



Welcome to
The Great Escape: Northeast 2026!

<https://www.ycmhome.org/northeast>

For General Inquiries about Youth Conference Ministries:

Youth Conference Ministries

1610 Barriere Road

Belle Chasse, LA 70037

504-534-5008, www.ycmhome.org

TGE: Northeast Documents & Forms (Online forms found at [Waivers | YCM](#))

- [2026 YCM Medical Form](#)
- [2026 Media Consent Form](#)
- The [YCM Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) needs to be read and signed by all volunteer leaders.
- Each student and leader must complete a Refreshing Mountain [Release and Waiver](#).
- TGE: Northeast [Work Crew Application](#)
 - High school students entering 11th grade can apply to come as Work Crew!

Registration Information:

- Deposits for all conferences are \$100 per space.
- If drops are made before April 1, 2026, the \$100 deposit per space is transferred to your balance due.
- If drops are made after April 1, 2026, the deposit per space is forfeited.
- The final date to add/remove spaces is June 1, 2026. After this date you are responsible for the total cost of reserved spaces.
- Final balance is due June 1, 2026.

Location Information:

TGE: Northeast will be held at Refreshing Mountain located in Stevens, PA. The address is: 455 Camp Rd, Stevens, PA 17578.

Housing Information

Housing will be in lodges, varying in size, at Refreshing Mountain. Lodge assignments will be given to you upon arrival.

Students should bring their own sheets/sleeping bags and towels.

Medical Information

Each group leader should bring their own small first aid kit if possible. There will be a camp medical staff member onsite at camp to help as well.

The local hospital is WellSpan Ephrata Community Hospital, approximately 15 minutes from camp.

Address: 169 Martin Ave, Ephrata, PA 17522

Phone Number: +1 (717) 733-0311

Directions to WellSpan Ephrata Community Hospital:

- Exit Camp and go left onto Furnace Hill Rd.
- Turn left onto Forest Hill Rd (0.5 mi)
- Turn right onto E Church Rd (1 mi)
- Turn left onto Durlach Rd (500 ft)
- Turn right onto Durlach Rd (1.2 mi)
- Turn left onto W Main St (1.3 mi)
- Turn left onto Martin Ave (2.5 mi)
- Take a slight right onto Ephrata Ave (0.2 mi)

Other Local Hospitals/Urgent Care Centers:

- WellSpan Urgent Care, 446 N Reading Rd, Ephrata, PA 17522
 - 8 am-8pm
 - 7.7 miles, 15 minutes
- Lancaster General Health Urgent Care Ephrata, 895 E Main St, Ephrata, PA 17522
 - 8 am-8pm
 - 9.0 miles, 23 minutes

Staff Descriptions

Leaders – You! All adults who come with the students to camp. We have been working all year to prepare for this week, but you are the key person the students will relate to when they return home.

Planning Team – consists of members from many churches who volunteer their time and effort to design and implement all that it takes to make this conference happen. Each has a specific task and role yet all share in making your conference week the best

that it can be. They are praying for you and are available to help you in any way they can.

Work Crew – High school/College students who will work around the camp. They come to serve the youth and leaders of the camp. They will be responsible for setting up and breaking down of the stage and all recreation events that take place during the week. They also help with skits and small groups.

Staff at Refreshing Mountain –These people work at the camp and are there to help our camp run smoothly. Please remind the youth that we are guests at Refreshing Mountain, so please show respect to all onsite staff. Any problems that arise should be brought to the attention of JD Garris (240-678-8681) or Caleb Jones (240-577-1868).

Group Leader Pre-Camp Checklist

- Pray! Pray! Pray!
- Secure adult counselors (1 adult male/female for every 6 male/female students)
- Ensure that each adult counselor has a church-approved background check completed.
- Organize transportation to/from camp
- Send deposit of \$100 per person to YCM
- Contact Barrett Schreiner at YCM Home Office regarding registration questions: barrett@ycmhome.org, 504-534-5008
- Pay balance due on June 1.
- Complete all online forms for students and leaders
- Collect completed Refreshing Mountain liability forms.
- Bring a first aid kit for your students.
- See you at camp!

