

# BEYOND ND

**THE GREAT ESCAPE MIDWEST  
COUNSELOR HANDBOOK 2023**

# WELCOME, COUNSELORS!

Thank you for journeying with us into the BEYOND at The Great Escape (TGE) this summer. Whether you are brand new to TGE or you have attended for 20+ years, we hope this Counselor Handbook will provide you with everything you need to know to prep and have a wonderful experience at camp.

The goal of TGE Midwest is simple: We want middle schoolers to know God better. We fully believe God has called us to create this crazy fun atmosphere, bring in wonderful speakers who teach the Word of God, and provide for every need we can imagine so that you—their counselor and/or youth leader—can do what you do best: build relationships that last. Mentor and give counsel. Continue the relationship when you get home. God will use YOU to impact these kids. We are blessed to provide the place where this will happen.

We are different from a traditional summer camp. At TGE, we want to free as much of your time as possible for you to simply BE with the kids. You won't be planning recreation or running to WalMart to buy craft supplies. You won't be helping in the kitchen or prepping for speaking from the stage. We provide almost\* everything so that you can focus on your campers. \*Later in this handbook we will outline a few things we don't provide so that you can prep ahead of time.

It is such an honor to partner with you in reaching your students with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Consider yourself officially part of the family! We can't wait to get to know you. Don't hesitate to let us know if there is anything we can do to serve you. Your counselor care liaison is a great resource, but we are ALL here for you!

Can't wait!

Dave, Nick & Kira

Great Escape Midwest Directors

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# 2023 THEME: Beyond

*“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things **BEYOND**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things **BEYOND**, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”*

- Colossians 3: 1-4

Campers will venture with their counselors this year to the places above and BEYOND this world. The Christian life that we strive to live and the God that we follow are so far beyond our earthly understanding. The things that we are called to live for and the way we are called to treat others is so far beyond the understanding of this world. Students will be encouraged to embrace this life beyond what they see. Whether students find themselves lonely and isolated in their current day-to-day lives, in need of rest and recovery, or in need of encouragement to explore a spiritual training ground apart from distraction, we want to provide the \*space\* for your students to find those answers and so much more.

At TGE Midwest, we really enjoy connecting the theme in all areas of camp. Games, crafts, small group curriculum, and content from the stage will all revolve around our space theme. We highly encourage you to join us in this! Costumes and props are a great way to do so. Just make sure they are appropriate and safe! This will start on day one, when you will see the Work Crew wearing astronaut style clothing, and some others in space alien costumes just roaming around. You and your kids are welcome to join the shenanigans, and you are also JUST as welcome to come in everyday clothing. Whatever feels most comfortable to you is fine by us!

## LEADER PREPARATION

Counselors are the key to a successful week at camp. The success of our camp is in the success of your ministry after you get back home!

We know that you, as youth directors and leaders, are the experts in these topics, and that you know your team of adult leaders best. Based on the experience and comfort level in these various areas on your team, we recommend considering covering the following topics:

### **Counseling**

Review good listening and communication skills. Remind them that their attitude will be reflected in the campers— so be energetic and enthusiastic! Each adult should be trained in how to lead a person to Christ. Knowledge of several key verses is helpful.

### **Discipline**

Make sure all of your counselors understand the rules and regulations of the camp (see

separate page toward the end of this handbook). Discuss how to handle different situations so everyone will be of one accord. Please set a good example for your students to follow.

### **Know the schedule**

All counselors should know the daily schedule. All counselors are responsible for getting your campers to the correct location. It is just one week— make sure counselors are on board with NOT skipping out on any experiences.

### **Group leader expectations**

Make sure that every adult clearly understands their role at the camp. They need to know the importance of their participation, attitude, focus on safety, and good boundaries.

### **Pray**

Spend time in prayer for your leaders. They will play a key role in your week with the Great Escape! Also, encourage your leaders to pray for each student that will be attending this camp.

