



Crystal Springs Methodist Church Youth Ministries

306 West Georgetown
Crystal Springs, MS 39059
601.892.1357

Jana Jobe, Youth Minister
jana@crystalspringsmc.com
601.297.5045, cell

Dear parents,

Thank you so much for trusting us with your youth and their relationship with Christ! We do not take this responsibility lightly! We know this can be daunting – especially during a school week! And yes – this works! Not because of anything we do, but God! I always say, on paper, MARINES shouldn't work! There's NO WAY that teenagers in 2027 should willingly want to give up their electronics, junk food, caffeine, be woken up at 5am to do PT, and still be expected to go to school, do all their normal daily activities, have multiple quiet times with God, daily worship, give up many of the personal freedoms we take for granted ... and LOVE IT! But God is in it and He does amazing things in and through us! So, thank you for allowing your youth to step out in faith and experience Christ in this unique and very different way!

There is a lot of important information in this letter so I want to thank you in advance for your attention!

You can find everything you need to get your youth ready for MARINES in one location on our website, it has all the forms and links in one place! You can access it here:

[MARINES INFORMATION-FORMS-LINKS PAGE](#)

- On that page is:
1. A downloadable copy of this letter
 2. A downloadable copy of the youth participant letter (please make sure your youth get a copy)
 3. Downloadable Copy of the Letter for the students on Leadership
 4. Downloadable HEALTH/PERMISSION FORMS
 5. Link to our PayPal site if you prefer to pay online
 6. Link to our online merch store

The youth participant letter will tell them all they need to know and what to pack, times, where to go, etc.

Each youth needs a completed Health/Permission Form. *** This does NOT need to be notarized since this is a local event.

The MARINES merch is just something extra if they want it. *** **Each participant will still**

get a FREE theme shirt at the end of the week! This is just some extra outerwear! Copiah Academy has given the MARINES participants permission to wear any MARINES sweatshirts/hoodies over their IN-TRAINING shirts if they have them the week of MARINES. If your youth is considering ordering, I would recommend they go ahead and do so for them to arrive on time. (These are individual orders that will be shipped directly to you – and only if you want to do it.)

If for any reason, your youth will not be able to participate, please let me know as soon as you can.

This email also contains ways you can support your MARINES and volunteer to be a part of this amazing experience!

If you have not already paid the balance owed, please make sure they have that with them with them when they check in on April 4 (April 3 if they are on leadership).

MEAL HELP: Many of you have expressed an interest volunteering that week. THANK YOU! The meals that we need help with are the Wednesday pancake breakfast and Wednesday night's pizza party. If you are willing to either help cook on Wednesday morning or supply some food and/or desserts for Wednesday night, please let Jana know.

UNIFORMS: Copiah Academy has agreed to allow those participating in MARINES to wear their "IN TRAINING" shirts these 3 days. THEY ARE STILL TO FOLLOW ALL OTHER UNIFORM RULES! Please make sure they bring enough uniform clothing for the 3 days. As stated above, CA can wear MARINES outerwear as well.

MAIL CALL: If you would like to send your MARINE a note, please make sure that I have it by 6pm the day before you want them to get it.

PLEASE NOTE: **Mail is ONLY given out on Monday and Tuesday at breakfast!**

If you are sending a "care package," please keep them simple and remember that they are off caffeine, sweets, and junk food this week. (Ideas for "care packages: sugar free snacks, nuts, goldfish, sugar free Gatorade, etc.)

We do not do mail call on Sunday and Wednesday.

THE BEST WAY TO DO WEEKLY MAIL & care packages is to have it CLEARLY labeled with both their first and last names on it and turn it in to those working registration when you drop them off on Sunday. (It really saddens me when a youth doesn't get mail because we didn't know who the letter/package was for or when)

Please don't put only nicknames on the outside (in the past we've had them turned in that way and nobody knew who it was). If you do hand them in on Sunday, you will need to turn them in at the registration table at Durr Wise.

SPECIAL LETTER: On Wednesday night, just prior to our closing worship, we want each MARINE to receive one special letter from you. * *

This is just a letter of encouragement and love and how you see Christ in them. This is one of the most special aspects of their week. They look forward to these special letters every year. I need to have these no later than **TUESDAY: April 6 by 6pm!!!** Please be sure and mark it "SPECIAL" on the outside, with both their first and last name.

It'd be amazing if you wanted to go ahead and have that ready to turn in on Sunday too! You can turn it in at registration on Sunday. Just make sure everything is clearly marked for which day or if it's the "SPECIAL" letter.

