, teens, and adults interact together for a truly rewarding camp experience. Teens will serve on staff and experience the rewarding opportunity to help guide and direct younger campers. Camp is a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and to strengthen friendships from the past. Everyone will enjoy the natural beauty of God's inspiring creation and develop bonds that will last a lifetime.

We greatly appreciate the dedicated teens and adults who volunteer to serve at camp to provide a fun and safe environment for our preteen campers and we look forward to another fantastic camp experience!

So whether you are a preteen, teen, or adult we welcome you to join us at Camp Colorado! Please send in your application as soon as possible, but no later than May 1.

Important details for camp are found on our website, http://uyc.ucg.org.

Camp Piney Woods — Texas — June 22-25

Details

Coordinator: *Jim & Laura Moody*
Mail applications to:
United Church of God East Texas, ATTN: Camp Piney Woods
P.O. Box 1111
Hawkins, TX 75765.
E-mail: *jim_moody@ucg.org*

Camp Piney Woods welcomes all preteen campers (ages 5-12) to the peaceful and tranquil surroundings of East Texas (Big Sandy). Get ready to enjoy a fabulous four-day camp experience where you will learn about our awesome God, make new friends and have fun in a caring and positive environment. The East Texas brethren will be hosting camp at our beautiful church building located at 1007 N. Tyler Street, Big Sandy, TX 75755, approximately 100 miles east of Dallas. Camp will be June 22-25.

The theme for this year's camp is taken from Ecclesiastes 12:13: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." During camp, we will emphasize many aspects of our awesome God, His Word, and following in the footsteps of the many faithful servants who have lived before us.

Each day at Camp Piney Woods will include a variety of outdoor and indoor activities beginning with Christian living classes to reinforce that God's way of life works. Other activities include arts and crafts, swimming, fishing, sports, music, team building activities, treasure hunts and morning compass checks.

We are looking for dedicated, patient teens and adults to serve in all areas of camp, including counselors, activity coordinators, and staff. We encourage everyone who is interested (from young to not-as-young) to apply as soon as possible, but no later than June 1.

If you have any questions, we encourage you to e-mail us at jim_moody@ucg.org or visit http://uyc.ucg.org/camp/camp-piney-woods.

Camp Piney Woods offers an exciting camp experience with warm East Texas hospitality and a peaceful place to learn about God, make new friends, and have fun. We hope you'll join us!

Camp Kiwanis — Pennsylvania — July 13-16

Details

Coordinators: *Lindsey Massie & Rachel Massie*
Contact info: *lindseymassie@gmail.com and willow527@yahoo.com*
Phone: *(678) 267-6477 and (610) 683-6621*

Camp Kiwanis has a whole family approach to teaching God's way at summer camp. Our campers range from 4-12 years old, but we strongly encourage parents to bring the whole family, camp out, and volunteer! Some activities are arranged to teach and entertain our youngest set (1-3 year olds), while parents and older siblings can volunteer and serve the campers. If you don't have vacation time, you can drop off 7-12 year olds for an amazing three days.

Last year 20 teen staff, 22 adult staff, 11 parents, and 59 campers spent three days playing sports, fishing, swimming, kayaking, singing, crafting, and learning God's way of life through morning Bible studies and evening bonfires. This year's focus is Joseph's story.

Camp Kiwanis has rustic dorm style cabins for campers, a lodge for meals, shower and bathroom facilities, and plenty of space to run and enjoy the outdoors. It is located in Salladasburg, Pennsylvania, just east of Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania, in a quiet, wooded setting that runs along a beautiful creek.

The Lewistown church area has hosted a preteen camp for 16 years. It's wonderful to see some of the first campers from the early years bring their children to camp and watch God's way of life handed down to the next generation.

Camp Ironwood — Minnesota — July 20-23

Details

Coordinator: *Dave & Jolinda Schreiber*
Phone: *(507)-377-8151*
E-mail: *david_schreiber@ucg.org*

Camp Ironwood in southeastern Minnesota warmly welcomes preteen campers (ages 5-13) to experience four days and three nights of fun-filled activities in a positive, loving and God-centered environment. The theme of this year's camp will be "Loving God and Loving Neighbor."

