



PARENT MEETING

FALL
RETREAT
2023

November 10-12, 2023





WELCOME!

We are so excited that your student is attending Fall Retreat 2023! This retreat is such a great weekend for students to grow in their relationship with God and others.

Students spend the weekend in small groups with friends & leaders, compete in rec competitions, and experience marked moments with God in sessions. We are believing for God to do a great work in your student's life this weekend. Thank you for entrusting your student with us, it is a privilege to serve you and your family.

SESSIONS



Our sessions at Fall Retreat this year will look at the Sermon on the Mount...

Here is an overview of the sessions:

Session 1: Friday Night

Matthew 5:1-12 - The Beatitudes

The Beatitudes teach us the character traits of being a Christian. We will talk about what it means to be righteous and pure in heart to see God

Session 2: Saturday Morning

Matthew 5:21-48

Jesus gives us a new way to live. In this session, we will learn how we should live our life and interact with others

Session 3: Breakouts

For this session, we will have four different breakouts. The topics are...

High School:

Session Option 1: How to reach your friends and family for Jesus - Matthew 5:13-16

Session Option 2: Worry and Anxiety - Matthew 6:19-34

Middle School:

Session Option 1: How to reach your friends and family for Jesus - Matthew 5:13-16

Session Option 2: Worry and Anxiety - Matthew 6:19-34

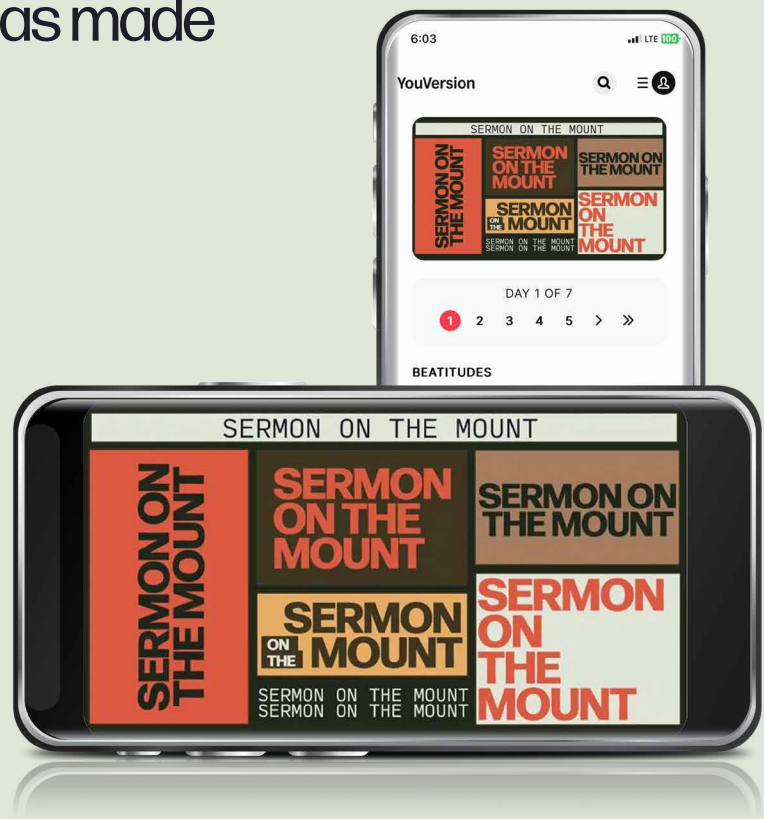
Session 4: Saturday Night

Matthew 7

In this session we will talk about what it means to build your life on Jesus.

DEVOTIONAL FOR YOUR STUDENT AFTER FALL RETREAT

Our heart's desire is not to just put on an event, but to start the discipleship process for your student! Because of this, we are all going to do a 7 day Devotional on the YouVersion Bible App that the Elevate team has made just for Fall Retreat.



