

Camp WOW

Dear Counselor Applicant and Parent,

While the warmth and fun of the summer months seems light years away, it is nevertheless time for us to begin planning for the 14th annual Camp WOW!

As you know, Camp WOW is a four day junior high summer camp for students from several area parishes including Corpus Christi in Carol Stream, Holy Angels in Aurora, Holy Cross in Batavia, and St. Peter in Geneva. It is the joint effort of these participating parishes that makes our camp so successful! More specifically it is the leadership and guidance provided by the high school camp counselors that makes camp both a significant spiritual and social experience for the junior highers. Therefore, at this time we are beginning the volunteer camp counselor recruitment, interview, and selection process.

Important! For the past several years, dozens of students have applied for a limited number of counselor positions. While it's exciting to have so much interest in the camp, we are saddened to realize that many cannot be accepted due to our limited camp capacity. **It will be the same situation this year.** Therefore, **we will be implementing a TWO-PHASE application process.** During Phase One, the youth ministers from all parishes will review all student applications and determine a select number of candidates to proceed onto Phase Two of the application process: Counselor Interviews. *Therefore, it is possible that not all students who apply to be a counselor will be granted an interview. In the event a student is not asked to enter Phase Two of the applicant process, he/she will be invited to continue their participation in their youth ministry programs at their parishes and apply for a counselor position next year.* **Be assured that every student who applies to be a Camp WOW counselor will be given full consideration as we value each and every one of them! They have been a blessing to our parishes and youth ministry programs!**

For your information, below we have listed some of the criteria we will use as we interview, discern, and select counselors for the 2010 Camp WOW. Specifically, we will focus on:

- A student's ability to work within a group as well as take direction from and be responsible to the various adult leaders at camp;
- A steady pattern of involvement in spiritual activities including praying, reading of scripture, attending Mass every Sunday, and participating in Reconciliation;
- Active involvement in parish youth ministry events;
- Having previous retreat and/or camp experience;
- A student's ability to connect with and minister to junior high students; and
- Age-appropriate maturity and emotional/spiritual health.

Some parents ask about whether or not their student has a better chance at being selected as a counselor if a) he/she attended camp in the past or b) he/she has already been a camp counselor. In response, while having students with previous camp experience return as counselors is a tremendous benefit to the program, our overall desire is to grow disciples of Christ through camp participation. Therefore, **previous camper and/or counselor experience does not guarantee anyone a counselor position.** As a matter of fact, even if we were to only take past campers and counselors as candidates, there would still not be enough positions available. Thus, as we discern camp counselors, we aim to have a balance of introverts and extroverts, as well as counselors from different parishes and different grade levels with different experiences. Students applying should also be aware that turning in their completed application on time and their ability to attend counselor training sessions will be considered in our selection process. If you have any questions about this process or Camp WOW, please contact your parish youth minister.

On behalf of all the parishes involved in Camp WOW, we thank you for your support of our program. May God bless you and your family always!

Sincerely,
Mark Herwaldt
Corpus Christi
(630) 483-4226

Therese Conlin
Holy Angels
(630) 906-0212

Pat Haviland
Holy Cross
(630) 879-4751

Laurie Brown
St. Peter Church
(630) 232-0124



Are you interested in applying to be a teen counselor at Camp WOW this summer? Camp WOW counselors consist of high school students, freshmen through graduating seniors, who are committed to serving Jesus Christ through a life of prayer, service, and by proclaiming His Gospel to JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS. The goal of Camp WOW is Catholic youth evangelization. This is done through skits, talks, games, discussions, prayer, and the daily example of a Christian lifestyle. Through word and action, counselors attempt to expose these young people to a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ.

Prospective counselors should have a personal commitment to Christ and an openness to growing in their faith. Additionally, they should have a desire and openness to sharing their faith with junior high youth, be spiritually and emotionally healthy, and free from serious wrong doing in their life.

What can one expect while being a Camp WOW counselor? Hard work, lots of fun, the support of a Christian community, a sense of fulfillment, spiritual challenge and personal growth, and the joy of effecting other's lives in a positive way are just a few of the things you'll experience when you serve as a Camp WOW counselor.