Camp activities are designed to enrich children both spiritually and physically by experiencing a camp atmosphere in a nurturing and caring family environment. Our goal is to enrich the children's relationship with God and with other young people and adults. Activities include daily Christian living and music classes, a zip line, swimming, horseback riding, outdoor games, a team challenge, the climbing wall, arts and crafts, archery, a slingshot, nature, exploring, mini farm animals, a treasure hunt, campfire sing along, campus improvement, novelty olympics and much more.

Camp Ironwood has been blessed each year with an amazing group of teens who come to serve as assistant counselors and activity staff. The teens work hard during the day and in the evening enjoy group activities, which gives them the opportunity to enjoy each other's company. The teens also start their day off with their own Christian living classes and music. Camp Ironwood also greatly appreciates the contributions of the dedicated and self-sacrificing parents who give up vacation time to serve as counselors, activity coordinators, lifeguards and first aid nurses. We welcome and encourage both teens and parents to consider serving this year at Camp Ironwood.

Camp Ironwood has a long tradition for creating a caring family atmosphere. Not only do the activity staff strive to develop a relationship with all the campers, making sure each camper participates and enjoys each activity, but each teen staff is a "big sister and big brother" dropping in on their dorm's activities and at lunches. The campers also have "dorm dads and moms" who visit the dorms each evening for a short talk and prayer.

Camp Ironwood takes place in the spectacular outdoor setting of Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch in southeastern Minnesota. The camp is located near Stewartville, Minnesota, which is about 90 miles south of the Twin Cities and just 15 miles west of Rochester, Minnesota, just off I-90. The dates for this years camp are Sunday, July 20, through Wednesday, July 23. Staff training takes place early Sunday morning (July 20).

If you and your children are looking for an exciting camp experience and want to meet and enjoy the company of other young people striving to live God's way, Camp Ironwood is for you!

Northwest — Oregon — Aug. 3-6

Details

Coordinator: *John & Sandy Cafourek*
Phone: *(503) 587-7053*
E-mail: *john_cafourek@ucg.org*

Camp Arrah Wanna, near Mt. Hood in Welches, Oregon, provides a millennial setting for campers and adult and teen staff. The theme for this year is "Fully Rely on God—F.R.O.G." We will focus on the great variety in 4,800 species of frogs, one of God's great creations. Frogs are found in the tropics all the way to the subarctic regions of the world. The camp mascots will be frogs that come in a chorus of colors: brilliant orange, bright blue, brown, grey, green, dazzling red, yellow, black, and even multicolored!

In Christian living class we'll learn how God used frogs in a very important way to teach His people how much He loves and cares for them. We will find out about faith and learn to rely on God for our every need.

Activities at camp will be Christian living classes, arts and crafts, campfire, dance class, a river float on the Salmon River, swimming in a heated pool and sports. Who knows what we'll find at the archery field, maybe a dazzling warty frog casting warts at the camp director! Oh no! Save Mr. Cafourek!

Come join us Sunday through Wednesday, Aug. 3-6. Contact the director, John Cafourek, at john_cafourek@ucg.org to get a camper and/or staff application or online at http://uyc.ucg.org

The deadline for applications is earlier than ever before, May 1, 2014.

See you in the Northwest Tropics for an ancient look at frogs!

Camp Buckeye — Ohio — Aug. 3-6

Details

Coordinators: *Len & Julie Martin*
Phone: *(614) 588-2637*
E-mail: *len_martin@ucg.org*

Camp Buckeye is returning for the third year in a row to Camp Luz in Orrville, Ohio. We encourage all children, ages 6-12, to come and enjoy a positive, rewarding and uplifting camp experience. Camp activities are designed to enrich children physically, mentally and spiritually by creating a safe, caring atmosphere to learn how to strengthen their relationship with God, family and friends.

There is a large pond for fishing and canoeing, as well as a separate swimming pond with a floating platform and diving board. Each day will begin with Christian living classes, and additional activities will include archery, arts and crafts, astronomy, Bible skits, canoeing, fishing, field games, swimming, "the way," ping-pong, Luz-ball, and a campfire with kettle corn and a sing-along.

Once you have come to Camp Buckeye you will be hooked for life! This is evident by the number of teen and young adult staff members who used to be campers, but now return as volunteer staff in order to help the next generation have the same wonderful memories. Camp Buckeye cannot operate successfully without the dedication and sacrifice of the staff members who surrender their own personal vacation time in order to serve. We encourage parents and teens to consider serving at Camp Buckeye.

