

# *Eastern Regional Association*



Summer Ministries Handbook 2013

*Impacting Lives - Developing Leaders*

## **Packing list**

- Casual camp clothes – shorts, t-shirts, jeans, a sweatshirt or hoodie, bathing suit, messy clothes
- Tennis shoes, flip flops
- An outfit appropriate for Sunday dress - (guys- khaki pants and a collared shirt) (girls – a skirt and blouse or dress slacks)
- Bedding and pillow – you can decide whether to take a sleeping bag or sheets and a blanket
- Towels
- Personal toiletry items
- Flashlight
- Water bottle
- Bugspray, sunscreen
- Bible, notebook, pen

## **Fundraising & Prayer Support**

Each team member will be expected to raise a portion of their Prayer Support and Funding through support letters. We would like you to write a letter explaining what you will be doing for the summer and send it out to at least 30 people. The emphasis should be on Prayer Support while letting people know of your financial need as well.

A sample letter is available at the end of this packet.

For 2013 each team member is responsible to raise \$1,000.00 toward their expenses and compensation.

## **Church Ministry**

There may 1-2 weeks on your schedule when you will be working in a local church. When working in a local church you will be housed in private homes. We've asked that no one be placed in a home alone, but with another team member. Contact us if this is not followed and let us work it out for you. If you have any serious pet allergies, better let us know ahead of time so that we can let them know in advance!

When staying in someone's home it is important that you go the extra mile to keep things clean and picked up. Be considerate of their space and belongings. Offer to help clear the table and do dishes. Don't stay up all night watching tv, etc.

When it's time to leave, please leave a thank-you note on the pillow letting them know you appreciate their hospitality.

## **Camp Ministry**

Most of our teams work in camp ministries. We've tried to stress to you that every setting is unique. Each camp has its own history and ways of doing things. Our purpose in sending you is to support the program and ministry that is already in place. You've not been sent there to change the way they operate. Please be sensitive to the camp's traditions.

Some camps will need you to serve as counselors only. In most cases, you will have far less campers than what you've been used to. Invest in these kids and build the relationship with them.

You'll have opportunities to serve in other areas in some settings – leading games or music, teaching classes, lifeguarding, etc. We request that they let us know ahead of time what they will need, but if a need arises and you want to step up to serve in that area, then we encourage you to do so.

Go with the flow! Just because you haven't done something before, doesn't mean that you can't step up and fill a new role! In a new setting, you have the opportunity to break out of any roles that may have defined you in the past. Be yourself as you meet new people, realizing that their expectations of you may be very different. Submit to those in leadership at the camp, even if you disagree with them. If you are being asked to do something that would compromise your integrity, i.e. going against something that you know to be scripturally right, please feel free to call us and talk things out. But if you just think you have a better way of doing things, and they are choosing to do it their way, it's time to submit. Submission to authority is such an important biblical principal!

Please ban the phrase “at my camp we do it this way . . . .” from your vocabulary! Instead, when offering a suggestion, preface your comment with , “Maybe we could . . . ,” or “Would it be a good idea to . . . ?” If your suggestion is not taken then let it go and do it their way! It's important to remember that, just as you have found things that work well in your setting, other camps have found what works well in their setting.

One of the rich camping traditions in the New England states is campmeeting! In some settings, families actually own little summer cottages around the camp perimeter. They may eat in the dining room or work during the week of camp. They attend the evening services and have done so for decades. It's a rich tradition to embrace while you are there and appreciate the rich heritage. Ask people about the camp's beginnings and listen as they share their story.

Be faithful in the little things and go the extra mile to serve your campers and the camp. The greatest testimony of your faith in Christ is who you are when no one is watching!

## **Camp Lodging**

Many of the camps where you will be working are open in the summers only. They house the campers and counselors in small wooden cabins with screens on the windows, and without plumbing. You'll go out of the cabin to walk to another building to take showers and use the toilet.

You may be asked to assist with the daily upkeep of cabins and buildings. Please accept these responsibilities willingly and do them well.

## **Policies**

We've asked the host camps and sites to make you aware of their policies. It is our expectation that you will act in accordance with the training you have received. Be with your campers and do not hang out with staff all the time. Don't abuse privileges with cell phones. Many camps are relaxed about these policies or may not hold you to them. If you ever have questions on matters of policy, be sure to ask the staff. (Expectations can be cultural and therefore not accurately communicated.) Camp is for the campers – always keep that in mind and act in their best interest, even if it doesn't make you popular with other staff. Give up your summer for God to use you to impact campers every chance you get. He will give you rest and you will have a great time!

Cell phones – Please find out the camp's policy regarding use of cell phones. They may not have a set policy at this time. It would be best to put them away and only use them on the weekends. Do not keep them on at all times and allow yourself to be distracted by them. Do not stay out late at night talking on your cell phone. Your responsibility is to your campers and to the ministry host.

Laptops – Limit use to weekends only. Don't ask to sign on during the week. If they offer you an opportunity to check email on their computer, that is fine but keep it short.

IPODS and MP3 players – put them away please. You need to be listening to campers not to headphones.

## **Weekends**

Please get some rest on the weekends. While we encourage you to see the area and get off-site for a while, it's so important that you get enough rest so that you can be ready to minister effectively the following week.

Please do not accept invitations home with a counselor of the opposite sex unless you have another team member with you.

Make sure that those in leadership know where you are going and that you'll be back in plenty of time.

Please attend Sunday morning services with the host camp or church when you are there. Don't stay up late on Saturday night and skip church on Sunday morning. Choosing to be absent from Sunday morning services can hinder your ability to minister effectively

## ***Eastern Regional Association Summer Ministries Handbook***

among the people for the rest of your stay. Ask them what is considered appropriate dress in their setting and dress accordingly.

### **Laundry**

Many camps offer laundry facilities onsite. We have included in our agreement with them that you need a chance to do laundry and may need transportation to do so. If staying in someone's home, just ask them if you can do laundry. Please do not expect or ask them to do it for you!

#### ***The Host Camps and Churches were sent these guidelines concerning your stay :***

**Weekend arrangements** – team members will need lodging & meals on the weekends and a place to regularly do laundry. Feel free to invite them to see the local sites on the weekend – this will greatly enhance their summer experience.

**Days Off** – If team members do not get a full day off on the weekend due to overlapping weeks of camp or having to travel to your site, we ask that you make arrangements with them to give them a full morning off. This will allow them to either rest or catch up on personal tasks – i.e. laundry, errands, etc. Please assist them if necessary by providing some means of transportation.

**Mail** – We want to let our counselors know where they can receive mail. If you'd like personal mail sent to a different address than the one listed, please let us know this soon so we can compile that information for the team members.

**Camp Policies** – It is your responsibility to make the team members aware of any specific policies you may have concerning clothing, curfews, use of cell phones, etc.

**Conflict Resolution** - We are available to assist you in any conflict resolution that may arise between you and a team member. In case of staff member misconduct, please contact us immediately so that we can work out the best solution for both parties. If a staff member has to leave due to illness, emergency or dismissal, we will do our best to find a replacement for you. If we cannot find a satisfactory replacement for them, you will not be charged for that team member for that pay period.

**Health Insurance** – Each member is expected to have their own health insurance. Each team member will carry their health insurance information with them.