Here are some general facts about being a 2010 Camp WOW counselor:

- The camp will be Wednesday, June 16, 2010 thru Saturday, June 19, 2010. (Counselors will be arriving at camp on Tuesday, June 15th in the early evening).
- This year's application process is open to freshmen through graduating seniors. The number of counselors from each parish WILL BE LIMITED, thus the application process (see cover letter).
- You are expected to attend all training meetings. Let your youth minister know in advance if this is a problem. Lack of attendance will impact consideration. Excessive absences will be grounds for dismissal from a counselor position (to be discussed at interviews) Training dates are at Holy Cross Church in Batavia (lower level) unless otherwise noted:

Initial Orientation

Thursday, February 4, 2010 (6:00-9:00 PM)

Additional Training Dates

<i>February 20-21, 2010</i>	<i>Overnight from 4:00 PM Saturday – 9:00 AM Sunday</i>
<i>Sunday, March 14, 2010</i>	<i>Training from 1:00-4:00 PM</i>
<i>Sunday, April 18, 2010</i>	<i>Training from 1:00-4:00 PM</i>
<i>Saturday, May 8, 2010</i>	<i>Dickson Valley Site Visit from 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM</i>
<i>Sunday, June 6, 2010</i>	<i>Training from 1:00-4:00 PM</i>

- To continue their spiritual development and community building opportunities, prospective counselors are encouraged to support and participate in the various ministries offered at their churches.
- **The deadline for applications (Forms A, B, and C) is MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2009.** After all applications are reviewed, each candidate will be contacted.
- The cost for this year's camp is \$140.00 for counselors.
- Please review this application, its commitments and dates with your parents.

Thanks for your interest in being a camp counselor. If you have any questions please call your youth minister.

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CAMP WOW 14 – Form A
COUNSELOR APPLICATION (Due Monday, November 2, 2009)

(Please print or type)

Name _____	Home Phone (_____) _____
Address _____	Cell Phone (_____) _____
City _____ Zip _____	Email _____
School _____	Grade _____
Birth Date _____	Adult T-Shirt Size _____

Have you ever been a counselor at Camp WOW (circle)? YES NO Camper (circle)? YES NO

Below are a series of questions that pertain to a student's readiness to be a Camp WOW counselor. On a separate piece of paper, please answer each question completely and to the best of your ability.

1. Please state why you would like to be a counselor at this camp? What leadership qualities do you have? Be specific.
2. What experience do you have working with junior high age youth?
3. Describe your participation in your parish youth ministry program. How does this involvement help you grow in your faith?
4. As a member of a Catholic leadership team, it is important that Camp Counselors activity practice their Catholic faith. Do you regularly attend Mass? If no, please explain your answer.
5. How does your faith impact your everyday life?
6. Please describe your prayer life.
7. List any/all activities you are involved in outside of camp (jobs, sports, plays, clubs, vacations, etc.). Do any of these interfere with the camp orientation, training dates, or the camp itself? Explain.
8. How do your parents feel about your participation as a Camp WOW counselor? Are they supportive?

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

CAMP WOW 14 – Form B
(Due Monday, November 2, 2009)

This form must be completed and returned with a student's application in order for their application to be complete.

PARENTAL CONSENT

By signing below, I understand:

- The commitment of time and energy my student is making by applying to be a Camp WOW counselor;
- The selection criteria outlined in the application cover letter to be used by the youth ministers who will be reviewing applications, interviewing applicants, and selecting camp counselors;
- The parishes involved in Camp WOW anticipate many teens applying for camp counselor positions, thus not every teen that applies may be given an interview, regardless of any individual student's past experience as a camper or counselor; and
- All who apply will be contacted by their youth minister concerning their application.

Consequently, I fully support my student's participation in this program and commit to helping him/her meet the counselor responsibilities as required. This includes, but is not limited to providing transportation to and from counselor training sessions and the camp itself, supporting their active participation in training sessions, and attending the camp in its entirety.

Parent Name

Parent Signature

Date

INTERVIEWING SCHEDULE

Below we have listed the available interview days and times for St. Peter youth applicants. **As part of the application process, students must review this list and rank on a scale of 1 to 14 the order of preference for an interviewing time (one being the BEST time for an interview, and 14 being the worst).** Once your application is reviewed, if an interview is needed (Phase 2) we will schedule it on a first come, first served basis using the ranking order you provide. Failure to make any preferences will default in an assigned interview time. ***(IMPORTANT: Students will be notified via email of their interview day and time. Therefore, each applicant is responsible for checking his/her email and attending their interview as assigned (first come, first served). If email notification is not an option, please provide a phone number with voice mail in which we can leave a message.)***

_____ Tuesday, November 10 from 4:00-4:20 PM
_____ Tuesday, November 10 from 4:30-4:50 PM
_____ Tuesday, November 10 from 5:00-5:20 PM
_____ Tuesday, November 10 from 5:30-5:50 PM
_____ Tuesday, November 10 from 6:00-6:20 PM
_____ Tuesday, November 10 from 6:30-6:50 PM
_____ Tuesday, November 10 from 7:00-7:20 PM

