

February, 2018

Hello, Parents!

We are writing to let you know about summer camp opportunities for Sierra Vista kids. For the fourth year, Sierra Vista UMC, along with the staff and clergy from several other UMC congregations, is planning a children's camp at Butman Methodist Camp in Merkel, Texas, near Abilene. This camp has traditionally been offered to children who will be going into 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades in the fall, 2018, and we continue to target this age group.



However, this year, we are also adding **camping opportunities for middle-schoolers** who are entering 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grades in the fall. We are excited about this intergenerational ministry opportunity, but we are aware that some parts of camp should and will be separate for these various age groups. In truth, we are planning what we hope will be the best camp experience for all age groups.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our years at Butman Methodist Camp; it is updated and well maintained with many activities for children and youth, including high and low-ropes course challenges, a rock wall, a Gaga court (Israeli dodge ball), three indoor basketball courts, ping pong, sand volleyball, star gazing, geocaching, horseshoes and washer pitching, a truly impressive slip and slide, a water-balloon catapult, three hill crosses to hike to, Butman's homegrown "Garden of Eatin'," and an Olympic pool with a slide and a climbing feature over the deepest end. The kids absolutely LOVE all that there is to do at Camp Butman!

The camp fee will be \$250 per child, and the camp will be held August 5 through 9, a Sunday through Thursday. Our theme for camp this year will be "The Jesus Way," and the focused verse for this theme is "Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us" (Ephesians 5:1-2).

To provide additional information and requirements, camper release and permission/registration forms for this camp are included in this mailing.

In the meantime, here is additional camp information:

- To sign up for this camp, kids should be entering the third through ninth grades in fall, 2018.

*Our mission...to help every child create an intimate, life-long relationship with Jesus Christ.*

- All children are welcome.
- Camp facilities are air-conditioned, though many activities are outside.
- There is a very nice swimming pool, and time each day will be scheduled for this.
- Other activities include crafts, games, Bible study, worship, hikes, feet-on-bunk time, and many others.
- Camp Butman has a cafeteria where kid-friendly meals will be served.
- There will be qualified medical personnel at camp to administer medications and first aid, if needed.
- Parents are welcome to organize carpools to get kids to camp, and we will also plan to take the Church bus(es).

Further, camp scholarships are available, in full and in part. If you need more information about camp fees and scholarships, please let me know.

***Camp fees should not – in any way –  
limit your child’s camp attendance!***

Finally, a number of Sierra Vista kids and adult volunteers will be there also. If you have or know of a responsible, hard-working, Jesus-loving youth who would like to serve as camp staff, we encourage their participation as well. Please have them get in touch with one of us so that we can walk them through the youth staff application process.

Church camps truly are a great experience for kids; they prove integral to their faith walks, both immediately and long-term. In truth, many experts in camp and retreat ministries claim that a week at camp is the equivalent of a year’s worth of Sunday school classes. Please make an effort to start praying about your child’s readiness to attend.

As ever, let us know if you have any questions!!

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