

Dear Youth Pastor,

Welcome to YEX! We're amazed at what God has in store for us this summer! Much prayer and preparation has gone into "The Journey 2024" and we are confident that a life changing experience awaits your youth as we seek the face of God together. This is going to be a camp that will bring your youth to a new place of knowing Him. We look forward to your arrival and the opportunity of greeting new faces along with welcoming back "extended family!"

As you prepare for camp in the next few months, we wanted to pass on this information that is vital to a smooth arrival and registration. Please read this packet in its entirety. As a suggestion, you may want to copy certain pages of this information and distribute to the parents of your young people.

Prior to Camp:

Please make sure all your students and chaperones have registered online. Please understand our desire is to fill all available spots, and last-minute cancellations will keep us from accommodating individuals we did not initially have capacity for. Please contact us before arrival for last minute additions.

Registration Day:

Registration is July 8th, 2024, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm for groups and 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. for TFC 180 Youth.

If you haven't already done so, please be prepared to pay the remainder of your balance prior to arriving. This makes registration go so much faster.

We are excited to see you in just a few short months! Please do not hesitate to contact us by email Sue@christianretreat.org for any further assistance.

Blessings,
Pastor Sue and the YEX Leadership Team

Preparing for Camp . . .

What you will need to bring . . .

Bible, notebook and pen

Water bottle

Sleeping bag & air mattress (for the extras in your rooms)

Sunscreen

Water Shoes

Towels and washcloths

Beach towel for the pool

3 plastic hangers to hang dry towels or wet clothes

Toiletries (shampoo, deodorant, etc.)

An expectancy to have a great time!!

It gets really hot in the summer and you will be outside often – please pack accordingly!

Things you may want to bring . . .

Casual modest clothing: Jeans, pants, sweats and t-shirts & shorts

Bathing Suit (Must be a one-piece, or dark, long t-shirt worn over swimsuit.

No exceptions!)

Spending money for YEX Summer Nights; after the evening services we will have concessions available such as pizza, wings, nachos, milk shakes....

We will also have merch available - camp t-shirts and hoodies

What not to bring . . .

All . . . Gang paraphernalia;

Knives or weapons of any sort

NO Fireworks

No cigarettes, e-cigarettes or vaping pens

No drugs

Guys . . .

Immodest swimsuits

Ladies . . .

Miniskirts

Crop tops

No Short shorts

Off-the-shoulder shirts

Two-piece bathing suit or an immodest one-piece

****Youth pastors and camp leadership have the right to ask a camper to change at any time if they feel their clothing is inappropriate****

Youth Explosion Activities

Sessions:

These are the main focus of camp. Our dynamic speakers will inspire you with the Word of God, and teach you how to stand-alone in this world. Along with the speakers is intense Spirit filled worship that will bring you into the presence of God.

The Ultimate Games:

These are exciting, unusual and outrageous games all campers get to play during scheduled team times. These activities include: swimming, canoeing, 9 square in the air, Gaga Ball, ultimate dodge ball. These are no “regular” camp games and are sure to make your camp experience extreme.

Ultimate Challenge Tournaments:

On Friday of the camp, we will be hosting our annual “Ultimate Challenge Tournaments.” In the Lobby of Miracle Manor there will be sign-up sheets for each tournament. The tournaments this year include:

- Dodgeball
- 6 on 6 Beach Volleyball
- 3 on 3 Basketball
- Ping Pong
- Corn hole
- Chess
- Kickball (10 players)

Also available during this time will be inflatables, a gaming room, the swimming pool, a movie theater and much more!

Summer Nights at YEX

After each evening service there will be activities in the YEX building such as:

Open gym, different theme night dance parties. Monday night will be our Welcome Luau Tropical Beach Party and Bonfire. Jam session for acoustic guitars and jambes.

A Gaming room for all our gamers.

Late night beach volleyball, Spike ball and cornhole, Gaga ball and more...

Concession areas where we sell wings, pizza, milk shakes, nachos, buffalo chicken dip, candy and more...