## **TIPS ON LEADING STUDENTS**

1. Establish an atmosphere of acceptance. Most teenagers are afraid to express their opinions because they are afraid of being ridiculed, laughed at, or considered dumb by their peers. They need to feel secure before they share their true feelings and beliefs.
2. Affirm all legitimate expressions of opinions from your group members. Make certain everyone knows his or her comments and contributions are appreciated and important.
3. Discourage the students from thinking of you as the “authority” on the subject.
4. Actively listen to each person. God gave you one mouth and two ears. Good discussion leaders know how to listen.
5. Do not force anyone to talk. Invite them, but do not insist they comment. Each member should have the right to “pass.”
6. Do not take sides during discussion. You will possibly have differing opinions in the group. This is very stimulating to a discussion, but do not make the mistake of immediately agreeing with one side or the other. Instead, encourage both sides to think through their positions and to defend their points of view.
7. Do not allow one person—including yourself—to monopolize the discussion. Try to encourage equal participation from all students. Remember that it is the kids’ turn to talk.
8. Arrange seating to encourage discussion. It is best to sit in a circle with everyone at the same eye level.
9. Sometimes a “warm up question” is helpful. Ask something simple that is easy to answer, like “What is your favorite app?” or “If you could only eat one type of food for the rest of

your life, what would it be?” Once a student has answered a question like this, they are more likely to answer others.

10. Don't be intimidated by silence. Let the students think about the question.
11. Stay on topic. It is common for a discussion to go off on tangents. If the tangent is fairly close to what you're talking about, see it through for a little bit. Otherwise, tell the group that you can talk about that topic later, but for now you need to finish your discussion.
12. Ask open-ended questions. When asking questions of students, ask questions that require more than a one-word response. Ask for their opinion or how they feel about something. Ask questions about how or why things are the way they are.
13. Go from general to specific. Kids will be more willing to talk about topics in general at first and then talk about how the topic affects them personally.
14. Remember it is not a good group if you do all the talking.

## MEDICAL & HOUSING INFO

### Medical Information

Every group is responsible for all camper injuries. YCM (Youth Conference Ministries) does not provide nurses or doctors on site, but will distribute simple first aid items during recreation. In the event of an injury requiring professional medical attention, group leaders should inform the Green Lake Conference Center front desk and then either call for an ambulance or drive the camper to the nearest Emergency facility. A counselor must accompany an injured camper to the Emergency facility. If groups do not have a car and an ambulance is not required, the Counselor Care team can drop off and pick up the injured parties at the Emergency facility, but we cannot accompany the injured camper at the facility. Call your Counselor Care representative if this situation arises.

Group leaders are also responsible for administering prescriptions to any campers who require them.

***Each group will need to bring a small first aid kit:*** including Band-Aids, tweezers, a thermometer, Tylenol, Pepto-Bismol, Antacids, antiseptic, antibiotic ointment, ace bandages, and small ice packs or baggies.

**It is mandatory and necessary that you use the medical release forms provided for you by YCM. You MUST bring two (2) copies of each student's and leader's form with you to the conference, as we will need one and you will need to keep one in your possession.**

## **Housing Information**

- Room assignments will be given to you upon your arrival.
- We cannot pre-house your group. The housing is not completed until the registration numbers are final, only a few days before the start of camp.
- You will need to establish a contact person and phone number for your parents in case they need to reach their child.

# **PACKING LIST**

## **Bring**

- Bible, pen, journal, or notebook
- Modest clothing that can get dirty
  - Pack for extreme temps. Wisconsin can be really hot and really chilly in the same day!
  - Make sure clothes for Morning Rec can get dirty/possibly stained—it's messy out there
- Bathing Suits
  - If you typically wear a two piece bathing suit, wear a t-shirt over it or a one piece
  - If you typically wear no shirt, wear a t-shirt
- Hat, sun block, sunglasses, water bottle, bug spray
- Tennis shoes that you can run in, but that you don't mind maybe getting dirty (bring at least one pair of closed-toe shoes!)
- If desired: Sturdy sandals like Tevas or Chacos (leave the rubber flip flops at home or use as shower shoes, but not recommended for outdoors)
- Laundry bag and a couple of trash bags for dirty clothes
- Jacket or raincoat
- Hand sanitizer
- Beyond/astronaut/space attire/costumes
- Flashlight
- Old beach towel okay with getting dirty/stained
- Spending money (t-shirts for tie dye, banana boat, snacks, etc.)
- At least one can of shaving cream (per kid)—no gel or menthol (cans should be given to a leader before the ride to camp!)
- Counselors—please bring a coffee mug for morning Counselor coffee