We're pleased to announce that as a result of the hard work and efforts by the volunteers to reduce our expenses, we are able to reduce the camper application fee!

Southwest — Arizona — Dec. 21-25

Details

Coordinators: *Nathan & Jacqueline Ekama*
Phone: *(480) 438-6911*
E-mail: *n_ekama@yahoo.com*

The Southwest preteen camp was a blast this past winter and we are looking forward to another great camp at the Estrella Mountain Regional Park. Camp will begin on Sunday, Dec. 21 and conclude on Thursday, Dec. 25. The Southwest preteen camp is a family campout that gives our preteens the opportunity to have a blast with friends, engage in cool activities, learn about God in a fun environment, and enjoy a few days and nights outside in the warm winter weather of the Phoenix Valley. It also give parents and teen staff all of those same awesome opportunities! We wholeheartedly encourage families to attend as a unit because that is in fact where the seeds of God's way of life are initially sewn and we are just excited to build upon that teaching.

Our campers last year ranged in ages from 2 to 12 and all were able to engage in each of our activities at an age-appropriate level, including our horseback riding and rock climbing activities. We have a full roster of excellent activities planned again for this coming camp and we look forward to having your family join us. Be sure to check for applications and camp details online.

Colombia

June 25-July 1

Details

Dates: *June 25-July 1*
Camper age range: *12-18*
Staff minimum age: *18 (high-school graduate)*
Camper tuition: *$250*
Staff fee: *$0*
E-mail: *scott_hoefker@ucg.org*
Phone: *(704) 628-6383*

Come join us for another year at our UYC summer camp in Colombia, South America! The dates for camp are June 25-July 1. The location of camp is being finalized. The cost will run $250 per person, which does not include airfare and transportation to and from camp. Arrivals from international areas by airline is possible through the Bogotá International Airport.

The age range for campers is 12-18. Adults who are at least 18 years old and graduated from high school are welcome to apply as staff. We are looking for mature, energetic and fun staff, whose priority is serving the needs of the campers. This camp is for bilingual or Spanish speaking only attendees.

Last year, we had an attendance of 21 campers with a full array of Bible studies, Christian living classes, song leading training, swimming, waterslides, soccer, volleyball, basketball, an amazing race, a dance, a day spent at a nearby beach, a visit to a local historical museum, and plenty of fellowship.

This year we plan to have many of the same activities. Because our focus at camp is building life-long relationships with God and each other, each day will start with an interactive compass check type Bible study. Additional question-and-answer sessions (focusing on biblical and Christian-living topics) will also be offered during camp. Fun and challenging activities, along with extra time for fellowshipping and relaxing will make this camp experience a treat. Free time to enjoy talking with friends, old and new, is one of Colombia's experiences that last a lifetime.

If you are interested in attending this small but intimate camp in the beautiful country of Colombia, please contact camp director Scott Hoefker at scott_hoefker@ucg.org or 704-628-6383.

Scott Hoefker, Camp Director

Philippines

April 30-May 7

Details

Dates: *April 30-May 7*
E-mail: *ed_macaraeg@ucg.org*

Most young people have the tendency to take things easy, put things off, ignore important priorities or tend to be irresponsible. Time lost is lost forever. Thus, we would like to address the various aspects of this camp's theme, "Your Time Is Now!" in the daily Christian living classes, using the biblical principles as the foundation.

For the 13th time, we have decided to use Eden Nature Park in Davao City. But since Eden Nature Park's new management demolished the campsites we used all the past years—converting the space to something more profitable for them—they offered us other facilities instead. The new facilities are more standard and modern, but will cost us about twice as much as in the past, when we just camped under very spartan conditions. The important thing is that we can still meet our objectives.

Our challenge this year is to conduct the United Youth Camp again without the built-in budget unlike in the previous years (before the cut-backs). By faith and works, God helped us last year. Hopefully, by starting especially early this time, our humble efforts will be blessed for the sake of our youth (the lambs of God, and future generation of the Church) and for His glory and honor which could affect their eternal destiny. This is how important and far-reaching the impact of our youth summer camps are! Thus, we need your support and prayers.