Rules/Guidelines (For Campers and Counselors)

- Leaders are ultimately responsible for campers at all times.
- At no time should youth be in a cabin that is not their own.
- Attendance at all meetings and activities is required.
- Obey the conference curfew.
- Damage done to the camp properties and the meeting rooms is the responsibility of the group and/or persons involved.
- Firecrackers, alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, drugs, and weapons of any kind are forbidden.
- NO food or dishes allowed outside the dining hall.
- Do NOT remove or rearrange your furniture.
- Please do not knock out screens, lean out, or drop things from your windows
- Campers are not allowed off-camp without a leader.

Sexual Misconduct Policy

We recognize that all individuals are created in the image of God, and should be treated with the utmost respect and dignity as His image-bearers. 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).

- At no time will counselors be in compromising situations with kids.
- There should be absolutely NO physical contact that can be interpreted as sexual advances made toward any camper or any conference participant.
- Adult counselors should not walk unaccompanied at night with campers of the opposite sex.
- Adult counselors should not involve themselves in in-depth counseling with campers of the opposite sex in secluded areas.
- These guidelines state clearly that there should be no inappropriate sexual conduct between counselor and campers, counselors and counselors, and campers and campers.

When adult counselors are notified of inappropriate conduct by anyone, they must immediately report it to TGE/FITS conference directors and notify the YCM Home Office. Since the person in question may be a minor, state laws will be followed.

What to Bring

- Bible and pen
- Sleeping bag or linens for a twin bed, pillow
- Toiletries: soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.
- Bathing suit (see guidelines)
- Beach towel and additional towel for showering
- Clothing for hot temperatures (see guidelines)
- Old clothing that can get dirty, particularly for the final day Crud War
- Jacket or raincoat
- Hat, sun block, mosquito repellent
- Sunglasses
- Water bottle
- Something white to tie-dye on the last day of camp (optional)
- Tennis shoes
- Flashlight, if desired
- Camera, if desired
- Sports equipment, if desired
- Laundry bag and trash bag
- Spending money (t-shirts, merch, snacks and sodas)

What NOT to Bring

- Any form of mind altering substances
- Tobacco products
- Weapons of any kind
- Firecrackers
- Nintendo Switches, iPods, etc.
- Laser pointers
- Headphones/Airpods - We want each camper and leader to stay connected with God's creation and those around them!

TGE: Northeast Cell Phone Policy

While we leave the specific instructions up to individual church leaders, cell phones will not be allowed during worship sessions, small group times, rec times, meals, or free time activities. We believe that practicing physical presence – away from screens and the temptation to be in contact with “back home” – is a way of showing Christian hospitality to those whom we came to camp with.

Leaders should make every effort to not use their cell phones around their students, with the same intention of giving full attention to the youth whom they are serving.

TGE: Northeast Clothing/Swimsuit Policy

Each day at The Great Escape will be full of adventurous activities, times of worship, and opportunities to grow in Christian faith and fellowship. Students' apparel should reflect those goals. As guests of Refreshing Mountain, we will be following the [Pool Rules and Regulations](#) Refreshing Mountain has put in place.

Activity Descriptions

Leader Worship:

This is a time for all leaders to get together and have time for themselves. We will sing a few worship songs followed by a short talk. This time is also for leaders to get updated on the day's events, such as what we are doing for recreation, what tournaments will be taking place, and also a time for sharing praises and concerns that might come up.

Small Groups:

Small groups are intended for the students to spend some time talking with their peers about issues raised during the Morning Session. Each group will have approximately 10 students with 1 to 2 adults. The leaders will be given conversation starters to help lead these times.

BTT's or Bed Time Talks:

These times are meant for church groups to meet together and take place following the Evening meeting and Aftermath. It gives the students and their leaders to break down what was discussed during the meeting.

Morning and Evening Sessions:

Twice a day all leaders and students will gather together in the theater for a time of singing, worship, skits, and talks.

Large Group Recreation:

This is where everyone from the camp gathers at the rec. fields for fun and competitive games (mainly fun and silly).

Tournaments:

During the afternoon on a few days we will be having tournaments. Specific tournaments may change depending on facility availability, costs, and weather, but past tournaments have included volleyball, basketball, soccer, and ultimate Frisbee. If you have a smaller church, we will make sure that we partner you up with another church so that everyone one can play if they want to.

