

[Web Tab – Church Leaders – Preteen 2011]

Your journey to Adventure Mountain is just around the bend and we wanted to do everything we can to set you up well, and give you resources to prep your campers and leaders for what is to come. There is much to do as a Preteen Leader... preparation for camp such as the permission slips, transportation, packing, etc., that I found to be the most challenging. As you know, once in camp you should get to focus on the relationships and spending time with the group instead of focused on the details. Recognizing the complexities of your job, we want to do our best to meet your needs.

It is a great honor to partner with you and your church to accomplish something great this summer. Thank you for choosing Forest Home's Adventure Mountain to be the camp for your 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. I look forward to our partnership and the opportunity for you, your students, and counselors to experience camp to the full. I believe God has some truly amazing things in store for us this summer, and I am honored to experience this with you.

This summer, we have set outcomes for what we together hope to achieve during your church's time at Adventure Mountain.

- Individuals make decisions to follow Christ
- Individuals become more committed to the local Church
- Church leaders feel supported (partnered with) and cared for.
- Church groups and individuals are inspired to continue and/or begin the work of putting their faith into action in their community.
- Campers will experience a heightened connection to their leaders and peers within their church group.
- Camper has an expanded view of the family of God.
- Camper takes a step toward beginning to see themselves as a young adult.
- Camper demonstrates comfort with making personal decisions.
- Camper shows ability to engage scripture, decision-making, and question formation.

Everything we do from arrival, to meals, to worship times are informed by these outcomes. We encourage you to share them with your counselors before your arrival.

### **Our Theme- Medieval Mountain 2011**

This year we are following "The Adventure" back in history to "Medieval Mountain". Campers will be engaging the idea of God as the one true king, and the kingdom that takes place because of it. Campers will meet skit characters, activities, bible studies and plenty of adventures along the way. We hope that Medieval Mountain is a fun filled and informative time for you and your campers to be open in conversation and living life alongside one another.

Ultimately, our desire for every preteen student in camp is that they either come to know Christ or continue to grow in Him this week. Program alone cannot accomplish this goal. We recognize our direct dependence on the Holy Spirit to work as He will. It is our hope that students would be able to take a short break from busy life at home and take part in a week of fun and spiritual growth.

Whether you've been to Adventure Mountain before or are brand new, we want you to feel as prepared as possible. If you have any questions regarding your coming week at Forest Home's Adventure Mountain this summer, please feel free to call the Program Ministries Assistant, Annie Ludes (a.k.a. "Sketch"), at (909) 389-2229 or email her at [anniel@foresthomes.org](mailto:anniel@foresthomes.org). Also, please check with our registration department (Michelle La Nier @ (909) 389-4488 or [michelleln@foresthomes.org](mailto:michelleln@foresthomes.org)) to see if there are any available spots that you may be able to fill.

Cameron "Sporx" Hume  
Director of Preteen Ministries

[Note: Please include download links to our manual and all promo materials].

(Note: Can we put some sort of break or clear definition that this is an "info" section for them to look through if needed?)

Below is much of the information that you should receive in the send home letters. We put it here on the website for you to reference and look through as much as you need.

### **Arrival and Departure Info**

Check in will begin at Adventure Mountain at 3:00 pm on Sunday afternoon. The closer to 3:00 pm you can be there the easier check-in will be for you and our registrar. Upon your arrival our staff will greet you and direct you to the "Registration Booth," where our registrar will have tent assignments and wristbands for your campers and counselors. Please see the reminders section below for what will also happen during the check-in process.

### **Departure**

Because camp now concludes on **Friday**, we are going to be ending our program at **10:30 a.m.** This is consistent for all of our youth camps. Buses, carpoolers and parents are invited to meet us in the Adventure Mountain parking lot (same as check-in). Showing up around 10:20 and waiting in the parking lot for final dismissal can be a huge time saver to you and your Friday afternoon.

### **Cell Phone Policy**

You may notice when you visit us we now have cell-phone service in the canyon. Because of our commitment to providing our guests with Sanctuary and Solitude, a core value, Forest Home is making the decision to remain a cell-phone free place. This means that we will continue to ask our youth campers to leave all electronics (including cell-phones) at home and ask that all of our guests join us in our efforts to keep our open/public areas at Forest Home cell-phone free.

#### **Core value: Sanctuary & Solitude**

*The "wilderness" has always had a unique way of disarming our hesitations, dissolving our reluctant spirits, and giving us a context for simplicity. This remoteness displaces us far enough from our routine where we hear God better, see Him clearer, and breathe deeper. We help our guests realize the value of remoteness and silence the distractions of life, so they can find true rest in Him.*

### **First Aid Requirements:**

The State of California has recently implemented new health code requirements for California camps. With these new requirements come a few changes to how we handle medical related items here at Forest Home during summer camp. Please note these are **VERY IMPORTANT** because they pertain to state law. Please read through the information included related to these items. Thank you!

1. Health Screening- Each camper is required to go through a health screening upon arrival at camp. Your child's counselor will perform the health screening through a series of questions under the supervision of our medical staff. If necessary to ensure the health and safety of all campers, ill children may be sent home.
2. Medication- All medication will be collected upon your arrival. Each camper must have their medication in a plastic bag that is labeled with their name and group name on it. This includes the medication of any adults who will be staying in cabins/tents with minors. The medics on duty will distribute medication during each meal. Please remember to have medications in the **original container** when turning them in.

