CAMP WOW

Counselor Application

Dear Counselor Applicant and Parent,

While the warmth and fun of the summer months seems light years away, it is nevertheless time for us to begin planning for the 25th annual Camp WOW on Sunday, June 28 through Wednesday, July 1, 2020. New this year, counselors will arrive on Saturday, June 27th for a FULL DAY OF FUN for COUNSELOR DAY!!!!

Camp WOW is a four day middle school summer camp for students from several local area parishes, including St. Mary’s in Sycamore, St. Catherine of Siena in Dundee, St Gall’s in Elburn, and Our Lady of the Wayside in Arlington Heights. It is the joint effort of these participating parishes that makes our camp so successful! More specifically, it is the leadership and guidance provided by the high school camp counselors that makes camp both a significant social and spiritual experience for middle school students. Therefore, it is at this time that we are beginning the volunteer camp counselor recruitment, interview, and selection process.

**IMPORTANT:** For the past several years, dozens of students have applied for a limited number of counselor positions, and while it’s exciting to have so much interest in the camp, we are saddened to realize that many cannot be accepted due to our limited camp capacity. We anticipate the same situation this year. Therefore, it is important to note that**, due to the extraordinary number of candidates applying for counselor positions, we will continue using a TWO-PHASE application process**. During Phase One, the youth ministers from all parishes will review all student applications and determine a select number of candidates to proceed onto Phase Two of the application process: Counselor Interviews. *Therefore, it is possible that not all students who apply to be a counselor will be granted an interview.* *In the event a student is not asked to enter Phase Two of the applicant process, he/she will be invited to continue their participation in their youth ministry programs at their parishes and applying for a counselor position next year.*

For your information, below we have listed some of the criteria we will use as we interview, discern, and select counselors for Camp WOW 2020. Specifically, we will focus on:

* A student’s ability to work within a group;
* A steady pattern of involvement in spiritual activities including praying, reading of scripture, attending Mass every Sunday, and participation in Reconciliation;
* Active involvement in parish youth ministry events;
* Having previous retreat and/or camp experience;
* Availability for all training sessions (the Overnight Retreat is Mandatory)
* A student’s ability to connect with and minister to middle school students; and
* Age-appropriate maturity and emotional/spiritual health.

Some parents ask about whether or not their student has a better chance at being selected as a counselor if a) he/she attended camp in the past or b) he/she has already been a camp counselor. In response, while having students with previous camp experience returning as counselors is a tremendous benefit to the program, our overall desire is to grow disciples of Christ through camp participation. Therefore, previous camper and/or counselor experience does not guarantee anyone of a counselor position. As we discern camp counselors, we aim to have a balance of introverts and extroverts, as well as counselors from different grade levels with different experiences. Students applying should also be aware that turning in their completed application on time and their attendance at the counselor training sessions will be considered in our selection process. **Be assured that every student who applies to be a Camp WOW counselor will be given full consideration as we value each and every one of them! They have been a blessing to our parishes and youth ministry programs!**

If you have any questions about this process or Camp WOW, please contact your parish youth minister. On behalf of all the parishes involved in Camp WOW, we thank you for your support of our program. May God bless you and your family always!

Aubri Bourge Jessica Cranston & DHank Schmalen Arielle Joaquin Katie Pyles

St. Mary- Sycamore St. Catherine-Dundee Our Lady of the Wayside-A. H. St Gall - Elburn

CAMP WOW

Camp WOW counselors consist of high school students, current freshmen through seniors, who are committed to serving Jesus Christ through a life of prayer, service, and by proclaiming His Gospel to MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS. The goal of Camp WOW is Catholic youth evangelism. This is done through skits, talks, games, discussions, prayer, and the daily example of a Christian lifestyle. Through word and action, counselors attempt to expose these young people to a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ.

Prospective counselors should have a personal commitment to Christ and an openness to growing in their faith. Additionally, they should have a desire and openness to sharing their faith with middle school youth, be spiritually and emotionally healthy, and free from serious wrongdoing in their life.

What can one expect while being a Camp WOW counselor? Hard work, lots of fun, the support of a Christian community, a sense of fulfillment, spiritual challenge and personal growth, and the joy of affecting others lives in a positive way are just a few of the things you’ll experience when you serve as a Camp WOW counselor.