## **Do NOT Bring**

- Any form of mind-altering substances
- Tobacco products
- Weapons of any kind
- Firecrackers/fireworks

- Electronic devices (this is technically up to you, but we strongly discourage campers bringing cell phones with them to camp. It's just one week, and we find that the lack of phones really facilitates better fellowship, friendship, and conversations. Laptops/iPads/other devices are not permitted for campers)
- Laser pointers
- Skateboards, bicycles, scooters, or rollerblades
- Bedding, including sleeping bags (all bedding is provided)

## IMPORTANT RANDOM STUFF

- Room assignments will be given at registration. Contact your counselor care liaison if your group has special needs or requests.
- Upon arrival, report broken or damaged furniture in your dorm room to your counselor care representative to avoid charges for damage. Please do this right away.
- Skateboards and rollerblades (or anything on wheels other than your buses/vans!) are not allowed.
- TGE and Green Lake Conference Center will not be held responsible for stolen items. Be sure to lock up. We haven't had a theft issue, but we'd rather be safe than sorry with so many people around.
- We highly encourage you to help your campers go "screen free" during the week of Great Escape. It allows your kids to fully enjoy the experience while they are at camp. They are useful for a long car trip to and from camp, but while at camp they can be a liability and distracting.
- Swimming is allowed only at designated times. We ask that if your student/leader typically wears a two piece bathing suit, for them to wear a one piece or a t-shirt, and if they typically wear no shirt, for them to wear a t-shirt.
- **Churches are responsible for providing first aid to your campers.** TGE will have a limited supply of bandaids and basic necessities on hand. Be sure your church brings a first aid kit and has a plan for caring for your campers if there is an illness or injury. We are happy to assist if you need help locating a doctor's office or hospital.
- If a parent or guardian needs to leave a message for their children and cannot get a hold of you, they can call the Green Lake Conference Center at 920-294-3323.
- Consider making name tags on lanyards for your kids. We do not provide them, but it is a great way to learn names, and different lanyards help identify which church is which. Ideally, lanyards can also hold room keys.



- Parents can send mail to:

Your child's name - The Great Escape  
 Church Name  
 Green Lake Conference Center  
 W2511 State Road 23  
 Green Lake, WI 54941

- If parents want to send mail, encourage them to do so early! Include a return address in case it arrives too late. Mail will be distributed at counselor meetings. Campers will be fed well throughout the week; there is no need to send care packages of candy and food.

## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

New to the Great Escape? Have no fear! The next several pages will describe these events in detail and outline anything you may need to do to prepare. Below is an overview of our daily schedule.

### Monday

- 4:00 PM Arrival and Registration – Pillsbury Hall AKA Auditorium  
 (Head to the lake for some waterfront games as soon as you are settled in rather than unpacking initially)
- 5:30 PM Official Welcome and Kick Off – by the lake
- 6:00 PM Dinner – Kraft Hall AKA Dining hall
- 7:00 PM MANDATORY Counselor Meeting – side room in Dining \hall near the doors you enter through, AKA Counselor Room  
 (Campers – Free time outside with Work Crew monitoring)
- 8:00 PM Evening Session – Auditorium
- 9:45 PM Aftermath – Auditorium
- 10:00 PM Family Time – Your pre-assigned Family Time room

