

11/19/2015

Dear Middle School/High School Retreaters and Parents,

Our Retreat is now a couple of weeks away. I hope you are getting excited for this great weekend ahead of us. Retreats are always a great time of fun, fellowship, and growth. We have about 41 students and 10 sponsors going. I'm very thankful to have plenty of other adults around to make this weekend the best it can be. Our adult volunteers are so valuable as they not only chaperone but offer their own unique insight and care to each of our students. Thanks to each and every one of you adults and students who are giving up a weekend to be with one another.

Our theme this weekend is "Working on the body." I want this weekend to be a time where we challenge our students to think about not just their youth group, but their church now, and whatever church they find themselves a part of in the future. We want to train our young Christ followers that the body of believers they are a part of is something they are a valued part of and is also something they can and should contribute to. We as the church of Jesus Christ can't afford to have parts of the body not contributing and the training for this starts now!

Please note that I have available in the youth room and on our website a release form for a zipline activity on the Mt. Lebanon campus for Saturday. Please turn this form into me. Students cannot participate if I do not have that signed form.

Here are some things you need to know about this weekend. We are going to Mt. Lebanon Encampment in Cedar Hill, TX. We'll eat, worship and, at times, play together. But we will sleep in separate cabins and do many of our studies split up. We want to leave Park Avenue at 5:30 pm. **Please be at the church at 5:00 pm.** Ample time to load luggage and give hugs. We estimate returning around 2:00 Sunday afternoon.

Here is a list of things you need to bring:

- Bible, pen, something to write on
- Sleeping Bag or Sheets/Blanket and Pillow (everyone has a bunk to sleep on with no sheets, blankets, etc.)
- Warm Clothes (we'll be outside part of the time)
- Toiletries and Towel
- Flashlight (not mandatory)
- Football, frisbee, etc.
- Money for two meals (dinner on the way down and lunch (typically Fuddrucker's burgers) on the way home)

Please let me know if you have any questions. You can reach me at the office (903.465.1288) or on my cell (903.624.1002). That being said, I am at Casa during the Thanksgiving week and will not receive calls/texts. Have a great week!

Peace in Christ,

Chris