

Ice Camp

Dear Youth Leaders,

Thank you for registering your youth group for a weekend of Ice Camp at Miracle Camp and Retreat Center. We are excited to serve your group and partner together in ministry as we make the good news of Jesus known. This packet will give you a thorough overview of the weekend so you can know what to expect while you are here.

First off, here are a few things about Miracle Camp: what we believe, and why we host Ice Camps.

- 1. Miracle Camp exists to serve churches.** We want this weekend of Ice Camp to be a blessing to your church and your youth ministry. It is our aim to provide a safe, distraction-free environment where the Holy Spirit can work. Our staff is passionate about serving churches—we work hard because we know that this retreat can set you up with numerous discipleship opportunities as you return home.
- 2. Relationships are at the heart of ministry.** Ice Camp is designed with your group's relationships in mind. We love taking care of the weekend activities, meals, and scheduling so you can be freed up to talk, laugh, and interact with your students. In order to encourage time with your students, we intentionally schedule youth group activities and break-out discussions into the weekend. These time slots can be used for whatever your group needs, so be sure to equip your volunteer leaders to take advantage of these opportunities. Make sure each of your leaders get a set of the included questions and are prepared to lead a small group.
- 3. Please join us in prayer for the weekend.** When Jesus sent out the disciples in Luke 10, he sent them out with no resources. He wanted them to completely trust in him and his power to change lives. At Miracle Camp, we have many resources at our disposal, but we cannot force genuine heart change in a student's life. We do not want to forget it is only Jesus who can change lives. And since that's the case, we have to pray.

If questions arise about the details of your retreat as you are reading this packet, please feel free to contact our office at info@miraclecamp.com. We would be happy to help you with anything you need as you prepare for this weekend.

Eric Rupp, Program Director
eric.rupp@miraclecamp.com

Theme THE MISSION OF JESUS

CHAPEL SESSIONS AND SMALL GROUPS

The retreat schedule is built around four sessions where you and your students will worship together in singing and learn from sound, biblical teaching. Time is set aside after each session for group breakouts in order to provide time for your students to meet and discuss how they can apply God's Word to their lives. Our speakers are given the same discussion questions from the following pages; their goal being that the content of the teaching sets up students to discuss the provided questions. Spend some time familiarizing yourself with the questions before the weekend, and make sure your leaders are trained and comfortable so they can facilitate gospel-centered small group times with your students.

THEME OVERVIEW

If someone asked you for the one reason why Jesus came to earth, what would you say?

...What was the primary mission of Jesus' life on earth?

If you ask this question to ten different Christians, you might get ten different answers, but most answers will probably focus on the importance of Jesus' death on the cross. Jesus himself said that he came "to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). In fact, Jesus says a lot of things about his mission, and about why he had to come into the world. Maybe other verses come flooding to your mind:

"The Son of Man came to seek and save the lost"

"For I have come...not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me"

"The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve"

"I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God...because that is why I was sent."

All throughout Scripture (even the Old Testament!) we can find dozens, if not hundreds, of reasons why Jesus had to be sent by the Father to come into the world. In everything he did, he was intentional, missional, and purposeful. Perhaps we could say that Jesus' death and resurrection are the central reasons why he came, but when we think about all that his death accomplished, we understand why we could get so many answers to the question above. Jesus came to defeat Satan, conquer sin, give us life, fulfill the law, reconcile humanity to God, make adoption possible...the list could go on and on. So that will be the focus of this weekend — looking at different reasons why Jesus came to earth. Each of our four sessions will focus on a key statement made by Jesus himself, exploring how that theme shows up in Jesus' life, and how it has relevance to our worship and practical living today.

For students who have never encountered these truths before, they will receive a wonderful picture of who Scripture shows us Jesus to be. And for students who might already be familiar with a lot of these ideas, this weekend can be an opportunity for them to continue growing in their faith...and in some cases, consider how they can join in Jesus' mission of seeing lost people saved, serving others, and calling people to repentance.

