

CAMP SYCHAR INFORMATION for PARENTS & YOUTH

Welcome! There is a deep purpose behind the very existence of Camp Sychar. We pray that youth attending Camp Sychar will share in a deeper walk with Jesus Christ, and a special time of fellowship with other Christian youth. We look forward to meeting you!

When youth are at home, they are the parents' responsibility, but when youth come into the Youth Program they become partly our responsibility. We take this privilege seriously. The Youth Staff are all adults, dedicated Christians, and committed to ministry among youth during these days. In order to carry out our responsibilities to provide fun, fellowship, and a safe and secure environment while youth are at Camp Sychar, we have included here some rules and information. Parents and Youth please read them carefully. They will tell you a bit about community life in the Barn and dorms.



Age for Youth Program: Youth ages 12 (by August) to 19 years old are eligible. We recognize that 18 years old is the great age of adulthood. However, for fairness and equality, all youth receiving the benefits of the youth program must agree to abide by the same rules, regardless of age.

Work Program and Costs: The major portion of the cost of the youth program is underwritten by faithful people who donate to Camp Sychar. The only cost to youth for the ten days is a \$100 registration fee and their willingness to work on a cafeteria crew with the other youth. (Late registration after July 5th is \$105 or \$10.50/day.) The fee covers housing, food, insurance, and special evening youth activities like pizza, and wiener roasts.

All youth are assigned a shift to assist the cafeteria staff after arrival at Camp. Tractor crew and cafeteria counter positions may be requested by youth who have been in the program a prior year. The tractor crew and counter girls must be at Camp FULLTIME, and a new group is selected each year by the "first come" requests received on paid applications. Do it early!!

Can Youth Attend Camp Sychar Part-time? Camp Sychar is a residence camp of ten days. We understand that youth may have other commitments during Camp, such as for school programs. Please note these on the application. If you pre-register as a part-time camper, the cost is \$10.00/day. We want youth to be at Camp as much as they can, when they can, and we work with the school schedules. If youth are required to leave Camp Sychar for an activity like medical appointment, sports or band practice, the Youth Directors need a written permission note from the parents at registration. However, we cannot allow youth to "come and go" during Camp for other reasons, which sometimes requires a choice on their part.

****NEW POLICY RE: SIGN-OUTS OF YOUTH DURING CAMP****

A major issue each year is youth wanting to temporarily sign out of the program for various reasons. It is a misunderstanding that youth can "come & go" and this makes our responsibility for supervision VERY difficult. We assume that youth who apply for the ten day Camp Sychar Youth Program are here for the program. Camp Sychar lasts longer than most youth camps, but we believe it can be a special commitment of time set aside so God can work-- it could be the most important ten days in the life of a youth!

We need to clarify and be specific that youth are either "in" or "out" of the program...they can not go back and forth randomly. The program is not set up to accommodate youth leaving the grounds for personal reasons, or "taking a day off." If parents want to take youth off grounds for a meal, please choose lunch if it is not their working shift. The big deal for temporary sign-outs is this is so unfair to other youth who fully participate in the program schedule and whose parents are not on the grounds! This is the only way we can properly supervise while especially considering fairness for everyone in the program.

****HOUSING POLICY****

Youth in the Program must stay in the youth housing, agree to be responsible to the Youth Staff, and follow the Youth Program rules. If a youth has parents staying on the grounds, they have to make a choice; to stay with parents or to stay in Youth Program. Sorry, for fairness, you cannot do both!

Youth in the Program are not permitted inside other Camp residences, cabins, rooms, tents, or trailers, even if it belongs to a parent or relative! This is because we cannot see them in these residences, do not know where they may be, and cannot be responsible for unknown activities or persons in these residences. We appreciate the parental consideration and assistance with this policy.

YOUTH and PARENTS need to decide before completing the Application if the youth is mature enough, and able to adjust to the ten day youth schedule. The youth staff is more than willing to work with a youth to arrange rest time during the afternoons. If however, the youth decides he/she cannot handle the schedule and chooses to sign-out of the program and stay in parents lodging for the rest of camp, we hope they will still come to youth services, choir and recreation. Please be aware that if youth sign out of the Youth Program and are lodging with their parents, they cannot work in the cafeteria and will forfeit their meal ticket. Only the legal parent/guardian can sign out a youth. Youth as adults (18 years and older) choose to have the benefits of the program and must follow the same policy as other youth. All youth on the Sychar grounds, whether in the Youth Program or in cabins with their family, are invited and encouraged to still fully participate in the day-time youth program.

Girls Housing: In Andrews-Gallagher Dormitory or on the second floor of the Annex. Girls may request a roommate or specific dorm with the paid application; otherwise rooms are assigned according to age.
Guys Housing: In "The Barn" or "Silo" which are barracks-style.

Cars, Driving Policy: This policy applies for all youth in the program, even those 18 years and older! One of the greatest joys in the life of a young person is to have a driver's license. We rejoice with you! However, during the ten days of Camp, youth will be required to park their car and not move it, except for a Youth-Director-Approved emergency. In case of sports practices, etc., parents need to send a permission note to Camp. ABSOLUTELY NO YOUTH may ride in the car of another youth without WRITTEN PERMISSION from BOTH SETS OF PARENTS. This is for everyone's protection.