There will be NO mail call on Sunday and ONLY the special letter on Wednesday.

TRANSPORTATION AFTER SCHOOL: The bus picks up the students who leave at 3. If you can help with afternoon transportation to and from after school activities – that'd be great! Some of our senior high also help with this. For any students who have games, we rely on parents to get them back to camp. *** **We are only able to provide bussing to students who attend Copenh Academy.** Please be prepared to provide your own transportation for other schools. We'll work with you as much as we can.

CLOSING WORSHIP: Our closing Worship is Wednesday, April 7 at 6:30pm. It will be in the large room at Durr Wise. We want ALL parents and family to come, and feel free to invite other family and friends to join us as well. Please try and get there a little early if you can and please be careful to not block in other vehicles. I know that parking will be crowded, but please don't pull vehicles in between the buildings – water lines are buried and we'd hate to burst one!

Our final worship is an awesome time for you to hear and experience what these incredible youth have experienced this week. Plan to join us! There will be a special time at the altar for you to pray with your youth so you don't want to miss that. You will then be able to take them home with you when worship is over.

***** TAKE DOWN TEAM:** We need some selfless people willing to sign up ahead of time to commit to staying 30 minutes after to take down the final supplies and load it up. The youth will have already loaded and cleaned everything else. It's only what we need for worship that night. If you're willing, we'll have a meeting before so you know exactly what to do. In prior years it's taken less than 30 minutes.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THEM TO BE READY FOR SUNDAY: April 4

Arrive (Camp Wesley Pines) 2:00pm Sunday, April 4 (unless you are a platoon or squad leader or in the praise band – and they know what to do)!

* * * Be prepared to turn in your permission forms (located on the forms page on our website), money if you haven't paid yet - If you are writing a check, make it out to CSMC.

REGISTRATION FOR EVERYONE WILL BE AT DURR WISE! (At the Stop Sign by the office in Camp – go straight and you will end up at Durr Wise. There will be 4 in a room – **HOWEVER – they may only sign up for a room in either twos or fours** ... space is limited and we just can't have rooms of three because that will leave someone out and we'll run out of rooms. We have limited space! Registration opens at 2pm and we'd like to have everyone there no later than 2:45pm. Our opening session is at 3pm.

IT WOULD BE AMAZING if they would have ALL their homework done for Monday & any other projects for the week!

WHAT TO PACK ...

- your Bible ... you will want an actual Bible since you will not have your phone to use a Bible app.
- * * * **COMPLETED health/permission form!!!**
- money if you need to pay
- enough uniforms for 3 days (you will be wearing your MARINES shirts, but you need to follow the uniform policy for everything else)
- Bedding: sheets and/or sleeping bag, blanket, pillow for twin bed
- towels (bring enough for the whole week!)
- toiletries (what you need to get ready for school)
- personal water bottle
- your backpack and books for school
- a camera if you want
- work-out clothes (note: it can and most likely WILL be COLD in the mornings)
- tennis shoes - there will be running
- what you need for your after-school activities
- any medicine you need
- a heart and mind that's ready for a great week

* * * A note about ENO's or hammocks ... bring these at your own financial risk! There is no way to guarantee they won't get damaged or broken.

*** WHAT TO LEAVE AT HOME**

- your cell phone
- iPod, music player, gaming system, DVD player, tablets, all electronics, etc.
- this includes smart watches (fit bits or other activity trackers are ok – if all they do is track activity)
- junk food/snacks/cokes - ...
- anything that could be considered to be a weapon – (this includes knives, toy guns like air-soft and orby guns, etc.).
- NO alcohol/tobacco products (this includes “dip”, Juuls, vape etc.)/drugs -- Please know that anyone caught with these substances will be sent home.
- Nothing to prank or negatively single out others (this includes foul smelling sprays)

Basically – when in doubt – LEAVE IT OUT!

If they drive, they can bring their car and use it only for transportation to and from school and extra-curricular activities. Also, if they have a laptop or tablet and IF they will need to use it for homework, they may bring it ... but it's ONLY for schoolwork!

In Christ, Jana



DIRECTIONS TO CAMP WESLEY PINES

On Gallman Road, across from the Gallman Baptist and Gallman UMC churches, you will turn onto Cleveland Street. Stay on Cleveland and you will go under the interstate. Go right at the fork. You will come to the entrance to Camp Wesley Pines on your left ... as you turn into camp, you will come to a stop sign – go STRAIGHT to get to Durr Wise & registration.