Aftermath

A last chance to blow off steam in the evenings with some all camp games, and get truly tired before bedtime!

2026 Schedule (may change)

Monday, July 13

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| 4:00-6:00 PM | Check-in | Dining Hall |
| 6:15 PM | Dinner | Dining Hall |
| 6:45 PM | Leader Meeting | Sunroom (off the main dining hall) |
| 8:00-9:30 PM | Evening Session | Gym #2 |
| 10:00 PM | Aftermath | |
| 11:15 PM | Lights Out! | |

Tuesday - Thursday, July 14-16

| | | |
|--------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 7:45-8:30 AM | Breakfast | Dining Hall |
| 8:45 AM | Devotions/Morning Quiet Time | |
| 10:00 AM | Morning Session | Gym #2 |
| 11:45 AM | Lunch | Dining Hall |
| 1:30-5:00 PM | Adventure Activities, Crafts, and Tournaments | Baseball Field |
| 5:00 PM | Dinner | Dining Hall |
| 5:45 PM | Leader Meeting | Sunroom (off the main dining hall) |
| 6:00-7:00 PM | Small Groups | |
| 7:30 PM | Evening Meeting | Gym #2 |
| 9:00 PM | Aftermath | |
| 10:00 PM | Bedtime Talks | |
| 11:15 PM | Lights Out! | |