Drug, Smoking and Security Policy: Use of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs or tobacco in any form is not permitted. Therefore, a youth who cannot follow a NO SMOKING POLICY should not apply to attend Camp Sychar.

No person shall threaten or cause injury to another camper. No person shall purposely damage another camper's personal property or any Camp Sychar property.

Recreation or a Nap! The Youth Staff has group recreation activities planned each afternoon. If youth have activity restrictions, they should be noted on the Application. Recreation activities may take place on Camp Sychar grounds or at the City Park across the street. There is also free time after recreation for "naps!"

Off Campus Activities: One day during Camp, the youth group *walks* about a mile to a local nursing home to give a music program for the residents as a mission outreach. If physically unable to walk, youth may travel with staff in private cars to the nursing home.

The Community Swimming Pool across the street from Camp Sychar, is a Water Park, with slides and other fun features! The Water Park cost will be \$5.00 and the staff plan for this activity on a couple days during the recreation time. Various days may be designated as "Water Park Day" for the recreational activity, and the youth would go swimming as a group.

No youth may leave the grounds without a staff person. Youth must have a parental Permission Form for the Water Park and Nursing Home Days. Youth are not permitted to drive while at Camp.

PDA: At Camp Sychar youth will meet some interesting people from many different places and states. Some will naturally be more interesting than others! We are not opposed to romance, but we are opposed to the activity known as Public Display of Affection. We know you and your companion will have a better

relationship with each other and those around you when it is based upon mutual respect. Areas beyond the Dorm/Barn are considered remote areas of the campgrounds and strictly off-limits. If you need a quiet place to talk or pray together, the Main Tabernacle is an appropriate place. The youth evangelist and youth staff are always available to listen and pray with you. Parting is such sweet sorrow, and saying goodbye is never easy. However, the PDA policy will be in effect through the end of Camp.

Arrival and Departure: It is the parent's responsibility to make proper arrangements for transportation to and from Camp. Any special dismissal transportation arrangements must be provided to the Youth Directors, in writing, at registration.

Check-in for everyone will be at the Cafeteria to receive room assignments, ID bracelets and orientation materials. The dorms will be opened and registration begins on Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Youth who arrive in the morning will be assigned luncheon cafeteria duty assignments.

Checkout is from 1:30-3:00 p.m. on the last Sunday of Camp. Camp ends after the noon meal cafeteria work shift. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated in the cafeteria! Youth need to clean their area, and have it approved by a staff person before departure. Parents or a designated adult must sign youth out with the staff, and pick-up medications from the nurse. Parents please arrive on time.

At 3:00 P.M. all parents should have picked up their youth and the Youth Dorms will be locked.



WHAT TO BRING

Girls: Bring shirts, slacks, dress shorts, or jeans for during the day. Shorts may be worn at anytime but dressier slacks or dress or skirt is nice for evening services and Sunday. Modesty is our motto, so NO short-shorts, no spaghetti straps unless covered with a jacket, and no bare stomach. Bring a MODEST swimsuit, please no bikinis.

Guys: Bring shirts, casual slacks, shorts or jeans for during the day. Cut-offs shirts and muscle shirts can be worn only at recreation time. Shorts can be worn anytime, but a *collared* shirt (may be polo/golf-type, etc.) and slacks or jeans are nice for evening and Sunday services.

For All: AND, don't forget some "grungy" clothes and shoes to wear for painting or messy games! Please do not bring secular t-shirts that are offensive or not in good taste. Shoes must be worn at all times for your safety.

The dorms are not air-conditioned; if you bring a fan, only surge protector extension cords are allowed by the Fire Department. Don't forget to bring a sleeping bag, pillow, warm jacket, an umbrella, towels, hygiene items, swimming gear, your Bible, writing materials, extra shoes (it always rains!), and "flip-flop" sandals to wear in the shower.

Bring your music and instrument with you if you are willing to share your talents!

The Health Department requires that all counter girls wear hairnets or hats, and all youth wear closed-toe shoes (not sandals) when working in the cafeteria. Please bring these items.

Parents: Ten days is a long time, and youth need to know how to do their laundry; laundry facilities are on the campgrounds. Also, it is a good idea to mark clothes with youth's name.

Youth may want spending money for the Sychar Bookstore and Snack Shop, which have Christian books, Bibles, snacks, pop, gifts, Camp tee shirts and possibly a group picture.

Electronic Devices or Musical Instruments: Youth and parents accept the risk if they bring any electronic devices such as games, MP3s, and cell phones or instruments. Youth are not permitted to use electronic devices in services at any time. Camp Sychar is not responsible for any items, clothing, devices or instruments lost, broken, stolen, or left at camp.

Mail: The Camp Post-Office is at the Bookstore. Mail can be sent to youth at: Youth name, c/o Camp Sychar, 201 Sychar Rd., Mt. Vernon, OH 43050. Web Site: www.campsychar.org. Check here for a video & more information about Camp Sychar, or to print more applications for friends!

Phone: One pay telephone is available for all campers' use. During the day, there is a Camp office phone, to leave "call home" messages only: (740) 397-4564.

Youth Director's cell phone for EMERGENCIES at anytime: Rev. Tom Keene, (614) 561-5047.

Questions? Call or email the Youth Superintendents: Rev. Tom Keene pastortom2@sbcglobal.net or Rev. Scott Campbell (740) 466-8154, sc3c_1@yahoo.com