3. Medical Consent Forms- In the past we were only required to have Medical Consent Forms for minors. We are now required to have Medical Consent Forms for Adults as well. You should have received these forms from your camp registrar. They are due at check-in.

### ***A few reminders for Sunday Afternoon check in***

We have a fantastic program in store for your camper that is all-inclusive in the camp cost. However there are also some additional "extras" you will want to make your campers and counselors aware of: camp picture (\$5) and the camp t-shirt (\$12). This year each campers will receive a DVD of their week at camp to share with their parents and friends. We will be taking a camp picture during the week and they can purchase that for 5\$. In addition, there are a number of souvenirs available at our 'Marketplace'. There will be staff in the "Registration Hut" collecting money for the bank. It is best to have campers' money in one large envelope, clearly marked with *each camper's name* and the *amount* that they have to spend. If you are unable to collect all their money and have it in one envelope before camp don't fret, but if you could please have campers' parents put their money in individual envelopes clearly marked with their name, church, and amount - it would make that part of the process easy and organized.

### **DONATIONS TO CAMP IN AFRICA**

The last six years, in expanding our campers' world view and understanding of "worship," we have offered the opportunity to participate in donating money (at \$10 max per camper) from their ledgers to a camp called Lasting Impressions in Zimbabwe, Africa. The funds were given to the building of a dining area roof and to scholarships for kids in Zimbabwe this same age to attend camp. It has been a wonderful success. Not only have our kids been given the opportunity to expand their world view and learn to worship by giving, but they have raised over \$29,000 for this camp. We would like to offer this opportunity again to our kids. The funds will be given to more camper scholarships and building projects. This truly is an amazing ministry. The donated funds are being used for God's Kingdom! This is a completely optional element of our worship program.

### **On-line Retail for Parents**

Also new this year, we are bringing on-line store back to Forest Home. This is intended as an option for parents that want an easy way to send a care package to their camper. Our options will be mention in the parent letter as well as listed on our website. Because camp does 'fly by', please remind parents that if they want to participate in this option, to be careful of our deadlines so that their child's care package can make it to them before your return home.

### **Themed event and dress**

We will also have some themed dress days/evenings: Campers will be able to join in the fun of camp in wearing fun medieval theme clothing (nothing too over-the-top)/ There will also be a night game where the use of 'camo' clothing can be key. If kids want to bring dark clothes or camouflage gear to wear, they will fit in well with the staff. Our whole week is based upon campers learning about Gods kingdom and will be themed in a medieval setting. Any "Medieval gear" would be a fun thing to pack. A shirt or with a shield on it or a family crest is always a great way to go.

### **Counselor Training**

I cannot emphasize enough the benefit of pre-camp preparation. Please spend some time with your staff, preparing and training them for their counseling role. On our website we have a list of ways for counselors to prepare. The number one way would be for them to peruse our counselor manual. It is available in PDF form on our website [www.foresthome.org](http://www.foresthome.org) by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Please feel free to call or e-mail me for more ideas on how to prepare your counselors!

### **Online Resources**

This year we are taking some big steps to utilize our website to better resource your church before your arrival. On our website (under the How To Prepare Tab) you can find the following:

- Adventure Mountain Ledgers for the Banking System
- PDF version of our camper/counselor manual
- All the Pre-Summer Letters
- Camp Packing List
- Promotional Videos
- Memory Verse List
- Adventure Mountain Outcomes

### **Rebooking for Next Summer**

As a head's up to your group, we will be offering our promotion of 2 free shakes per counselor for groups that rebook for next year. Should you have any questions regarding this, please contact your registrar for Adventure Mountain, Michelle La Nier [michelleln@foresthomes.org](mailto:michelleln@foresthomes.org).

### **A Safe Place**

At Forest Home, we fervently care about the safety of our campers in every regard. This year, you will observe a heightened awareness and protocol to make our grounds and programs abide by a high standard of safety for our guests. During your orientation, I will walk your counselors through the new steps and policies that both the Forest Home staff, our guest counselors and campers will now abide. We value that together both as the church and summer camp ministry, our efforts will continue to promote rigorous supervision and care for the children on our grounds.

### **A Word on Food**

In order to keep our campers safe, we ask you to join us in our effort to be peanut free. Please refrain from bringing any snacks that contain peanuts. Also, if any of your campers have specific dietary needs, please have the parents contact Sandy, our registrar. Her information is listed below.

### **Who to Contact**

Again, if you have any questions regarding your coming week at Forest Home's Adventure Mountain this summer, please feel free to call the Program Ministries Assistant, Annie Ludes (a.k.a. "Sketch"), at (909) 389-2229 or email her at [anniel@foresthomes.org](mailto:anniel@foresthomes.org). Also, please check with our registration department (Michelle La Nier @ (909) 389-4488 or [michelleln@foresthomes.org](mailto:michelleln@foresthomes.org)) to see if there are any available spots that you may be able to fill.

Thank you for choosing us to partner with you in the growth of your preteen campers! It is a true honor. See you this summer!

### **Cameron "Sporx" Hume**

Director of Preteen Ministries