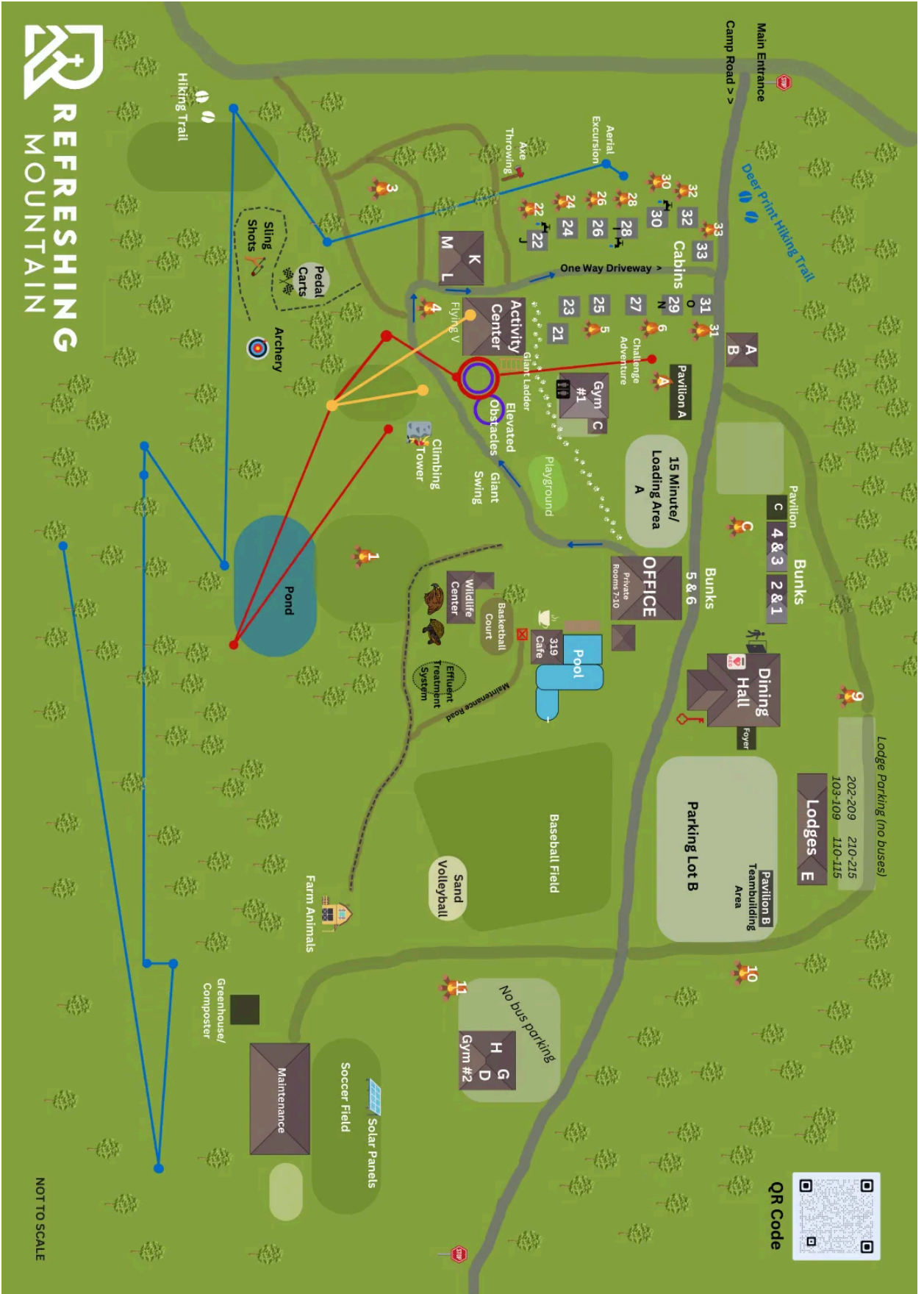
Friday, July 17

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|-------------|
| 7:45-8:30 AM | Breakfast | Dining Hall |
| 8:45 AM | Morning Session | Gym #2 |
| 11:00 AM | Depart for Home. | |

See you in 2027!

REFRESHING MOUNTAIN

NOT TO SCALE



CONTACT INFO

All leaders will be invited to a Whatsapp Group upon registration for announcements and updates.

JD Garris, co-director

jdgarris@covlife.org

240-678-8681

Caleb Jones, co-director

jones.caleb.a.34@gmail.com

240-577-1868

Leader Preparation

Counselors are the key to a successful conference. The success of our conference is in the success of your ministry after you get back home. Adult training begins now! Spend time with your team of adult leaders.

Several areas you should cover together are:

Counseling – Each adult should be trained in how to lead a person to Christ. Knowledge of several key verses is helpful. Review good listening skills and communications skills.

Discipline – Make sure that all of your counselors understand the rules and expectations of the conference. Discuss how to handle different situations in this area so everyone will be of one accord.

Group Leader Expectations – Make sure that every adult with you understands clearly their role at the conference.

All counselors need to know the daily schedule that is listed in this handbook. There are times when leaders may need to be in different places, so you may want to make assignments before you arrive.

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 conference.

Characteristics of a Good Leader

Genuine Love of Christ

II Corinthians 5:15

"For the love of Christ controls us."

Sincere Love For Christ

Romans 12:9

"Let love be genuine."

Flexibility

II Timothy 4:2

"Preach the Word, be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction."

Enthusiasm

Colossians 3:23

"Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as if to the Lord and not to men."

Loyalty

John 13:25

"...By this all men shall know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Dependability

I Corinthians 4:2

"In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy."

Confidentiality

Ephesians 5:15

"Therefore, be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise."

Strength and Firmness

Ephesians 6:10 "

Be strong in the Lord and the power of His might."

Cheerfulness

Philippians 4:4

"Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all."

Tips on How to Lead a Small Group

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 opinion 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 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 the students. And remember that it is the kids turn to talk. It is not a good group if you do all the talking!
8. **Arrange seating to encourage discussion.** It is best to sit in a circle with everyone at the same eye level.
9. **Don't be intimidated by silence.** Let the students think about the question.
10. **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 of the current topic.
11. **Ask open-ended questions.** When asking questions of students ask questions that require more than a one-word response or yes or no. Ask for their opinion or how they feel about something. Ask questions about how or why things are the way they are.
12. **Go from general to specific.** Kids will be more willing to talk about people in general at first and then talk about how the topic affects them personally.

Sharing Your Faith

The Roman Road to Salvation

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 6:23

We must realize that our sins separate us from God!

Romans 5:8

God so loved us that even while we were yet sinners He died for us!

Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:13

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Prayer to Receive Jesus

Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I was made for You, but I've been living for me. I want to begin a relationship with You now. I believe that You died in my place, to pay the penalty for my sin, and rose again for my salvation. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite You to come into my heart and life as my Lord and Savior.