Camp will be held from April 30-May 7. Pre-camp setup (including orientation) will begin a week before, on April 23. Application forms were due last Dec. 31, 2013. We plan to send out application notifications and approvals by Jan. 13. We are doing it this early so that those flying can find more reasonable airfare to greatly save on travel costs. For more information, please e-mail the camp director Edmond Macaraeg at ed_macaraeg@ucg.org.

Ed Macaraeg, Camp Director

What to bring to camp

• *Positive attitude*

• *Appropriate-length hair of a natural color*

• *Sleeping bag/pillow*

• *Sunscreen*

Daypack
- *Water bottle*
- *Camera*
- *Appropriate sports equipment for day's activities*

• *Bible and notebook*

Backpack or suitcase
- *Clothes for the week*
- *Sneakers (hiking boots for some camps)*
- *Toiletries*
- *Appropriate swimsuit/ water shoes*
- *Towels/washcloths*
- *Sabbath attire*
- *Necessary sports equipment (e.g. baseball glove, knee pads, swim goggles)*

What not to bring to camp

• *Candy or snacks. Leave these at home so ants or rodents aren't attracted to your sleeping quarters. Parents, please do not mail "care packages" of sweets to your camper.*

• *Expensive jewelry (including valuable watches) or large amounts of cash.*

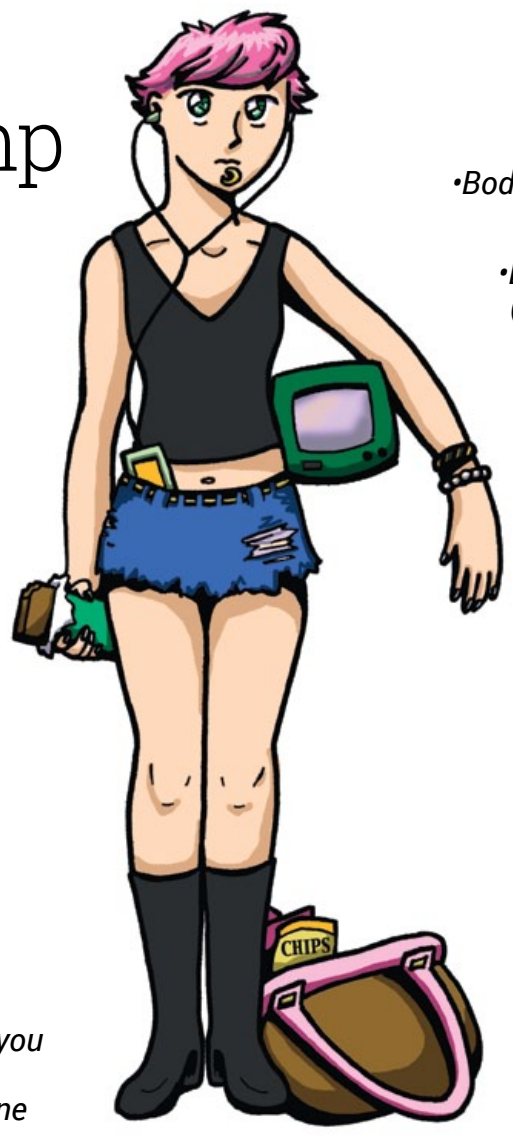
• *Alcohol, tobacco products or illegal drugs. Prescription drugs must be turned in at registration to the camp medical team.*

• *Matches, lighters, fireworks, firearms or other weapons unless written permission is given by the camp director.*

• *Pocket knives.*

• *Rollerblades, skateboards or scooters.*

• *Cell phones are best left at home or with your parents, but if you bring a cell phone to camp, please turn it in at registration. It will be returned to you when you check out of camp. Cell phone usage for calling home during camp is at the individual camp director's discretion.*



•*Body piercings (other than earrings for girls).*

•*Dark gothic apparel or adornment (including black nail polish).*

• *Electronics: All types of music players, headphones, video games, computers, walkie-talkies, iPods, MP3 players, DVD players, TVs, radios, etc. The list goes on and on.*

• *Improper wording or messages on clothing or camp gear.*

• *Tight or revealing clothing, short shorts, clothing that shows underwear; no bare midriffs, halter-tops or immodest swimwear.*

• *Frayed or torn "grunge" clothing.*

• *Fantasy games, tarot cards and other "dark world" materials (Deuteronomy 18:9-14).*

Illustrations by Alyssa Pence

Design the Next Camp Shirt Contest

CALLING ALL CAMPER AND STAFF ARTISTS

Would you like to see your artwork printed on hundreds of shirts? This year we are looking for a fresh design for the 2014 UYC camper shirts and want you to design it! The submitted design can be hand drawn or computer designed in any format.

