

*International Youth Camp 2011*

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*“Upon This R.O.C.K.”*

August 1, 2011

Dear Local and State Youth Directors,

Wow! What a year thus far! God has exposed a glimpse of His unlimited power on all the nations of the world by means of multiple natural disasters, economic protests and overthrown leaders in the Middle East, and let's not forget President Obama's call for Israel to return to pre-1967 borders. Has Israel become a burdensome stone for all nations (Zechariah 12:3).

Now more than ever in this time of instability and deceptive false doctrine, we want to stand on the Rock, our Rock of salvation and deliverance; the Rock of truth and mercy. While seeking inspiration for this year's International Youth Camp, we felt impressed to continue with the theme “ Upon this R.O.C.K. (Revelation Of Christ's Kingdom)” for the sake of reinstating this significance to our youth in a personal and motivating fashion.

As the youth of our churches and families grow older and mature, new opportunities and obstacles await them at ever corner. As leaders, we must seize every chance we get, to instill in our youth the message of making right choices and establishing strong moral habits. Our objective this year is to get real with our young people, genuinely listen to their hearts and not just the words, spending less time attempting to be a friend or a buddy and more time as a mentor and example to them. Although many children attending youth camp are blessed with Godly parents and possess some form of relationship with Christ, no one( including us) is impervious to the tricks of the devil. What are some areas of their lives in which they struggle or have overcome? At what times has he or she felt most vulnerable? When they were cornered to make a quick decision, do they feel like they made the right choice?

This year we request that those scheduled to minister take a more open forum approach in order to prompt group discussion since one on one conversation can be, for some, a bit intimidating. Some ideas are the “Talk Show” format or maybe a news journalist interviewing kids on a specific subject or even a classroom setting. Whatever the Lord inspires you to do, try to make it engaging and thought provoking.

Now, onto the business at hand: Changes are here! We have procured a new facility with HEAT! The Lord has opened a new door to us (just a mile from Camp Kiwanis) that is Christian based which offers a heated chapel and dining area. Even better, there will be no additional expense so camp fees will remain at \$175.00.

The boys/men will have a huge dorm with bunk beds that sleep over 50 people and a bathhouse. The girls/ladies will be lodging in house type areas with carpet/tile and private bathrooms however, air beds/sleeping bags may be necessary to house everyone.

Besides the general dining area, there is a staff dining area where coffee/tea will be located in order to reduce traffic in the kitchen area. Camp Sozo offers additional features that will enhance our camping experience even more.

Camp Sozo is at least twice the size of Camp Kiwanis which means more area to regulate so it is imperative this year that the counselors be on their game. This camp has recently changed hands from a boy's ranch to a Christian ministry therefore the current limit of campers/counselors is 125 until they establish more sleeping areas.

Because the Camp Sozo facility must be paid for completely two weeks before we occupy it, it is necessary that we receive \$100/per person in order to cover camp rental, t-shirts, food and other items before everyone arrives. ***This deposit is non-refundable, however, can be applied to another counselor or camper who wishes to attend.***

The deadline for the deposits are November 1<sup>st</sup> and absolutely no later than Fall Council –November 7-11 in order to attend. There is much to take care of before everyone's arrival and prompt payment is necessary. ***\*We need male counselors- Last year we had over 20 ladies and only 9 men.***

- ☞ As per Camp Sozo rules, no food or drink allowed in any of the dorms at any time( this includes campers and counselors alike). If you have "special" foods or dietary needs, we will accommodate you in the camp kitchen. Dorms will be checked often for these items.
- Again this year, we will be providing a *Concession Stand* for one hour per day which will include soft drinks, candy bars, chips and candy. Items can be purchased and eaten immediately or stored in the kitchen where only counselors can acquire and hand them out. *The prices will be 1.00/soda-.25-1.00 candy-.25/chips. Bottled water is available upon request at no charge.*
- ***Proceeds from the stand go directly back into the camp expenses.***
- *One more note: If you would like your child to come back with the same amount of clothing they left with, please find some way to label them so that we can get them into the right hands. We have had a numerous amount of clothing left behind in years past and as parents we all know they aren't cheap to replace.*

## ● EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

- Hollywood Studios-Orlando
- Arts and Crafts
- Archery
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Sports
- Canoeing
- Campfires

- **Music**
- **Worship Services**
- **Popcorn and Movies**
- **Nighttime games and much more.**

### • **THINGS TO BRING**

- Bible
- Sleeping bag/ pillow/air mattress
- Personal hygiene items (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo etc.)
- Warm clothing (jeans, heavy sweaters or jackets, tennis shoes, )
- Flashlight (optional) for nighttime games
- Bath towels (with your name on them)
- Flip flops for shower

Swimsuits for swimming in the lake are optional, however, females of all ages must wear a one piece and males of all ages must NOT wear Speedos (just to be fair).

### • **THINGS TO NOT BRING**

- ☞ Video games including hand held editions.
- ☞ Large CD devices with speakers (except dance or singing groups)
- ☞ Clothing that is either too revealing or possesses vulgar language.

NOTE: Ipod and MP3 players are permitted on the basis that ALL music is Christian! We will be checking your music for verification.

We had a few birthdays last year during this time and encourage those who would like to purchase treats for the children in celebration of someone's birthday or otherwise to get with the kitchen so that they can plan the desserts accordingly. Due to the fact that we are on a strict budget, we are unable to purchase any extra items that are not on the menu, including coffee for campers under 18. If you would like something different or additional, it will be your responsibility to purchase the desired items. **No campers allowed in kitchen except meal times. Please be respectful of our request.**

In closing, as you will notice, the International Youth Department and Camp has been fundamentally founded around the youth and their needs. While we certainly have rules for proper behavior and reasonable dress, we do not, however, require them to change who they are to please our levels of comfort and conviction. As adults and spiritual leaders, it is our responsibility to love them where they are and pray for them as God deals with their hearts and ultimately changes them according to His will and purpose. This approach has made a huge impact on the kids who have attended this camp the past few years. If we can remember back when we were young, it wasn't the strict requirements of the adults that changed our life, it was their prayers and unconditional love. Let's be a vessel of compassion and look beyond what we see, listen beyond what we hear and allow God to use us during this camp to be a witness to these kids.

*Feel free contact us at the information below if you have any questions concerning this year's camp and we will be happy to assist you.*

*Please make checks payable to The Church of God and mail them to the address below to ensure safe handling.*

**We are thrilled that you have decided to be a part of us this year and look forward to seeing you!**

**Best Wishes,**

**Bishop Patrick and Deaconess Kimberley Combs**

*P.O. Box 472 Sparr, Florida 32192*

*352/368-7860 or fax 352-622-4854*

*kcombs511@embarqmail.com*