Session 1

PASSAGES:

Luke 19:10 - "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (The story of Zacchaeus)

Mark 2:17 - "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." (The call of Matthew)

1 Timothy 1:15 - "The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost."

Luke 15 - The three "lost" parables: the lost coin, the lost sheep, the lost sons

Luke 7:34 - "The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'"

GOSPEL CENTERED DISCUSSION STARTERS:

1. What did it look like for Jesus to seek out lost people?
 - What other stories from the Gospels can you think of where Jesus fulfilled this mission?
 - What types of people did Jesus normally seek out?
 - What did it cost Jesus to act in this way?
 - In our society today, where do you think Jesus would spend most of his time, and what kinds of people would he be spending time with?
2. How would the story of Scripture be different if Jesus waited for lost people to come to him?
3. Why do you think people find it surprising that Jesus says he did not come to call the righteous?
 - Doesn't this seem backwards? Why is it good that Jesus came for the lost, not the righteous?
 - In what ways do you identify with people like Zacchaeus and Matthew/Levi the tax collector?
4. What would you say to someone who claims that they are not lost?
 - How can you help someone who does not think they are in need of being saved?
5. For those of you who would say you are already saved, what does it look like for you to join in Jesus' mission to see lost people saved?
6. Who are the people in your life you need to do a better job of seeking out?
 - Are there types of people in your life you tend to avoid rather than seek after?
 - Think of the people you typically try to move away from...what would it look like for you to move toward them instead and seek them out?

Session 2

PASSAGE:

Mark 10:45 - "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

John 13:1-17 - Jesus washes his disciples' feet.

Phil. 2:1-11 - Jesus took on the form of a servant.

John 6:38 - "For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me."

GOSPEL CENTERED DISCUSSION STARTERS:

1. What other places can you think of in Scripture that emphasize Jesus' willingness to serve?
 - In what ways did (does) Jesus serve us?
2. People came to know Jesus as a rabbi, a ruler, and a king. What expectations would people have about needing to serve Jesus?
 - How would the stories in the Gospels look different if Jesus instead came to be served?
3. In John 13, what elements of the story make Jesus' actions so dramatic?
 - What do you think was going through Jesus' mind as he washed the feet of Judas?
4. In general, how is the role of a servant viewed in our society today?
 - Why is this a position/role that people generally avoid or pass along to others?
5. How does Jesus' submission to the Father teach and model true service to us?
 - Why should we be motivated to live lives of submission and service?
 - What is the cost of living a life that is devoted to looking to the interests of others?
 - Do you think this kind of lifestyle is worth it? Why?
 - Did Jesus consider this kind of service-oriented mission worth it? (Look at Philippians 2:9)
6. Jesus is our example when it comes to true servanthood. This statement is certainly true, but how could it be considered incomplete?
 - What does it look like for Jesus to supply us with the motivation and ability to serve others?

Session 3

PASSAGES:

John 10:10 - "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

John 14:6 - "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

1 John 4:9 - "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him."

1 John 5:11-12 - "And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."

GOSPEL CENTERED DISCUSSION STARTERS:

1. When Jesus talks about abundant life, do you think he is talking about eternal life that we will enjoy with him after we die, or is this abundant life something we can enjoy right now?
2. What does it look like for you to enjoy abundant life right here and now?
3. In addition to the promise of life, Jesus also promises his followers things such as "in this life you will have trouble" (John 16:33)... and "all men will hate you because of me" (Matt 10:22). How do you make sense of this?
4. What other places in Scripture describe how Jesus has come to give us physical life?
 - How can we have hope despite knowing that one day our physical bodies will eventually die?
5. Jesus has not just come to give us the hope of everlasting life in our physical bodies, but spiritual life as well. What is the difference?
 - Why are both necessary?
 - Can someone be considered spiritually alive in Jesus, and yet still struggle daily with battles against sin?
6. Would you say that you have found new life in Jesus?
 - If not, what is stopping you from trusting that Jesus can give you life to the full?
 - Is there something else besides Jesus that you think would give your heart a greater sense of satisfaction or fulfillment? What things are you tempted to chase after because they promise to make your life better or complete?
 - Have you ever repented of these desires and trusted Jesus to give you true life?