### Tuesday – Friday

- 7:15 AM “On the Point” – patio/green space outside Roger Williams  
 (Optional morning acoustic worship and devotional message. Coffee provided for counselors, bring your own mug!)
- 8:00 AM Breakfast – Dining hall
- 8:40 AM Brief counselor Meeting – Counselor Room  
 (Send one counselor per church, usually head counselor)
- 9:00 AM Quiet Time – Amphitheater near Bauer Lodge
- 10:00 AM Recreation – Lake, Field X, or Field Field  
 (Groups will rotate through the different fields each day)
- 12:00 PM Lunch – Dining hall

1:15 PM	Afternoon Session – Auditorium
2:30 PM	Small Groups – Anywhere (Spread out throughout campus, each group free to choose their own spot at a respectful distance from other groups)
3:30 PM	Tournaments/Crafts/Afternoon Adventures/Free Time – Lake, playground, beach, craft room, etc.
5:30 PM	Dinner – Dining hall
6:30 PM	Counselor Evening Meeting – Counselor Room (All counselors should attend. Campers have free time outside with Work Crew monitoring)
7:30 PM	Evening Session – Auditorium
9:45 PM	Aftermath
10:00 PM	Family Time – Your pre-assigned Family Time room

### **Saturday**

Camp is over :( There are no meals provided, and there are no activities. Wake up, clean up, pack up, and hit the road. We'll see you next year!

7:00 AM Lost & Found open in front of Auditorium along with coffee available for Counselors

**\*Be sure to plan for breakfast for your group.** Many groups bring granola bars, poptarts, and juice boxes for the ride home.

## **ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION**

**Very important: Groups should NOT arrive any sooner than 4pm on Monday, July 10. If you do, we won't be able to check you in or provide your room keys until 4pm.**

1. Pull into the lovely Green Lake Conference Center (glcc.org). You will drive through a golf course (be cautious when you come to the one-lane bridge!) and follow stunning Lawson Drive through the forest until you get to the lake.
2. Veer right and keep following Lawson Drive along the lake until you reach Pillsbury Hall (you won't be able to miss it! We will be outside ready for you!)
3. Prepare for a line. Sometimes you will zip right through registration, but sometimes several large groups arrive at the same time. Please be patient and prepared for this. We will have Work Crew checking on you as you wait.
4. When it is your turn, you will be directed to take a group photo with your church, and then you will send one adult representative (usually the youth pastor or head counselor) into the lower level of Pillsbury Hall to check in, which takes about 10 minutes. The rest of your group will be able to move to their assigned rooms while that head counselor is inside. Room keys will be provided by an adult volunteer.

5. VERY IMPORTANT: Please do not abandon your vehicle without a driver! If you are the only adult able to drive your vehicle and you are the one who will check in, please follow the Work Crew as they direct you to your rooms. Once your kids have put their stuff in their rooms, you will be encouraged to go straight to the lake. If there is no other adult able to go in for registration previously, it is at that time that you should meet with your Counselor Care representative in the lower level of Pillsbury Hall.
6. Please note: The next time you will all officially meet as a church, is at the very end of the night in your Family Time room. It is a good idea to share any last minute announcements on the bus coming in or directly following your group picture. If you need another chance to gather as a church (especially for larger groups) it may help to designate a spot outside of Pillsbury Hall to connect either before dinner or before entering the evening session.

**What to have handy:**

- Two copies of your students' and leaders' medical forms (one for us and one for you)
- One copy of your students' media release form
- A form of payment for any unpaid totals of registered students or leaders

## MEALS

Each person in your group will receive a wristband that should be worn all week. These bracelets are your "tickets" into meals, and the color is significant. There are limited extras available, so please stress to your campers that they should not lose it.

The Dining hall is a buffet with healthy and hearty items available. You'll find both savory and sweet, and there is typically a salad bar available at both lunch and dinner (more popular with the adults; campers tend to like the ice cream bar more). Be sure you are encouraging campers to drink water (not just soda) on hot days! Soda machines will be turned off at breakfast.

## ON THE POINT

This is an optional devotional each morning at 7:15 AM on Lone Tree Point, behind Roger Williams/off the patio. There will be acoustic music and a short message. Additionally, our

Counselor Care team provides coffee for all counselors who brave this early hour with their students. Please bring your own mug and help us reduce our waste!

