

Dear Pastor, Children's and Youth Ministry folks:

Your congregation is invited to be a part of the launch of Shoreline Camps coming this Summer 2017!

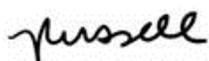
Studies have shown that nearly 80% of those who make Christian commitments do so before the age of 18. Of those, 2/3rds make their faith commitment in a camp or retreat setting. Camp and Retreat Ministries has developed this new residential camp program inspired by Glisson's 92-year ministry as a part of the 2010 North Georgia Conference vision to expand the evangelistic and discipleship efforts of our local churches.

You'll find a flyer attached that shares why we believe Shoreline Camps can play an important role in your church's efforts to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." Here are some of the details of our 2017 Shoreline pilot program:

- o **DATES:** Two weeks have been selected for Shoreline in 2017:
  - o July 9-14: LaGrange and Rome-Carrollton Districts
  - o July 16-21: Atlanta-College Park and Atlanta-Emory Districts
- o **AGES:** Two age groups each week – served concurrently in small groups divided by grade:
  - o Elementary (rising 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders)
  - o Middle School (rising 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders)
- o **LOCATION:** Shoreline will be held at Frank G. Lumpkin Boy Scout Camp on West Point Lake in LaGrange, GA.
- o **ACTIVITIES:** Activities currently scheduled include: sailing, water tubing/skiing (by age), low/high ropes courses (by age), overnight campouts, daily chapel, crafts, swimming (pool and lake), archery, and other typical camp activities.
- o **ADULT VOLUNTEERS:** The shoreline model provides a residential camp experience for campers and simultaneously provides "hands on" training in faith formation for adult volunteers with children and youth. Please note: Each church will **provide 1 Safe Sanctuaries-trained adult volunteer for each 10 campers.**
- o **TRAINING:** Adult volunteers will attend a one-day training on either April 22nd or May 7th, 2017 in accessible locations to be announced at a later date.
- o **STAFF:** A trained paid staff will make both the summer camp experience and the adult volunteer training possible. Adults will work with paid staff in counselor pairs.
- o **FOUR DISTRICTS IN PILOT:** This invitation for 2017 is extended to churches in the LaGrange, Rome-Carrollton, Atlanta-College Park and Atlanta-Emory districts.
- o **COST:** \$475 for campers. No cost for adult volunteers. Full and partial "campership" assistance is available, based on need. *Please do not let campers miss this experience because of money.*
- o **SIGN-UP:** Interested churches should respond with the week, age group(s), and estimated number of campers by March 1st. Email your interest to [russell@ngcrm.org](mailto:russell@ngcrm.org). Firm camper numbers and deposits are due on March 15th. Adult volunteers should be named and committed by April 1st.

We ask those interested in being a part of this inaugural summer of Shoreline Camps to respond quickly and to estimate accurately. **Only 90 camper spaces are available each week in this first summer**, meaning that a small number of eligible churches will be able to participate. Inflated camper estimates may prevent churches from being able to attend. Should there be any spots not filled by designated district churches we will open them to others in January 2017. Shoreline will offer a full summer schedule to the whole annual conference in 2018.

We are excited about this new ministry of our annual conference and hope you will prayerfully consider being a part of it. More detailed information is available and will be sent with confirmation of your group's reservation. If you have questions, please contact me at [russell@ngcrm.org](mailto:russell@ngcrm.org) or by phone at (678) 533-1451. Thank you in advance for this opportunity to partner with your congregation to grow faithful disciples of Jesus!



C. Russell Davis  
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