

WI Kids Camp 2017

Hi. My name is Pastor Jeremy Mavis. I serve at Hayward Wesleyan Church with children, teenagers and their families. I am the new WI Kids Camp Director for the Wisconsin District (I've done this before so I guess this is "re-newed" director) this summer. There is a lot to share about this week of camp.

Dates: Monday, June 19 thru Friday, June 23, 2017

Normally WI Kids Camp is before Youth Camp (which is June 11-16 this year), but because of the location changes (see below) we had to swap weeks. WI Kids Camp check-in will start Monday morning (June 19) around 10a and will end after lunch on Friday (June 23).

Location: The ARC in Osceola, WI

The exact address of The ARC is: 2372 30th Ave. Osceola, WI 54020. Their website is: www.arc-aflc.org This is an entirely new location and facility for WI Kids Camp! Because we have outgrown our old camp location at Assembly Park, we had to go on the search for a new location that could accommodate current and future growth. After looking at hundreds of camps in WI (even in Iowa and Michigan) and narrowing it down to a handful of options, The ARC became the clear choice.

The ARC is an old Air Force radar station base, so our theme for WI Kids Camp this summer is going to be AIM HIGH, which is an Air Force slogan. Instead of cabins, the campers will be placed in squads. We are hoping to have fun with the military history of the location!

The ARC has lots of space for our camp to grow into. The lodging is military dorm style with a two-story barracks with a central hallway and 2 bunkbeds per room. Each barracks holds about 100 people. This new location will definitely have an entirely new feel to it! The ARC has a huge indoor gym, a large chapel for us to hold rallies, a man-made lake with a water slide and diving platform, lots of games like carpetball, human foosball, pickle ball, monkey ball (gaga pit), basketball, ping pong, and others, has a huge dining hall with good food, and wide open recreation spaces for us to play games and have fun together.

There are lots of pictures of The ARC that you can check out at: wikidscamp.org/location

Cost: \$180 (per camper)

For the last 5 years we have been able to keep the camp fee stable at \$140 per camper. It is really important to the WI District and myself that we keep camp affordable for any and all kids to be able to come. Because we moved to a larger facility, the costs did increase. However, when we set the camp fee for this year we did so in the effort to not have to increase it in the near future. Our hope is that the \$180 per camper will not change for the next 3-5 years (maybe longer!). If you have any questions or concerns about the camp fee, please feel free to connect with me.

Campers: Grades 3-5 (completed)

Students eligible to participate in WI Kids Camp are those who have completed grades 3, 4 and 5 by the end of the 2016-2017 school year. On a case-by-case basis we will consider any requests for grade 6 students to participate. Please contact me about these. We will not allow younger students to participate (grade 2 and below).

Registration

Online

Registration will be handled online this year at: wikidscamp.org/register Registration will open up on Monday, April 17, 2017. This online system is managed by Hayward Wesleyan Church. On Thursday of each week, my assistant Kari Snider will email a report to all the churches of who has registered so you all can see who from your church is registered. We will need a contact email for who needs to see this information weekly. Please send that info to: jeremy@hwc.church

Deadlines

The deadline for registration is Monday, June 5, 2017 @ midnight. This is a soft deadline which means this is what you tell people to get their registrations in by. The reason that the deadline is soft is because we will still take registrations up till the week of camp. The new facility we are at can accommodate 600 people, so we have plenty of room to place last-minute campers who want to come. As a children's pastor, I know people forget or make decisions at the last minute for a variety of reasons, so I want to make sure you know that you can say yes to those folks! So for the majority of people, the deadline for registration is Monday, June 5. But we will still take folks after that :)

Release Form

We will know who is coming to camp and will have their information via the online registration system. However we do need a physical signature for Release Form (for permission, medical, and media release). Once a parent registers their student they will get a confirmation email that explains the permission and medical release form with a link to download and print the PDF of the form. Your church can print out copies of these forms for people as well (I have included a copy of this form). This form will also be available on the registration page of the website. These are the forms you will need to bring to WI Kids Camp with you on the morning of check-in (Monday, June 19).

So to recap, the registration process is two-fold:

1. Register Online at: wikidscamp.org/register
2. Print, fill out, and sign Release Form and give to local church (then local church brings original copy to camp).

Make sense? Hopefully :)

Staff

The primary need for staff for WI Kids Camp are counselors... we are calling them SQUAD Leaders. We need adult (18 and older) counselors and junior counselors. Junior counselors are high school students and must have completed grade 8 by the 2016-2017 school year.

We worked out a great deal with the camp facility in regard to staff. For every 5 campers we get 1 staff person for free. Which works out to a 5:1 ratio, students to leader. So staff do not cost anything! (Unless we go over that ratio) Cool, eh?! Staff do not have to pay to serve at WI Kids Camp for the week!!

What does it look like to be staff (counselors & junior counselors) at WI Kids Camp?

Good question! The counselors and junior counselors will be the relational glue with the campers all week. These folks are the:

- small group leaders,
- substitute parents,
- and fun aunt and uncles.

SQUAD leaders get to:

- lead the campers spiritually in discussions and one-on-ones,
- help them make it through the week emotionally and physically,
- and have a ton of fun with them!

SQUAD leaders get to focus on their small group of students the whole week.

So, for every 5 campers your church sends, there needs to be 1 adult counselor or 1 junior counselor sent along with them. Staff need to register as well and can do so via the online registration system, but at a different link: wikidscamp.org/staff

Promotion

I have included a poster for WI Kids Camp in this packet. You can download this file at: wikidscamp.org/churches We are also working on a promotional video for you to be able to show your potential campers what the new location looks like. We're hoping to get some drone video of The ARC to give everyone a visual overview of the place! Website: *wikidscamp.org* // Facebook: *@wikidcamp* // Instagram: *@wikidscamp*

Conclusion

We are so excited for WI Kids Camp this summer! These 5 days and 4 nights prove to be instrumental in the spiritual formation of older elementary students. If you have any questions, concerns, comments or suggestions, please connect Jeremy Mavis, at 715-634-4613 or via email: *jeremy@hwc.church*