If you are new to Great Escape, we want to make you aware that this early morning time is very popular, even though that seems crazy for middle schoolers! We encourage you to have your campers attend at least one morning, likely Tuesday morning when they are least sleep-deprived. Some students will love the toned-down and peaceful start to the day and will continue to come each morning. It is 100% fine if some campers attend and some stay in bed.

Be prepared to go straight to breakfast, quiet time, and recreation after On the Point. There won't be much time to go back to your room, so you should be dressed to go right to recreation.

## **QUIET TIME**

One of the most important parts of the day! While it isn't crazy like recreation or as glitzy as sessions, quiet time gets us started with the right mindset each day. It is a vital part in training these teens in what it looks like to follow Jesus, which happens in large part through spending individual time in His Word and in prayer. Please be sure your campers get to the amphitheater by 9 AM so they don't miss this important time.

A member of our team will be there to give a "good morning!" and a few instructions. Then, campers and counselors will spread out and find their own space to complete the devotions in the Quiet Time Books (handed out at registration).

Please do NOT use this time for a small group. We have built-in small group time in the afternoon. This time is for individual reflection, learning, and growth. We keep it at an age-appropriate time length. If your campers are struggling with the length, challenge them and encourage them that they can do it! You might suggest they read through a short book of the Bible throughout the week, or bring along another devotional from home just in case they have extra time. The more they put in, the more they will get out, just like practicing piano or lifting weights.

Everyone will need their quiet time books, Bibles, and pens. Rec team leaders will have baskets available to store these belongings during recreation. You won't have time to go back to your rooms, so everyone should be dressed for recreation (see next page).

As Quiet Time is wrapping up, teams will gather together and there is often time for team-building and to practice and perform cheers, Bible memory verses, and special talents.

# RECREATION

At the end of Monday night's session, your church will find out their recreation team, led by a Work Crew Team Leader. Some smaller churches will be combined to form one team, while larger churches may be divided into multiple teams; this is to create equitable team sizes for the most fun game play possible! Our Recreation Team will provide more directions at registration. It is always so exciting for everyone to find out their team name and Work Crew team leader at the end of Monday night's session!

You will spend one morning (Tues, Weds, Thurs) on each of three different fields. In the daily counselor newsletter, there will be a chart with team names and field locations for each day. Be sure to keep tabs on which field you are going to so that your campers (and you!) are prepared with appropriate clothing and gear.

## Lake Rec

Located along the lake, visible from the auditorium. Lots of water games! Wear bathing suits with shirt/shorts over them. Bring beach towels. Wear shoes or sturdy sandals, and be prepared to take them on and off as you play different games. Soggy socks and tennis shoes are a bummer, so think about your shoe choice.

## Field Rec

Located a bit up the road (Work Crew will lead you there), there will be crazy games galore! Closed-toe shoes are a must. This field also uses paint that may cause staining on clothes, so please bring clothes that you are okay with getting stained, and an old towel for rinsing off after. There will be water on the field, but you will also want to bring water bottles.

## Field X

Located even further up the road (again, you will be guided there by Work Crew), this is our wildest field. Wear clothing that can be completely ruined! You will get MESSY. ***At the end, do NOT go back to your dorms until you have cleaned off completely in the lake.*** We will provide trash bags on your way back to the room to store your gross clothing.

## Friday: SHAVING CREAM WAR!

The highlight of the week for many campers is the giant shaving cream war on Friday morning. Your church should bring 1 can of shaving cream for each camper, and turn it in at registration. We suggest collecting it before the bus ride so there are no shaving cream emergencies on the drive. We also recommend bringing all of your shaving cream cans in a tub labeled with your church name, which you can later use to collect and store tie-dye shirts.

We ask campers not to attack faces, but there are always some mishaps. We will have eye wash stations outside the boundary of the war zone.

