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Summer 2019

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We are so glad that you will be ministering with us at Hope’s Haven this summer! We have you scheduled to join us at the camps checked below:

**CAMP 1 - Grade 4-6 camp is June 5-8 (Staff arrives June 4 at 5 pm ) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**CAMP 2 - Grade 7-9 camp is June 9-12 (Staff arrives June 8 at 5 pm) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**CAMP 3 - Grade 10-12 camp is June 13-16 (Staff arrives June 12 at 5 pm) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Enclosed and below is some information that will help you to plan for camp. Please look it over and call if you have any questions.

**TRAINING**

The camp staff training date is **Saturday, May 18 (from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm).** This training is required, unless you have contacted us in advance of your absence. (If you can not be at training, please listen to previously recorded training at [www.hopeshavencamp.org/training](http://www.hopeshavencamp.org/training). Once completed, please email a confirmation that you listened to training so we can mark our records.) The training will be held at Grace Community Church, 1218 State Route 225, Herndon (beside the Line Mountain High School). Lunch will be provided.

You will be given a Mentor/Guide handbook at training. Please read this before you come to camp. This will help to prepare spiritually for camp. There are several other resources on our website at [www.hopeshavencamp.org/training](http://www.hopeshavencamp.org/training).

We all know that there is a spiritual battle going on for these children's lives. That battle can take many forms as you prepare for and come to camp. Don't let the enemy have his way. Stand firm as Paul tells us in Ephesians 6. Try to come to camp rested and spiritually ready, having gone through the training resources.

**ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE TIMES**

Please try to come to camp **no later than 5 pm** on the days listed above. We may need help getting things back in order in time for the next group of campers that will be arriving the next day. This will also be a time where you will be given information on your campers. We will have supper and a prayer time to help prepare us for the coming camp week.

Camp will end at 2:00 pm for Camps 1 and 2 and 10:00 am for Camp 3. Please make sure to complete your Staff Evaluation before leaving. New this year is an opportunity to complete your Staff Evaluation online. This is a good way for us to gauge how effective camp is and consider any suggestions or ideas you have.

**PERSONAL TESTIMONY**

You may have an opportunity while you are at camp to share your testimony on how you came to know Christ. It is a good idea, whether you have ever shared your testimony in front of a group or not, to prepare ahead of time. We strongly suggest that you write out your testimony. This will help you to focus on the important facts and eliminate the unnecessary. If you write it so that it takes about three minutes to read then, when you actually give it at camp, it will usually **take about 3 to 5 minutes**, which is what we ask Mentors to limit themselves to. Please, be conscientious about the time so that the campfire won't go too long. You won't read it in front of the campers, but you will be able to give it comfortably following the outline of what you wrote.

Here is a suggested outline that works great for most people.

1. What was your life like before you accepted Christ? Give some examples.
2. How did you come to accept Christ as Lord and Savior? Explain the circumstances, people, and place, even what you prayed if you remember. This can help campers know what to do.
3. How has your life changed since you accepted Jesus? Give some examples, especially how the things you shared in point a. have changed.

**DRESS CODE**

Since acceptable clothing styles in society have gone beyond decency and we expect campers to comply with a certain level of modesty in dress, we are asking our staff to rise to a higher level in their dress than the campers. Please, note and observe the Dress Code that we will be enforcing. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in this. Hope’s Haven is a place where we strive for everyone to be safe from assault, even the assault of the eyes from indecent dress. Please, no sleeveless shirts, bare midriffs, short-shorts, or plunging necklines.

**PRAYER**

If you haven't already, we suggest that you ask your friends, church, Sunday School class, etc to pray for you while you are at camp. We truly are not fighting against flesh and blood, but against the powers of this dark world that would hold a child in the bondage of abuse. Come prepared with your spiritual armor in place and your sword of God's word, ready in hand. But, you also need the power of prayer from others to stand firm and not to lose ground to the enemy.

In Christ,

 

Justus F. “Jesse” Bard III

Executive Director, Hope’s Haven

 “Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.” Psalm 27:10