*Here are some general facts about being a 2020 Camp WOW counselor:*

\_ Sunday, June 28 through Wednesday, July 1, 2020 - Camp Wow 25.3

Counselors arriving on Saturday, June 27th for a FULL DAY OF FUN!!!! Arrive at 11AM!

 (No arriving late or leaving early from Camp- see next page for details)

\_ This year’s application process is open to current freshmen through seniors. The number of counselors from each parish WILL BE LIMITED, thus the application process (see cover letter).

\_ **You are expected to attend all the preparation and training meetings.** Let your youth minister know in advance if this is a problem (Attendance may impact participation).

**(NOTE - The Overnight is MANDATORY as are ALL trainings. Attendance Policy is 1 excused absence (not a free-be to miss a training). If more than 1 training is missed, you will need to meet with the youth minister to be sure you are prepared and committed to being a Counselor.)**

\_ Prospective counselors are encouraged to support and participate in the various ministries offered at their churches to continue their spiritual development and community building opportunities throughout the year.

\_ **The deadline for applications and interview sign ups is Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020**. Your application is complete when the filled-out application is turned in **AND** your interview is scheduled. Please add the interview time to your calendar. Late Applications will not be accepted. **Sign up for your interview time here:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040C44ABAF28A0F58-camp>

\_ The cost for this year’s camp is $200.00 for counselors. (The cost for campers is $300.00). No money is due now. If you are selected as a counselor, money and registration forms are due

**Sun. April 19th at the Training Session. DO NOT LET MONEY BE A FACTOR. LET US KNOW IF THIS COST IS PROHIBITIVE AND WE WILL WORK IT OUT.**

\_ Please review this application and discuss the commitment and dates with your parents/teen.

**CAMP WOW 25**

**COUNSELOR APPLICATION**

**DEADLINE: THURS, Jan. 9, 2020**

**PART A**

**(Please print or type)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Student Cell (\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone ( \_\_)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_City\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best Email : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parish:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt size \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We are so happy that you have chosen to be a Camp WOW counselor this summer. Our desire is for you to have a wonderful weekend of building your relationship with the campers, your fellow counselors and most of all with Jesus. But, it starts before the Camp weekend with the training sessions during the winter and spring! For you to have the best camp experience and to provide an amazing camp for the Campers, the following needs to be brought to your attention:

**Trainings**

**Counselors are expected to attend all preparation and training meetings (see attached schedule):**

1. **The Overnight Training is MANDATORY and counts as two trainings.**

**Not attending the overnight may jeopardize your role as a Camp Counselor for the 2020 year.**

1. **Attendance Policy for all other Trainings- if absolutely necessary, counselors may have 1 excused absence from training. This is not to say that each counselor gets a “free-be” session to miss. If two or more trainings are missed, the Counselor will need to meet with Youth Ministers to determine if they are prepared and committed to the Counselor Role.**

Let your youth minister know as soon as possible and in advance if this is a problem. Contacting a youth minister the day of training is not acceptable, unless an emergency arises.

**No Arriving Late or Leaving Early Policy**

Camp WOW is such a great experience for both the Campers and Counselors and a great part of that relies on the relationships that are built from day one in their small groups. Each individual camper and counselor is an integral part of what makes the small groups create an atmosphere of trust and bonding. The continuity of all campers and counselors present throughout the Camp is so important to allow those relationships to develop.

**That is why anyone who is accepted into camp is committing to stay for the entire event. Arriving late to camp or leaving camp early is NOT ALLOWED, nor is leaving and coming back to Camp and will jeopardize your family’s Camp WOW future registration.** Therefore, please check your schedules to make sure that other events do not conflict with Camp WOW (i.e. summer school, sports tournaments, family vacation).

**Parent Volunteers Needed**

The youth ministers are the principal facilitators of Camp, but we literally cannot run camp without our **wonderful parent volunteers**. With close to 200 middle school and high school students at Camp, we rely on adult volunteers to ensure a safe experience for everyone as well as to meet the diocesan ratio of children to adults. Parent volunteer forms will be sent by email before the **May 11th Camp Wow Meet N Greet** for parents, campers, & counselors. Our hope is that by getting this information out early, parents can make arrangements to be able to volunteer for the variety of day and/or night time shifts that we need to fill. **Parents are asked to take advantage of the opportunity to be part of Camp while at the same time filling much needed volunteer positions.**

**2020 Training Dates**

**Please mark your calendars now in the event that you are selected to be a camp wow counselor. *You are expected to attend all training meetings*.**

**Place X on any trainings you cannot attend. \***

If it is left blank, that indicates you will be at that training if selected to be a Camp Wow Counselor.