We have a strict “no shaving cream outside of the fence” policy. We also do not allow campers to have whole cans of shaving cream. Members of Work Crew will squirt the shaving cream into their hands. Please help us enforce these rules. (Thanks!)

## SESSIONS

Afternoon and Evening sessions take place in the auditorium. There will be a live worship band, skits/drama, videos, interactive games, an engaging main speaker, and more.

### Things to Know

- Seating is by wristband color. Be sure to pay attention to signage at the auditorium, as your seating location will change each session.
- We are always working on the perfect decibel level that is both fun and safe, but it sometimes gets a bit loud! If you have campers or counselors sensitive to noise, we suggest they bring some ear plugs along. You may want to bring a whole box to share with your group. We will have a small number of ear plugs to give out.
- If one of your campers has sensory needs, there will be a sensory room provided on the lower level below the auditorium during the louder parts of the session. This is still a worshipful space and is intended for quiet reflection. An adult volunteer will be present to facilitate this time. The sensory room is not for those wanting to throw a frisbee or nap. Please only send campers with actual sensory sensitivities to prevent this space from becoming overwhelming as well.

## SMALL GROUPS

After each afternoon session, there will be approximately one hour for small groups. As the head counselor or youth leader from your church, please divide your group among your counselors. Do this however is best for your church and your kids. Separate by gender, separate by age, mix them all up... Whatever is most natural for you and your group.

They may not be sitting together in the afternoon session, so you should pick a spot for everyone to meet, or each small group should discuss this at the beginning of camp when you've gotten a feel for the campus. Where will we meet up after the session?

Spread out all over camp. Find a great spot with some privacy. Enjoy the shade, the beach, a hotel lobby, wherever!

# AFTERNOON ADVENTURES/TOURNAMENTS

There are many options during afternoon free time! This is one of the most traditional “summer camp” aspects of TGE. Here are the basics:

## **Tournaments**

There will be multiple tournaments each day that cater to all types of campers, including (\*subject to change): soccer, basketball, volleyball, 9-square, gaga ball, carpetball, Uno, chess, spelling bee, chalk art, and sand castle building. Winners are announced at the evening session each night.

## **Banana boating**

A camp favorite, banana boating costs **\$6/person**. Rides last 20-30 minutes and 6 people may ride at a time. This popular activity requires signing up the morning of, and spots are limited to 1 ride per person for the week.

## **Crafts**

We have a TON of craft supplies available every day in the craft building. Draw, paint, make friendship bracelets, and more! And of course, there is the annual TIE DYE DAY!! This is a camp favorite. Bring your own item to tie dye or purchase a Great Escape shirt for **\$6**.

## **Free Time & Swimming**

If none of that is enticing to your campers, they can use the afternoon for free time. Unless there is a tournament running, the gaga ball pit, 9-square, and volleyball courts will be open. We encourage you to set some ground rules for your group, such as “always stay in groups of at least 3” and “no swimming without an adult present.” (\*There is no lifeguard on duty. All swimming at Green Lake is at your own risk\*) We also highly recommend a “no hanging out in the dorm rooms during free time” rule. Get outside!

# AFTERMATH

Each evening, there will be an “aftermath” that takes place after the evening session. Be sure to **pay close attention to Thursday**, as this is a time when you are responsible for planning for your group!

## **Monday - Team Party**

Churches will be divided into their teams, will meet their Work Crew team leader, and get to know their teammates.

## **Tuesday - Night Game**

There will be a highly-themed and highly-fun game in the dark! All you need to do is listen for instructions and have a blast. We recommend wearing closed-toed shoes, as this game often involves running.

### **Wednesday - Worship Night**

We think the traditional last night of camp opportunity to hear the Gospel presented is a beautiful thing, but we take a slightly different approach. We want to share the way God works in the life of these students in the middle of the week, giving campers the opportunity to talk with counselors for two more days after making any life-changing decisions. We think this is better preparation for returning home with changed hearts and outlooks.

