

Dear Parents:

Greetings from Forest Home! I am really looking forward to seeing so many familiar faces and meeting those of you who have children joining us at Creekside for the first time. Since last summer, I have been preparing for and dreaming about this summer's experience and eagerly anticipating your child's arrival. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the information below which is important for you and your child to have the best possible experience at Forest Home.

### ***Summer Theme – Stage 11***

When you think of your favorite movie, you will most likely remember that one scene when something unexpected happened. You know, the plot twist that changed everything and sent the story in a new direction? In God's story laid out in the Bible, that plot twist comes when Jesus announces the Kingdom of God. What did he mean? His fellow Jews expected a kingdom that would protect and preserve the Jewish faith. Over the centuries, others have developed different views on what Jesus meant.

This summer at Creekside, your child will explore how the story of God's kingdom is full of plot twists ... a seemingly upside-down way of life that challenges everything. Good guys turn out to be bad guys. The least are the greatest. A shepherd boy becomes a king. Sinners receive forgiveness and blessing! All of us on the Creekside staff are excited to share with your children this good news that our each one of us are invited to participate in God's Kingdom and be enter into a life-long relationship with Him.

### ***What We Seek to Accomplish***

This summer, we have set outcomes for what we hope to achieve during your child's time at Creekside.

- Campers will make decisions to follow Christ.
- Campers will become more committed to the local church.
- Campers are inspired to continue and/or begin the work of putting their faith into action in their community.
- Campers have learned and wrestled with Biblical Truths
- Campers see the need and benefit of solo time with God.
- Campers connect their own identity with their relationship with God.
- Camper believes they can be a valuable contributing member of society.

Everything we do from arrival, to meals, to worship times are informed by these outcomes.

### ***Arrival and Departure Info***

Check-in is from 3:00 to 5:00 on Sunday. Please do everything humanly possible to arrive within this window. Once you are greeted, your child's luggage will be unloaded in the parking lot. The next step will be to check in with our registration team, who will be located in Mountain View Hall, which is located next to the parking lot where you arrive. Our counselors will be available once your child has checked in at the registration table. Take some time to meet them and ask any questions you might have about your child's week at camp.

It's always a good idea to mark your child's luggage with an identifying tag, ribbon, or sticker. **We will have the Lake, the Zip Line and the new Sky Trail open during check-in!**

Camp will end **Friday** right after our final morning gathering at **10:30 a.m.** This is consistent for all of our youth camps. You are invited to meet us in the Creekside parking lot (where check-in is).

### ***Dinner at the Movies***

Our last dinner together during the week should be a special one. So this summer our challenge to our campers is to come to dinner dressed as characters from their favorite movie! Please make sure that they bring "appropriate" costumes (Jedi Knights, Smurfs, Mulan, etc...). While we suggest that they join in on the costume

fun, this is only a suggestion and anyone that chooses to come dressed in regular clothing will have a good time as well.

### **NEW 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 with minors. The medic staff on duty will distribute medication in the dining room at each meal.
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.

### **Food Allergies**

Our food service team greatly appreciates the opportunity to serve you and/or your child. We do recognize that there may be dietary needs such as allergy requirements and our desire is to do our best with making sure your needs are met. Please note that our kitchens do not serve or store any products with nuts, but we would still greatly appreciate it if you would call our Food Service team with your dietary requirements (including peanut allergies) one week prior to your stay at 909-389-2271. Thank you for helping our team partner with you in meeting these needs.

### **Additional Camper Costs**

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 should be aware of: camp photo (\$6), Creekside band worship CD (\$10), horseback riding (\$15) and the camp t-shirt (\$15). In addition, campers will also be able to purchase other souvenirs, garments, snack food in our retail locations as well as purchase crafts in the Forest Center Craft Cabin.

### **On-line Retail and Resources**

This year, we are excited to make available all of the content included in this letter and more on the Forest home website. Not only are their resources for Parents, but we have content for counselors, campers and parents. This includes promotional materials, packing lists, videos, and more. You can check it out at [www.foresthome.org](http://www.foresthome.org).

Also new this year, we are bringing the 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 child. Our options will be listed on the website. Because camp does "fly by", if you want to participate in this option, please be mindful of our deadlines so that your child's care package can make it to them before they return home.

### **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. We value that together both as parents and summer camp ministry, our efforts will continue to promote rigorous supervision and care for the children on our grounds.

While at Creekside, your child will be supervised by our trained staff counselors. These counselors will be with your son or daughter most of the time although there is no direct supervision of Creekside campers during afternoon free time which is a four hour period between lunch and dinner. Creekside campers are allowed to roam within the boundaries of our campus and participate in recreation *without* their counselor. We feel very comfortable with this model of supervision in terms of safety.

### **Camper Expectations**

Cell Phones - 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.*

Swimsuits - A few years ago, we adopted a camp-wide swimsuit policy and we would ask that your campers and counselors pack accordingly. We ask our female guests only bring modest one-piece swimwear and that a t-shirt or cover-up must be worn outside the pool and lake areas. We ask our male guests to wear swim trunks (no Speedo style swim suits please) and a t-shirt should be worn when not at the pool or lake areas. This applies to all guests and staff on the grounds of Forest Home. Thanks for your understanding and support of this policy.

**Registration**

If you have any questions about the registration process or you need to change your contract, please call our registrar Dan Pinkous and he will try his best to accommodate you. Also, as a reminder, please fill out and bring with you the medical consent, youth registration and camper release forms. (909) 389-4465.

**Included in this packet**

- A detailed "What to bring" List
- A list of our memory verses for this summer
- Medical Consent form
- Youth registration form
- Camper Release form

Thank you for taking the time to go over these details. We are so excited to have you be a part of what God will be doing at Creekside this summer. Once again, God has brought together an amazing group of gifted servants to make up the 2011 Creekside Staff. I'm confident you will enjoy teaming with them during your week of camp.

Please feel free to call me direct at (909) 389-2259 if you have any questions regarding the program. This document, along with a welcome note for your child, will be posted at [www.foresthome.org](http://www.foresthome.org). We look forward to seeing you up the mountain!

Peace,



Nate Rice  
Director of Junior High Ministries  
nater@foresthome.org