_____ Wednesday, November 11 from 3:30-3:50 PM
_____ Wednesday, November 11 from 4:00-4:20 PM
_____ Wednesday, November 11 from 4:30-4:50 PM
_____ Wednesday, November 11 from 5:00-5:20 PM
_____ Wednesday, November 11 from 5:30-5:50 PM
_____ Wednesday, November 11 from 6:00-6:20 PM
_____ Wednesday, November 11 from 6:30-6:50 PM

CAMP WOW 14 – Form C (Due Monday, November 2, 2009)

This form must be completed and returned with a student's application in order for their application to be complete.

COUNSELOR CODE OF CONDUCT

It is our privilege to have you as a Camp WOW Counselor, but we are also responsible to ensure your safety and comfort as well as the safety and comfort of others. We believe that we must provide an atmosphere where all participants can focus their attention on the activities at hand and not be distracted by those few individuals who could ruin the experience for all. The camp rules and regulations are in place to ensure that each student has an opportunity to encounter God without distraction. Please know that we do not want to have to send a student home, but we will if they cannot adhere to this Code of Conduct Agreement. Below we have described in detail what is expected regarding counselor conduct both before and during the Junior High Camp WOW.

LIFESTYLE - Students who are chosen to be camp counselors are expected to be living a Christian lifestyle consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church. Counselors are also asked to remember that before, during, and after camp, they will be forever viewed as 'counselors' to the junior high students, and therefore should strive to conduct their lives in a manner in accordance with this role.

IMAGE – Counselors and all those leading camp will be mindful and aware of the image they portray at camp as well as electronically (i.e. Facebook, email, texting, Youtube, MySpace, Twitter, etc.) Any posting to personal sites or those of others will represent positive messages that are in line with Catholic morality and identity. Please take time to review what's already out there and ask yourself if it reflects your life in Christ as a counselor; if it does not, delete it immediately!

CONDUCT - Camp counselors are expected to uphold the camp rules and model appropriate behavior that encourages positive youth participation. This includes, but is not limited to, the following guidelines regarding student behavior:

- C Counselors are expected to respect the leaders and youth hosting both the first and third summer Camp WOW sessions and not visit the Dixon Valley Camp Grounds during these camps unless given the specific permission of their youth minister.
- C Counselors are expected to abide by all curfews set by the camp in respect to all people, places, and things designated as "off limits" or "restricted." As an example, students are expected to go directly to their assigned dorm/cabin after the evening session and stay there until the morning gathering. It is considered a major infraction of the camp rules if campers and/or counselors are outside of their assigned dorms/cabins after being dismissed from the evening session.
- C Counselors are each assigned to co-lead a small group of junior high campers (1:3 ratio) and are expected to be responsible for their group and its members throughout the duration of camp. At all times the camp counselors and their groups' whereabouts are to be known to the facilitator of the day. At no time is a counselor allowed to go off by themselves, with other counselors, or with their group without the approval of the facilitator of the day.
- C Counselors are expected to notify the facilitator of the day immediately in the event they experience and/or witness a problem with a camper.
- C Public and/or private displays of affection are not appropriate during the camp.

DRESS CODE

This is a spiritual camp, not a summer vacation, and all participants are expected to dress in a modest and appropriate manner. In the event one's attire is deemed inappropriate for camp, the student may be asked to change.

- C Short shorts, low rider pants, low cut tops, bikini tops, halter tops, and belly tops showing one's midriff are not an acceptable form of dress for this camp. Also, all undergarments must be covered/hidden at all times.
 - C Guys are expected to wear their shirts at all times, unless swimming or canoeing.
 - C Girls are expected to wear one piece swimsuits. Any other swimsuit style must be covered by a colored t-shirt at all times.
- C No offensive language or symbols on clothing is to be worn.
- C Sleep wear should also be modest in nature.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND OTHER DRUGS

Alcohol, all tobacco products, and other drugs are forbidden at the camp and possession and/or use of any of these items will result in an automatic dismissal from the camp.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

In the event that a counselor does not follow the guidelines set forth by this Code of Conduct, the following procedures will take place. First, the student will meet with their youth minister and any other parties that may be involved to discuss the situation. Then, all of the youth ministers participating at camp will make a joint decision as to whether the student's behavior warrants their being dismissed from camp. In the event a student is dismissed, his/her parents will be notified to make arrangements to pick up their child at the camp.

By signing below, we understand the conduct expected of each Camp Counselor and any consequences that might result from inappropriate behavior.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date