

# **CALIBRATE 2018**

## **WHY?**

First major question we want to answer is, “WHY”? Initially many may see this change and wonder why we have messed around with something that is already good. Short answer to that is that we are not content with “good”, but after much evaluation and many discussions with youth pastors we believe we could offer not just a good experience but a great one. We do want you to know that we have not made these changes merely for the sake of making changes, but our intent with these changes is to serve youth pastors/leaders and the students represented in their ministries better! So, allow us to take a moment to share with you the 3 major reasons behind this change:

A-Vision/Responsibility-as a District, we exist to serve, care for and equip pastors/leaders (credential holders) and local churches across EOND. However, the way we currently operate youth camp at OVPC serves individual students. We actually believe that’s the role of the local church, not District Office, so we feel it would be much more effective to put the responsibility back where it should be, on the local church and it’s pastors/leaders to care for and serve your students. What that means is that students will no longer be able to sign up and register on their own, but now that will all be facilitated through youth ministries in churches across EOND (just like our format for SPARK and UPRISING).

B-Discipleship-currently our camps are mainly discipleship camps with most students attending having a relationship with Christ or at least a foreknowledge of who He is. That being said, we believe very strongly that discipleship happens best in community, not just a “one-off” shotgun style approach which is basically what our current model of youth camp provides. We would like to do better at ensuring follow-up happens for each student once camp is long over with. Having students come with others (leaders and students) from their local churches actually helps solidify this desire and keeps the discipleship journey moving in the right direction.

C-Sustainability-currently because of growing attendance and accommodation restrictions at OVPC, we are pretty much maxed out in terms of growing youth camp any further. However, with a different model where groups will come together and get a little more creative with their accommodation strategies (tenting, use of private trailers from leaseholders in one’s church, etc.) we could potentially grow this expression of camp beyond our current numbers, which is pretty exciting. The other reality for many is that currently youth camp is not an option for many students because of the cost of it. With the shortened time span of camp changing, we will now be able to offer this experience for a price that will be feasible for so many more students than it ever has been before.

## **WHAT**

Now that we have taken a moment to answer the WHY, here are a few of the changes that we are looking at for 2018. Keep in mind that we will be evaluating this new model at great lengths after this summer to ensure it is serving our youth pastors/leaders and their youth ministries the best it possibly

could. So although, this is what we are looking at for summer of 2018, we do recognize there may be adjustments that need to be made after this first summer.

Name: "Calibrate" (formerly, "OV Youth Camp). Reason for "Calibrate" is because of its definition which is: to adjust precisely for a particular function. We believe this could be an incredible strategic moment for youth ministries to gather together at OVPC and "calibrate". We recognize students often need to make adjustments and be reminded of their function as they head back into another school year in a few weeks.

Dates: Thurs PM to Sunday PM (Aug. 16th to Aug. 19th, 2018)

Calibrate will officially begin with an encounter on Thursday night after groups have settled into their accommodations and then end after our evening encounter on Sunday night. Reason for the change in length of time is because we needed to offer an experience that would allow for youth ministries to have their leaders come with their students. We know that many youth ministry leaders are not able to get an entire week off of work, but we do think many would be able to get one Friday off to be a part of Calibrate.

Encounters: We will have 5 Encounters (services) during the Calibrate experience.

Registrations: This will now be done by a youth pastor/leader from your home church, so students will now register through their youth ministry and not the camp. Just like SPARK and UPRISING, once the youth pastor/leader has their registration list, they will then go online to our district website and register their group along with their leaders. Some of you might be thinking right away, "what about students who don't have anyone going from their youth ministry that would still like to participate"? Great question! We plan to handle this the same way we handle these situations when they arise for SPARK or UPRISING. We would do our best to direct these individual students to the closest local church or one they have relationship with and register with that group.

Cost: Camp will now cost a little more than half of what registration used to be, which makes it much more affordable for more students to be a part of it.

Special Leader Rates: Leaders have a discounted rate.

Accommodations: We will now be able to offer various accommodation options which could also alleviate costs for groups, such as: tenting, lodge, private accommodations (no cost), etc.

Meals: Meals will still be included in registration costs just like they have always been.

Teams: We recognize in the past team competition and activities have very much been an integral part of the youth camp experience. We are still very much committed to making team competitions along with mass group games a part of Calibrate. Calibrate Competition teams will be made up students from different churches. Team building activities and devotions will be with your youth group.

Behavioural Issues: In the past when an issue arises with a student it becomes the camps (District Office) responsibility to deal with and rectify the issue. With the changes coming and the fact that students will be coming with leadership from their churches, the leadership would then deal with and resolve any behavioural issues that may arise with their student(s).