

Middle School Retreat @ Pine Springs Camp

Frequently Asked Questions

Charter Oak Church Student Ministry

What time do we need to meet at Pine Springs Camp?

Check-In will begin at 6pm on Friday, March 24 at Pine Springs.

What time is pick up on Sunday?

The retreat will end at noon on Sunday, March 26. Parents and families are invited to join us for our closing session Sunday morning at camp. We want to share the experience of the retreat with parents and also participate in church together. The closing session will begin at 10:30am.

Where are we staying?

We are staying at Pine Springs Camp in Jennerstown, PA. More information can be found at their Website: www.pinesprings.org.

Is transportation provided to and from the retreat?

There is no church-provided transportation to or from the retreat. Pine Springs, located in Jennerstown, PA, is about 35 minutes away from the Frye Farm Campus.

What types of activities will be available?

Weather permitting, we will be participating in adventure activities like team building, some high ropes elements, hiking, archery, and more. We will be organizing some camp-wide games each night, as well (think capture the flag). Students will also have free time options like playing card/board games, gaga ball, or 9-square in the air.

What are the sleeping conditions like?

We are staying in winterized cabins. Each cabin has 12 bunk-style beds. Each student will need to provide their own bedding, either a sleeping bag or sheets/blanket and a pillow.

How are cabin assignments made?

Students have the opportunity to request up to four roommates. All roommate assignments are final and will be made by Pastor Andrew based off of roommate requests, age, grade, and campus. We try very hard to honor the roommates students have requested, but they are not guaranteed.

How are the adult leaders chosen?

It takes a great team of volunteers to make a retreat like this happen. All adult leaders have been subject to interviews and background checks and approved as leaders by Student Ministry. They are all on board with the mission and vision of Charter Oak Church Student Ministry. These leaders will each be assigned a room of students, whom they will be responsible for during the weekend. There is a 5:1 student to adult ratio.

Will there be small groups?

Students will be meeting with their cabin and group leaders in small groups after each session to discuss what they learned.

What food will be provided?

Meals will be provided by Pine Springs Camp for Saturday for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and for Sunday breakfast. Snacks will be available Friday night, as well as hot dogs and s'mores around the fire on Friday and Saturday night. Pine Springs is completely nut-free and are able to accommodate other dietary restrictions as needed.

Does my student need spending money?

No, everything is covered in the cost of the retreat so there will not be any need for spending money.

What should I pack?

Bring clothes and toiletries for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Bring a Bible, journal, and pen. Bring snacks. Bring a pillow and sleeping bag or sheets and a blanket. Limit yourself to one bag and backpack, only what you can carry. Plan to dress for outdoor activities and dress warm.

Do NOT pack tobacco (including all types of e-cigarettes), alcohol, or weapons.

Will there be a dress code?

Students are asked to wear appropriate clothing at all times. We will be spending a lot of time outdoors and participating in adventure activities. Please plan to pack warm clothes you don't mind getting dirty.

What is the discipline policy?

All students agree to a behavior policy when they register for the retreat. We have a three strikes system. Students will be given a strike when they misbehave, such as if they are found in the room of someone of the opposite gender, if they are disrespectful to leaders, retreat staff, property, or each other, and other incidents. Some behaviors will be considered as more serious than others. After three strikes, we will notify the individual's parents and ask them to come pick up their student at their expense.

What happens if there is an emergency?

All parents will be given an emergency contact number. Parents will be notified immediately through a phone call or text message in case of an emergency. Our adult leaders and the Pine Springs staff will be well prepared to handle any emergency situations. We bring extra adult leaders to fill the role of nurse and security for the weekend.

How do I apply for financial assistance?

If you or someone you know are thinking that you cannot go to the Middle School Retreat because of financial concerns, please email Pastor Andrew (aschnur@charteroak.church) and apply for financial assistance.

Are there refunds?

After signing up for the Middle School Retreat, as a student or leader, there are no refunds.

Please reach out to Pastor Andrew with any additional questions you might have about the retreat by emailing aschnur@charteroak.church.