The deadline for submission is April 1, 2014!

More details, including how to submit your design and design requirements, can be found at the UYC website at http://uyc.ucg.org.

A 50 percent scholarship will be offered to a 2014 camp if the winner is a camper. The winning artist will be noted in a future *United News* publication and the artwork will be printed on the 2014 camper shirts for all U.S.-based camps!

It's time to get creative!

Camper, Staff & Parent Comments

There is no experience like living with people just like you for even a week and the Kingdom of God will be like this forever. (Cotubic)

Coming from a small church area with few young people [and] working with teens is encouraging. (Staff, Pinecrest)

Camp was amazing, and I can't wait for another year. It truly helped me in my life. (Hye Sierra)

I always return home with a renewed excitement of HOW MUCH God is working with His youth! (Staff, Cotubic)

My youngest daughter as a first year camper said she wanted to go to camp every year until she was 40. (Parent)

This camp was incredible. My family isn't in the Church and being a part of camp showed me a glimpse of what being in God's family is really like. So much love and unity is present, and it's absolutely beautiful. I've never felt the way I did here. (Hye Sierra)

[My child] wants to go back and liked the overall camp experience. (Parent)

It's a huge source of encouragement to see the passion and commitment in today's youth for God's way of life! (Staff, Cotubic)

This camp has encouraged me to have a better relationship with God and has taught me how important it is to follow God. (Woodmen)

Brought me closer to God and others and strengthened my faith so much more than I was expecting. (Staff, Woodmen)

Camp is what I wait for all year, as it is a positive environment. (Northwest)

Camp Pinecrest is fun, and most importantly it offers a very deep spiritual connection with God. (Pinecrest)

They both enjoyed camp very much. When they got home, [our son] said he had a case of the "do-betters" and [our daughter] said she was suffering from PCD—Post Camp Depression. (Parent)

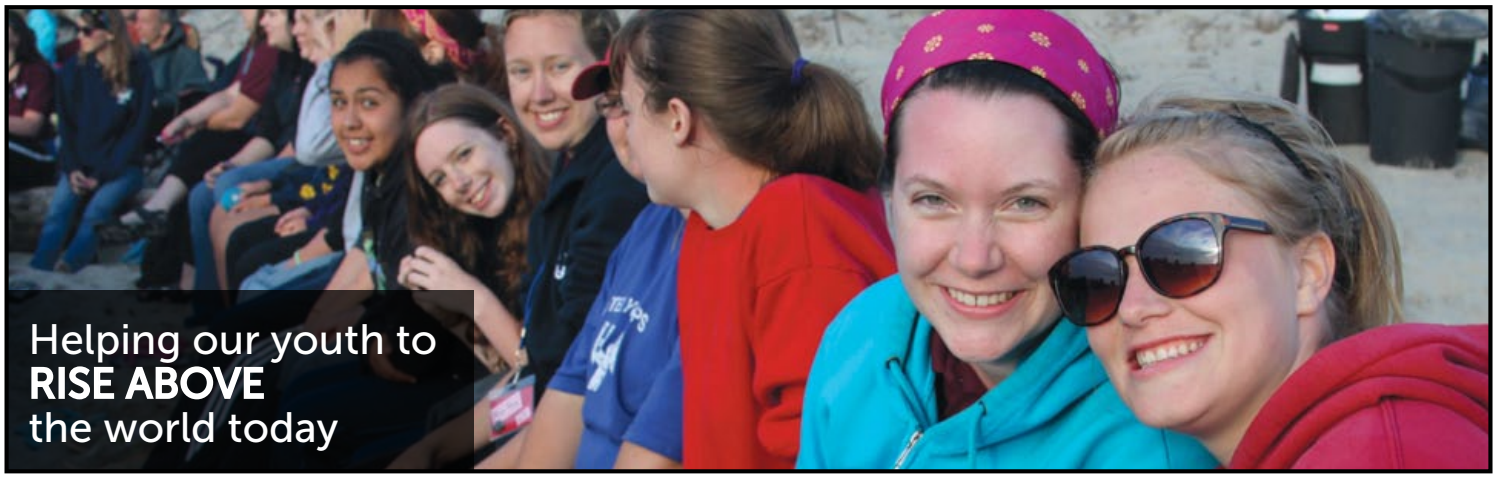
My child felt that camp this year was incredible. It was his first year and he made many new friends, had many great experiences, and learned a lot about God's way and teachings. (Parent)