Session 4

Each speaker will wrap up the weekend with a final passage of their choice. The list below contains some ideas to consider, but it is by no means exhaustive. Scripture gives way more than just four reasons why Jesus came to earth to die, and we won't be able to cover them all in depth in one Ice Camp weekend.

For the ones we don't get to, maybe you can encourage your group to keep reading/studying these passages in the weeks to come. Or, challenge them to write down as many reasons they can think of, or to keep a list of others they come across as they read Scripture on their own.

SOME PASSAGES/THEMES TO CONSIDER:

LUKE 4:43 - Jesus came to proclaim and inaugurate his kingdom.

HEBREWS 10:12 - Jesus came as a sacrifice.

GALATIANS 4:4-7 - Jesus came to adopt us as sons into God's family.

MT 5:17, ROM 8:1-4 - Jesus came to fulfill the law.

1 JOHN 3:8 - Jesus came to defeat sin, death, and satan.

JOHN 1:14 - Jesus came to reveal God to humanity; make his dwelling among us.

HEBREWS 4:14-16 - Jesus came to become a sympathetic and empathetic high priest.

MT 2:6, JOHN 10 - Jesus came to shepherd and guide his people.

GALATIANS 3:13 - Jesus came to take on the wrath of God.

HEBREWS 13:20-21 - Jesus came to achieve and pioneer the resurrection from the dead.

MK 14:24, JER 32:40 - Jesus came to establish a new covenant between God and man.

Preparation

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE INFO

- Arrival and registration will be from 7:00-9:00pm EST on Friday night.
- Please call if you will arrive later than 9:00.
- Staff members will greet you at the camp entrance to give you directions as you arrive.
- Your entire group will begin by going to the cabin and moving in.
- Upon arrival one leader needs to check-in at Bankson Lodge.
- There is an option which includes pizza, salad, breadsticks, and pop for your whole group onsite when you arrive on Friday which would be \$10.00 per person. Please contact us two weeks prior to your arrival if you are interested.
- There will be a meeting in the chapel for all of your leaders at 9:30 before the first session Friday night.
- Departure time is by 10:30am EST on Sunday morning.

HOUSE RULES

Adult leaders serving as weekend disciples play a key role in every student being safe, hearing God's word, and enjoying the weekend. In addition to encouraging leaders to pray for their group prior to the weekend, we also suggest sharing the 8 "House Rules" MCRC promotes for youth group events:

1. **Honor:** How can you and your students be a blessing to—and honor—others? (Rom 12:10)
2. **Respect:** Care for the facilities. Staff have to maintain them and other guests use them.
3. **Service:** Help students own responsibility. Clean cabins, bathrooms, meal tables, etc.
4. **Safety:** Parents are entrusting us with their children. Use good judgment.
5. **Temperance:** Avoid things in excess or gluttony. No food challenges.
6. **Humility:** Pray. Ask for help when you need it. Respect boundaries and areas that are off-limits.
7. **No Pranking:** Even seemingly "harmless" pranks can damage property and hurt others' feelings.
8. **Lights Out Time:** Get sleep and respect other groups trying to do the same. Value attentiveness.

Programming

PROGRAMMING

Outside of the four main chapel sessions, your group will have a mixture of structured activity time as well as free time to explore camp and break off to separate activities. This time is designed for your students to bond together, build relationships, make memories, and enjoy awesome activities. Please encourage your leaders to remain present and engaged during this time, seeking out students who they want to know on a deeper level.

FREE TIME ACTIVITIES

Tubing, sledding, snow shoes, and broomball highlight the outdoor activities available during free time. Our extensive property also offers beautiful hiking trails and plenty of places to make awesome snow forts. The gym, game room, and chapel lounge are great indoor locations to hang out and bond. These will be open all weekend. The Coffee Shop and Camp Store will have snacks, drinks, and souvenirs for sale, so make sure your students bring extra money if they want to buy anything. (We accept cash, credit cards, and mobile pay.)