**\_\_\_\_ Sat.-Sun., Feb 22-23, 2020 @ St. Catherine’s Dundee 3:00pm Sat.-1:00 pm Sun (Overnight)**

**\_\_\_\_ Sun., Mar. 15th @ St. Catherine, W. Dundee 2:00-4:00 pm**

**\_\_\_\_ Sun., Apr. 19th @ St. Gall’s, Elburn 2:00-4:00 pm (Forms & Money due)**

**\_\_\_\_ Sun. May 31 @ Our Lady of the Wayside, Arlington Hts, 2:00-4:00 pm**

**ALSO in May Parishes will host individual Camper/Counselor Meet N Greets & Parent Night**

**\_\_\_\_ Mon., June 8th @ St. Mary’s, Sycamore, 7pm-9pm**

**\_\_\_\_**  **Saturday, June 27th for a FULL DAY OF FUN!!!! Arrive at DVC at 11AM!**

**\_\_\_\_ Sunday, June 28- Wed July 1, 2020 - Dickson Valley Campground** **- CAMP WOW 25.3!!!**

\* If you placed an **X** on any training dates, please explain why you cannot attend (use back if necessary):

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**\_\_\_\_\_** (**INITIAL**) Our family agrees to the **No Arriving Late or Leaving Early Policy** and understand that if we do not follow this rule, it will jeopardize our family’s present and future registrations for Camp WOW.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent Signature Date**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student Signature Date**

**PART B -** For the Teens

Please type your answers to the following questions and attach to the application (ALL Applicants):

1. Have you ever been a counselor or camper at Camp WOW in the past?

How many years as a camper? How many years as a counselor?

1. Please state why you would like to be a counselor at this camp.
2. What leadership qualities do you have that would make you a good counselor?
3. How does your faith impact your everyday life?
4. Please describe how you pray. Be specific.

1. Are there any activities (jobs, sports, plays, clubs, vacations, etc.) that would affect your ability to participate in the listed trainings or the actual dates for camp? If so, how?

Please answer The following If you have previously been a Camp WOW Counselor:

1. What parts of the training helped you feel most prepared for camp? What can we improve on?
2. When, at camp, were you at your best? What parts could you improve on?
3. What advice would you give a new counselor?
4. Living out your faith in a public way is essential. Please share how you have done this over the past year. (Be specific).

**PART C**- For the Parents

**ALL Applicant’s Parent(s) Should Complete This Form *in order for the application to be complete.***

By signing below, I understand:

* The commitment of time and energy my teen is making by applying to be a Camp WOW counselor (all training dates have been reviewed, see Part A);
* The selection criteria outlined in the application cover letter to be used by the youth ministers who will be reviewing applications, interviewing applicants, and selecting camp counselors;
* The parishes involved in Camp WOW anticipate many teens applying for camp counselor positions, thus not every teen that applies will be given an interview; and
* All who apply will be called by their youth minister concerning their application, and
* That *if my teen is invited to be a counselor, I will be asked to volunteer my time*

*during camp*.

Consequently, I fully support my student’s participation in this program and commit to helping him/her meet the counselor responsibilities as required. This includes, but is not limited to providing transportation to and from counselor training sessions and the camp itself, supporting their active participation in training sessions, and their attending the camp in its entirety.

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

Print Parent Name Parent Signature

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

Parent Cell Parent Email

***INTERVIEW SCHEDULE - SIGN UP BY January 9th!***

Interviews are a vital part of the Camp WOW Counselor Application process.

Katie Pyles and one other youth minister or adult volunteer from the other parishes will be a part of each interview. This is simply a time to have a personal conversation and discussion about what being a counselor is all about.

Please sign-up online for an interview time slot by following this link (St Cat’s Interviews Only):

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040C44ABAF28A0F58-camp>

**St. Gall Interviews** will take place on **Thursday, January 30th** from 7:30-8:30pm. Interviews must be scheduled by Thursday, January 9th, which is also the deadline for the written application. We caution you to please not wait until the last minute to schedule your interview just in case there is any tech issues. Also it is first come, first serve as far as time slots so we encourage you to sign up early.