

Pastors and Youth Leaders:

Hello! Here we are again coming down the final stretch in preparation for Youth Camp 2023! This letter contains key items for camp so you can be preparing your volunteers and students. While there are still some details about camp being ironed out, one thing confirmed is that we will be welcoming Mike Thibodeaux back to Touchet. He last came in 2019 and is very excited to return to our neck of the woods and bring God's Word to your students!

Let's begin with information for all our volunteers. As we've done the last few years, **every adult** that is on campus will need to take care of four tasks: Application, Child Abuse Awareness Training and a 50 State Background check with Ministry Safe and a signed agreement to comply with Camp Touchet Policies & Procedures. All the paperwork needs to be submitted **by June 26th**, so that the directors and members of the camp team can review all applications. Except for emergency replacements, let's do what we can to meet this deadline for every adult in attendance.

Additionally, our goal every year is to have **1 counselor for every 5 youth**. While this can be a difficult ask at times, it is vital that we have enough counselors on campus to provide supervision and support for all students in attendance. Don't put it off, begin recruiting now! If some of your volunteers can't stay the whole week, we have had some counselors tag team half of it with another adult, but remember that they still need to submit all the aforementioned requirements.

One change to camp that you should be aware of is that we are now hosting **students that have finished 6th grade through students that have finished 12th grade**. This means that students that have completed 6th grade have the option of attending children's camp or youth camp. Our ask is that we align these students with what they have been doing in their home churches. We recognize that many of our youth ministries in the CBBA bring 6th graders up with the older students, and we want to serve those students well by keeping them with their peers that they have been with all year. However, for 6th graders that have been involved in younger student ministries all year, we would encourage them to attend our camp that serves our younger students. This may be something we follow up with as we see 6th graders registration papers being submitted.

I would ask that you **begin praying now** for Youth Camp and those students who will attend. Please pray for your volunteer counselors as well. Pray that they do not take their position lightly and aspire to honor God with their time at Touchet. I would also ask that you begin praying about your role at camp. Start thinking now if you would like to lead a discussion group. It is a vital time for the students. We are filling slots for Breakout classes, so if you are familiar with what that is and you have interest in leading one, let me know and we can find some time for you.

Thanks for all your help and leadership with the youth! Help me out by getting the students excited about camp! It is very likely that the majority of students that will be considering attending have never been at Camp Touchet! They will feed off your excitement. I would also love to come to one of your youth group meetings and discuss/promote camp if you feel that would be helpful.

I'm happy to discuss any topic or answer any questions regarding camp. Let me know how I can best serve you and your student ministry. Additionally, if you have any questions, suggestions, or reflections from previous years feel free to contact me or my co-director, Travis Muse from Richland Baptist. We are looking forward to returning to that special place this July as we have been amazed by the things our Father has done in the campers over the years. Join me in asking that He would do an amazing work once again in the lives of those who are there, both students and adults.

blessings,



Michael Ehram
Youth Camp Director
541.701.5747
mehrsam0387@yahoo.com