With that being said, we also work hard to not manufacture a spiritually fake evening or put any type of pressure on your students to feel as if the way they are seeing, or not seeing, God work is right or wrong. There will be a time during worship for your campers to exit the building and have some alone time to ponder some questions and God's role in their lives. Campus will be fully staffed with a boundary for your students to stay within. Stay tuned for more instructions during counselor meetings.

Keep your eyes and ears open for your students on that night and beyond as well. Some of them will be realizing the way God works in their life and will be saying "yes" to that work for the first time. We will have a system set up to make keeping an eye on those students a little easier for you on that night, which will be explained in our counselor meeting.

### **\*\*\*Thursday - Extended Family Time\*\*\***

You know your group better than we do! What does your group need? A laid back campfire with some guitars around one of the many fire pits available through Green Lake (reserve at the front desk)? A reflective time for sharing everyone's camp experiences? A game night with junk food and lots of laughter? This night is free for you to use. If you're looking for more structure for this time, we provide a document with Family Time tips. We just ask that your campers are accounted for and not left to roam freely after dark. Get to bed at a reasonable time.

### **Friday - End of Camp Party**

This is a night for taking your themed costumes to the next level! The party is short (like, no more than 30 minutes, so don't be surprised when it ends!) so you can get back to your rooms and pack. This year's party will take place in the auditorium and will include a dance party and space-themed crafts.

## **FAMILY TIME**

Each night, at the very end of the day, you will have time to debrief with your church. We will assign you to a space that is the appropriate size for your group, and you will get that assignment at registration. Be sure all of your kids know the location, as they may be coming from different places after the Team Party or Night Game. The rooms will be marked by a sign with your church name on it.



Family Time is yours to plan. Many groups use this as a relaxed time of sharing about the day. Some sample questions to ask your group:

- What was the best and worst part of your day? (You can call this thorns and roses, highs and lows, happies and crappies, etc.)
- Where did you see God today?
- What did you learn about yourself today?
- What did you learn about God today?

If you have a huge group, you can break up into smaller groups or stay all together. Whatever works for your group! Try to keep the rowdy-ness at a minimum. This is their time to start slowing down and turning in for the night.

Give announcements for the next day. Tell them how much you love them. Point out times when they were awesome today. Set a reasonable curfew. They should have enough time for a quick shower and a little bit of hang out time in their room. They will have a long day tomorrow, and sleep is important!

One recommendation to ensure that campers aren't trying to wander out after lights out is for leaders to put a strip of painters tape connecting the door frame and part of the door of each room after bedtime. Campers cannot open the door without breaking the tape, and they will not be able to put the tape back in place. Let them know that you will check every door's tape early in the morning to be sure no one snuck out. We will provide rolls of painters tape so that you can do this.

## WHO'S WHO?

### **Work Crew**

High school and college students who have paid and committed to serving the campers. Their roles include facilitating quiet times, group games, set up and tear down, and numerous logistical tasks. (We would LOVE to have some of your youth join our Work Crew next year! Applications are usually due in April. Your interested youth should keep an eye on [ycmhome.org/work-crew](http://ycmhome.org/work-crew) to watch for the application to go live, usually in January)

### **Adult Volunteers**

Made up of caring adults from across the nation (this year we have folks from as far as Florida and Colorado!) who love The Great Escape and volunteer time throughout the year to create this experience.

### **Planning Team**

A small team of Adult Volunteers who coordinate the logistics of camp and lead teams of Adult

Volunteers and Work Crew.

### **Counselors**

That's you! Counselors are the adults who come with church groups and spend the most relational time with campers.

### **Counselor Care Liaisons**

A small team of Adult Volunteers dedicated to YOU. Below is their contact information, and note that the person who has been in touch with you so far will continue to be the dedicated liaison for your group during camp. Get in touch with any and every question, comment, or concern!

Grace Rowland: (262) 389-0302

Andrew Rogers: (815) 670-4624

Sydney McMillen: (262) 370-4057

Alexis Voeller: (262) 853-5892

## **CAMP RULES AND REGULATIONS**

While at The Great Escape, students are asked to be respectful of people and property, have a good attitude, and abide by The Great Escape and conference regulations.