The YEX Factor: See the video on the web-site for details .

Ministry Opportunities:

This year we want to give youth groups the opportunity to minister alongside of us at camp. If there is a drama, dance piece, or worship song that your youth group would like present at the camp, please email us at Sue@christianretreat.org to let us know. We are asking that the group be ready to "audition" this piece beforehand at camp so we can make sure that the piece goes with the flow of the service.

Small Group Time:

We are adding something new this year at YEX—it's SMALL GROUP TIME! We will be dividing up the camp into small groups that will meet before the morning sessions. We will be contacting you to set up a Zoom Call to explain in detail.

Housing and Food

Housing Accommodations:

All campers will be staying in air -conditioned hotel rooms, five in each room. Bedding will be provided. Unfortunately, we do not offer married housing at this time, and we do not offer special accommodations for small children either. Also note, towels are not provided so please bring your own. For the fifth person in your rooms, please bring a blow-up mattress and bedding.

Food Accommodations:

All meals will be served in our dining hall. All three meals will be served at scheduled times. There will be concessions open during

non-meal times, and will serve drinks, candy, ice cream, etc. These are an additional expense, so advise your group to bring spending money if they want extra snacks. We will have a snack bar open nightly after sessions that will have pizza, wings, ice cream and other great snacks. Some of this year's dinners will be catered out by Chick-Fil-A, and Sonny's Barbecue.

Youth Explosion Rules

To do . . .

- Show up 5 minutes early to all sessions
- Carry an attitude that exudes respect, willingness and servanthood – Dress appropriately; very modestly (Youth Pastors please help with this) –
- Take showers daily
- Bring Bible, pen and camp notebook to each session
- Wear Camp lanyard at all times (you will need it to enter the dining room and main sessions).

Ladies

1. No bare midriff or spaghetti strap tank tops
2. No two-piece bathing suits or an immodest one-piece
3. No short shorts or short skirts

Gentlemen

1. Must wear a shirt at all times aside from the pool
 2. No sagging pants
- Staff's discretion will be used regarding appropriate clothing

Not to do . . .

- Violate people or property (threats, verbal abuse, fighting)
- Show Public Display of Affection (PDA)
- Opposite gender wrestling
- Stealing
- Use profanity or racial slurs
- Disrespect authority
- Use tobacco, alcoholic substances, or non-prescription drugs*
- Fight or have weapons
- No guys on girls' floors or in rooms and vice versa
- Have in possession or view pornography

- Leave campus without permission
 - Use shaving cream, toothpaste or toilet paper other than what it was intended for
 - Wandering away from public areas
 - Leave room after in room time
 - No guy/girl ministry time i.e. praying together alone (we need to guard our hearts and avoid any appearance of evil)
- No Guys on the Girls Floor and No Girls on the Guys Floor!

Not abiding by the rules of YEX will result in disciplinary action that could include dismissal from camp at your expense.

Frequently Asked Questions Youth Pastors

What is my role as the youth pastor at camp?

Let us do the little details so that you can spend time with your group and get to know them better. During sessions please pray with your youth at any ministry time. Take time at the end of each day to talk about that day's activities.

What will I be doing while my youth group is involved with activities/sessions?

During sessions you need to be present with your group. During games we encourage you to participate to allow your group to foster growth. We keep each youth group together in teams (more than 1 group will be on a team) to allow group growth.

Will I have time to spend with my youth group?

Absolutely! We have youth group times scheduled in so that you can meet with your teens. Please communicate any specific times and activities you want your youth to be present to the staff and they will facilitate this happening.

Do I need to have a lesson prepared for the camp?

No! This camp is designed to give you a break as well as provide a new environment for your youth. But you will want to prepare for ministry time following our sessions.

Can I register at the door?

Yes! Please keep in mind the cost is \$350.00 and the space availability of each camp must be taken into consideration. Anyone registering at the door will need all the forms necessary for camp. You will want to check with us prior to coming to be sure there is room.