Camp really helped me improve my love for the Word. For a while I felt as if I was slipping away but camp brought me back. (Woodmen)

I love how everyone is always willing to help when someone is struggling and is so encouraging. (Northwest)

Register for Camp Online

HOME | INFORMATION | PRETEEN CAMPS | TEEN CAMPS | CHALLENGER PROGRAM | CONTACT



Ready to apply to camp?

- **Go to the UYC website at http://uyc.ucg.org and click "Apply for camp online."** All participation releases and signatures will be collected electronically, so just follow the prompts through the easy online application system.
- **For preteen camps,** apply by using the forms for each preteen camp on their respective web pages.
- **Complete the online application.**
- **Download the Medical Exam Form and print it.** Then schedule an appointment with your family doctor and have the doctor complete the Medical Exam form (these exam forms are good for three years from the date they were given). Then mail, fax or e-mail the form to the appropriate camp director (their addresses are found on pages 6-8).
- **Mail tuition payment to the camp director.** Most camps offer a reduced tuition if you pay by May 1, so take advantage of this!
- **Upload your photo and transportation details as soon as you know them.**

Scholarships may be available for those who need the financial assistance.

Local scholarships: First ask your pastor to see if any local scholarships are available. National scholarships: Next, ask your pastor about applying for a national UYC scholarship. Remember that partial scholarships are offered and not full scholarships. Campers should take advantage of part-time jobs to partially cover their tuition cost.

What if you don't have a computer or Internet access? Don't worry, simply contact your pastor, a friend or your local library in order to access the Internet. We do not have the ability to process paper applications, so please take advantage of the Internet. It's simple and quick!

Apply for camp online

UYC Fund 2014

You might wonder how you could help the United Youth Camps program be a success. There is much you can do. If you know someone who would like to attend but might not be able to afford to go, you can sponsor him or her directly or through the local church pastor. Also, we have a scholarship fund for those who seek assistance through the home office (we give partial rather than full scholarships as a general rule). Your donation to the United Youth Camp Fund will be much appreciated. Fill out the 2014 UYC Fund form, cut it out and send it in with your donation. Thank you.

2014 UYC Fund

- Please indicate the amount you are sending in the spaces below.
- Include your personal identification number (PIN) from your latest *United News* or *Good News* label.
- Make your check payable to United Youth Camp Fund.
- Clip out and enclose the completed form, along with your check, and mail to the address below. Thank you!
- Affix postage and mail to:

United Youth Camp Fund, P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027

Your PIN: U _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Donation Amount Enclosed _____

Name

Address City State/Province Zip code

Leaders

people of character

Mission

The mission of the United Youth Camps program is to support parents and the Church in teaching youth to develop their full godly potential—which is their calling into the Body of Jesus Christ and the work of the Church—while learning that God's spiritual laws are practical ways of living (Deuteronomy 6:6-9 and 11:19-20; Psalm 34:11; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4). Within our mission are contained camper goals, staff objectives, biblical standards and a positive message to our teens that God's ways work!

Teen Camp Dates

Camp Cotubic, Ohio ..... June 15-22
Camp Pinecrest, Missouri..... June 20-27
Camp Hye Sierra, California ..... June 29-July 6
Camp Woodmen, Alabama ..... June 29-July 6
Northwest Camp, Oregon ..... July 20-27
Winter Camp, Wisconsin ..... Dec. 24-31

Preteen Camp Dates

Camp Tomahawk, Tennessee ..... June 10-13
Camp Colorado, Colorado..... June 15-18
Camp Piney Woods, Texas ..... June 22-25
Camp Kiwanis, Pennsylvania ..... July 13-16
Camp Ironwood, Minnesota ..... July 20-23
Camp Buckeye, Ohio ..... Aug. 3-6
Northwest Preteen Camp, Oregon..... Aug. 3-6
Southwest Preteen Camp, Arizona..... Dec. 21-25

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UYC 2014