If a student fails to comply with the rules stated here or respond to the discipline of a counselor, he/she may be sent home at the parent's expense, based on the discretion of the student's group leader. A counselor may be sent home at the discretion of the group leader or Great Escape directors.

Please keep in mind that while we make every effort to keep your campers safe at camp, we do not provide security and we are not present in hotels. The ultimate responsibility for the safety and security of campers will fall to counselors.

### **Four Ms to Remember**

1. Be at all MEALS and be on time
2. Be at all MEETINGS (sessions and activities)
3. No MESSIN' around
  - No guys in the girls' housing and no girls in the guys' housing
  - NOTE: Violations could lead to expulsion from camp
4. Be MODEST in how you dress

### **Camp Rules**

1. Your wristband is your meal ticket. Do not remove it! The conscientious GLCC employees

- at the dining hall will NOT permit entrance without it.
2. Obey the camp curfew set by your lead counselor (camp directors will step in if the curfew is unreasonable)
  3. Damage done to the dorm properties and the meeting rooms are the responsibility of the group and/or person involved
  4. Firecrackers/fireworks, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products (including e-cigarettes), drugs, and weapons of any kind are forbidden.
  5. No food or dishes allowed outside the dining hall.
  6. Do not remove or rearrange your furniture.
  7. Do not knock out screens, drop articles from, or lean out of windows.
  8. Campers are not allowed off-campus without a counselor. Unless going to the Emergency Department or Urgent Care, there should be no reason to leave campus as everything you need is provided here!
  9. Boy campers are not allowed in girls' housing and vice versa. Violation of this rule may lead to expulsion from camp.
  10. Rooms must remain locked at all times.
  11. Room keys must remain with campers at all times (absolutely do NOT place room keys under doors or anywhere in the vicinity of the rooms). Again, we strongly recommend storing them in a lanyard (provided by churches).
  12. In-room telephones may be used in EMERGENCIES ONLY!

### **Sexual Misconduct Policy**

We live in a time of increased awareness of human rights. It is in that spirit that certain guidelines have been established in order to assure that everyone's rights are protected, as well as the reputation of Youth Conference Ministries (YCM).

1. At no time will counselors be in compromising positions with kids.
2. There should be absolutely no physical contact that can be interpreted as sexual advances made toward any camper or any conference participant.
3. Adult counselors should not walk at night alone with campers
4. Adult counselors should not involve themselves in in-depth counseling with campers of the opposite sex in secluded areas.
5. The basic emphasis of these guidelines is to state clearly that there should be no inappropriate sexual conduct between counselor and campers, counselors and counselors, and campers and campers.
6. When adult counselors are notified of inappropriate conduct by anyone, they must immediately report it to The Great Escape directors. Since the person in question may be a minor, state laws will be followed.

# TO DO LIST REMINDERS

- Get in touch with your counselor care liaison if you have any needs or questions (about literally anything)
  - Housing special needs
- Start meeting with and training your counselor team now!
- Plan for nightly Family Time
- Plan for “Extended Family Time” on Thursday night (buy some junk food, pack some games, etc.)
- Plan for Saturday morning breakfast on your way home (not provided)
- Designate a “first aid” person, pack a first aid kit, and make a plan for caring for the medical needs of your campers.
- Collect one can of shaving cream from each camper. Optional: Bring them in a big plastic tote clearly labeled with your church name, and we will return that tote to you, filled with your campers’ tie-dyed shirts!
- Divide your group into small groups, and make sure each counselor knows which campers are in their group.
- Have students with food allergies fill out the form in the link below to connect with GLCC kitchen directly
  - <https://www.glcc.org/dietary.html>
- Ensure all payments are completed through YCM registration site. Contact YCM directly with any payment questions.
- Continue to update any additions/subtractions to your group numbers as well as your boy/girl and camper/counselor breakdowns to the YCM registration site.
- Make a copy of each one of your students’ and counselors’ health forms (bring both with you to registration). Bring one copy of each students’ social media release form.