TOURNAMENTS

Dodgeball, broomball, and basketball tournaments are often highlights of the weekend that almost the whole camp participates in. Students can form their own teams and come up with a fun name, dress up in costumes, or even make fun chants. It's a great way for your youth group to bond together via a shared experience and even have fun meeting and playing with other groups. We encourage leader participation, but just remember, you are here for the kids. Help them have fun and keep things from getting over-competitive.

STRUCTURED ACTIVITY TIME

A couple times throughout the weekend, each church will have some structured activities where your whole group will be together doing an activity. Some of these activities will also be available during free time. These set aside times just give you an opportunity to do something with everyone from your group together at one time (not spread out like during free time). Some activities will have multiple groups assigned to make the game more fun. These activities will be scheduled out for you ahead of time, **so please email mickey.byrne@miraclecamp.com THREE WEEKS before your weekend to let us know which of the following activities you'd prefer for your group.**

- Gold Rush
- Snow Football/Ultimate
- Capture the Flag
- Snowshoes
- Archery (no snow)
- Archery Battle
- Hatchets (HS only)
- Broomball
- BB Guns
- Climbing Wall (no snow)
- Team Building Initiatives
- Karaoke/ Lip Sync/ Name That Tune
- Indoor Space for Free Time
- Campfire & S'mores
- Bikes (no snow)
- Blacklight Dodgeball

Schedule

This is a **SAMPLE SCHEDULE** for what the weekend could look like. Each weekend the schedule will be different based on the number of groups coming to Ice Camp, but this schedule reflects everything you will get to do over the weekend; only the times may vary. Here is a tentative flow of what to expect:

FRIDAY

7:00-9:00 - Arrival & Move in
8:30 - Tubing Hills open
Open Gym
9:30 - Leader Meeting in Chapel
10:00 - Session 1
11:15 - Youth Group Breakouts
12:00 - Back to Cabins

SUNDAY

8:30 - Breakfast
9:30 - Session 4
10:30 - Departure

SATURDAY

8:30 - Breakfast
9:30 - Structured Activity Time
10:45 - Session 2
12:00 - Youth Group Breakouts
12:30 - Lunch
1:30 - R&R
2:00 - Structured Activity Time
3:00 - Free Time Activities
5:30 - Dinner
7:00 - Session 3
8:15 - Youth Group Breakouts
9:00 - Dodgeball Tournament
Other Open Activities
11:00 - Back to Cabins

