

The Lake Trip

Info Sheet

Hey Parents,

I just wanted to give you a little bit more information about this summer's Lake Trip in hopes of answering as many questions you may have as possible. So, this is a short informational sheet that will hopefully answer some initial questions (with more info to come):

- Why The Lake Trip? Last year's trip was such a huge success, I knew we had to do it again. The goal behind the Lake Trip is to do a summer retreat that brings our group together, helps build deeper community and relationships, creates space to have a lot of fun, and also takes students outside of "normal" life for a few days to help them really dive in deeper in their relationships with God and each other. I have looked at *a lot* of summer camp options and have found a number of options, however most of them cost \$350 or more. While I'm sure they would have been awesome, I knew that a number of our students and families wouldn't have participated or been able to join us because of the cost, so I tried to find a cheaper solution in order to get the highest participation rate possible because I believe this will be an awesome experience for your kids!
- Why Wisconsin? While I was searching for something that fit the criteria above, I had a conversation with Kate Estes, one of our Revive leaders, and learned that her family has a Lake House that they'd be willing – incredibly generously – to let us use for free. This was a great solution: super cost-effective, a space that fits us perfectly and is owned by a family we know who is invested in the ministry of Revive, and an atmosphere that is far enough outside of normal life in Des Moines that we can really create space for students to pause, step back, and plug into God.
- Who is Chaperoning? We'll have at least 3 male and 4 female adult Revive leaders chaperoning the trip including me. Also, Kate's parents will be present while we are staying there as well. If one – or more – of you would like to chaperone as well, we're definitely open to that if your student is cool with it. You can feel free to let me know. I am very confident in our leadership team and in the ratio of leaders to students we have.
- How is it so cheap? The cost of transportation and accommodations have been covered completely by Kate's family, a few extremely generous families, and by Revision. And we will be collecting some donations to cover our food costs while we are at the Lake as well. So, because of all of this, we are able to keep the cost low so that everyone is able to participate. But we are recommending that each student brings a little bit of money for food and snacks on the trip there and the trip back since we'll be stopping for gas and for food occasionally along the way. Look for more specific information to come on that, but \$20-\$40 should be more than enough and if you'd rather pack food for the drive, that will work too. Also, if you'd like to donate food or donate some funds for food, you are more than welcome to do so. We won't turn you down. :)

- What are the Safety Procedures for the Lake/Trip/Etc? For starters, every student who comes on The Lake Trip will need a completed and signed *Consent, Waiver, & Release Form*. These can be found on the Revision website or you can email me for a copy. These forms will collect some basic insurance and emergency contact information which we'll bring with us on the trip so that we are prepared for the off chance that we'll need to take someone to the doctor. Additionally, there are lake safety and swimming rules that have been established that we'll go over with all of the students as soon as we arrive at the house. Among other things these include: no going in the lake alone and no going in the lake without leaders present, no going beyond the dock (the water is shallow/waist-high to the end of the long dock) without a life jacket (there are more than enough life jackets for everyone), life jackets must be worn at all times while on boats and/or while tubing, and no sitting on the fire while we're making s'mores. We will also have separate sleeping arrangements for boys and girls. That's an overview, but if you have questions please don't hesitate to ask.
- About these Boats, Who is Driving? The only people who will be driving the boats are Kate and her father. Both are experienced drivers with Boat Safety Licenses. Additionally, both Kate and her husband Jordan, who will be chaperoning the trip, are med school students who are trained not just in First Aid but also in Basic Life Support. We are being very careful and conscientious about prioritizing safety and having trained, responsible people on hand.
- What About Bringing Electronics? If I see a phone or an iPod I am throwing it in the lake – it's that simple. Just kidding. On this trip, we'll have a whole lot to do that keeps us pretty busy throughout the day, so we'll have a lot of time where electronics are banned and quarantined to the house. But phones/iPods are allowed for the trip there and back and also so kids can check in with you nightly. So we aren't banning them entirely, but we will ban them during the day – to help us be present with one another and with God, and we'll ban them after "lights out" each night as well because staying up all night playing Angry Birds just isn't the best plan.
- What All Will We Need to Bring? Stay tuned for a detailed packing list that I'll email out once the trip gets closer.
- What if My Student is on the Fence About Going? Send them! I realize that this is new and the idea of creating our own retreat in our own space – as opposed to going to a camp or something like that where someone else takes care of it all – is new to many people. But I have a lot of experience in the create-your-own-retreat realm and have learned a lot from Mike along the way about how to structure it and do it well in ways that make a big impact on students. And I'm convinced that what we have planned and set up for this trip will be not just be incredibly fun but also super valuable for your student(s) as they get the chance to connect deeply with other students and leaders who genuinely care about them and also get the chance to step out of their routine and connect with God in powerful ways that give them a bigger, better picture of who God is and who he made them to be. Not to mention, last year we had a handful of hesitant students who not only had the time of their lives on the trip, but also have been incredibly plugged in ever since because of the relationships they developed on this trip. I highly recommend it 😊