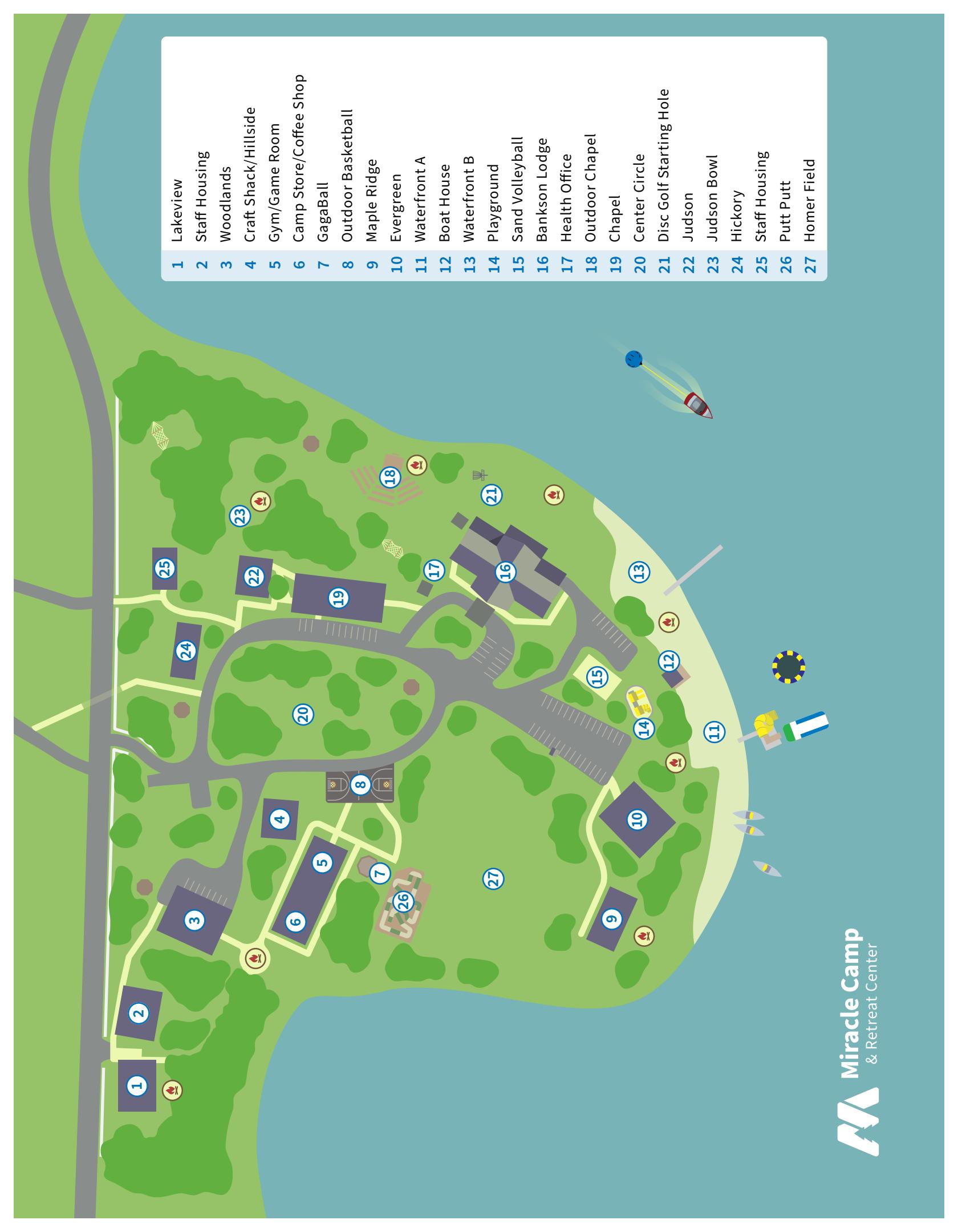
Checklist

DO THESE THINGS BEFORE YOU COME

- Pray for the weekend.
- Begin promoting the retreat and gathering sign-ups throughout the fall.
- Check out this webpage to get promo materials to help promote to your group: www.miraclecamp.com/icecamppromo
- Email us with an updated count of your group before the 30-day threshold so we can release spots to other youth groups on the waitlist.
- Prepare your youth leaders well. Share the list of “house rules” with them and give them a copy of the theme and discussion questions.
- Let us know about the Friday evening meal option by emailing us at info@miraclecamp.com 2 weeks prior to your arrival.
- Let us know your activity preferences 3 weeks out by emailing mickey.byrne@miraclecamp.com

WHAT TO PACK

- Boots and snow clothes for outside
- Clothes and shoes for the gym
- Bible, notebook, and pen
- Bedding (twin size)
- Flashlight
- Towel and toiletries
- Medication (We do not have any over-the-counter medication on campus)
- Spending money for the Camp Store and Coffee Shop
- Water Bottle



Miracle Camp

& Retreat Center

1	Staff Housing
2	Maintenance Garage
3	High Ropes
4	Climbing Tower/Zip Line
5	BB Guns/Hatchet Throwing
6	Archery Range
7	Trap Shoot
8	Main Trail/Great Divide
9	Creation Center
10	Toboggan Run/Tubing Hill
11	Paintball Course
12	Staff Housing
13	Pickleball
14	Razz Field
15	Disc Golf Starting Hole
16	Mountain Bikes

A	The Wall
B	The Whale
C	Nitro Crossing
D	Code Breaker
E	Tee Pee Shuffle
F	Spider Web
G	Trust Fall
H	Wild Woosey
I	Low Wire Traverse
J	Giant's Toothpick
K	Island Crossing