PACKING LIST

- Bible
- Journal
- Pen
- Toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc)
- Bath Towel
- Sleeping Bag and Pillow (please place all bedding in trash bags)
- Appropriate clothes for worship and sessions (Friday & Saturday Night, Sunday Morning)
- Athletic clothes for Saturday afternoon activities and free time
- Prescription Medications in original bottles (will be checked in during check-in process by parent only)

Other Optional Packing Items:

- Snacks
- Refillable water bottle
- Slingback or small backpack
- Cash to spend at Saturday activity
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray

WHAT NOT TO BRING

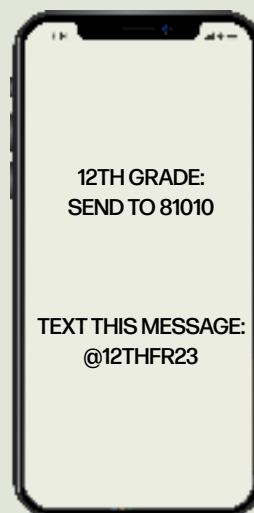
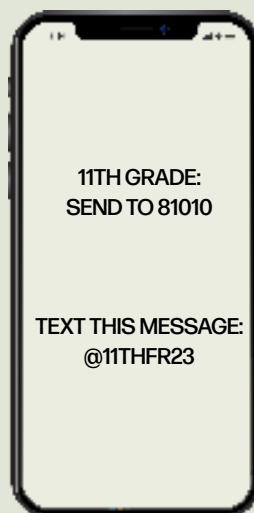
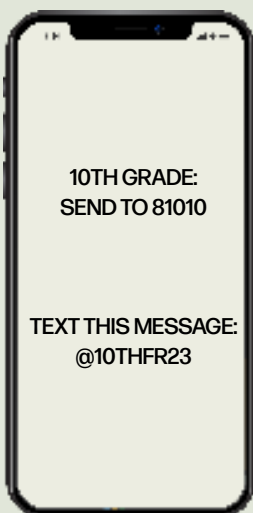
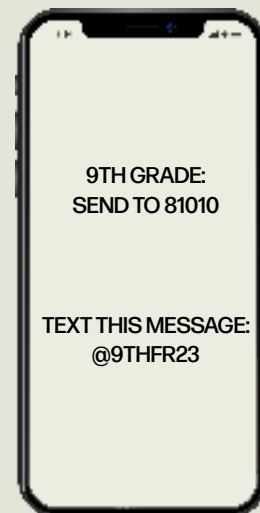
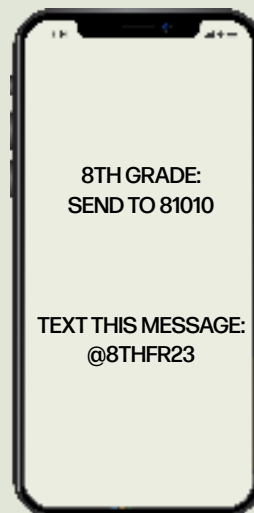
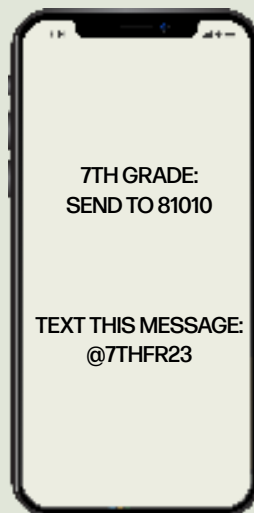
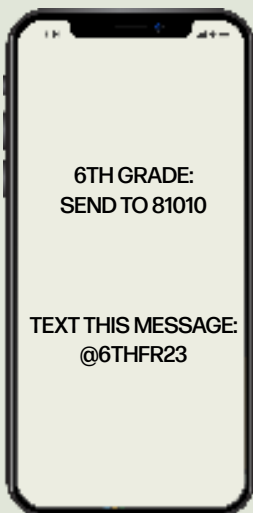
- Tight and or revealing clothes (e.g. crop tops, yoga pants, etc...)
- Matches / Lighters / Tobacco products / Alcohol / Illegal drugs/ Vapes
- Inappropriate viewing material



COMMUNICATION

During camp, we will communicate through the Remind App. We will be sure to send updates and information throughout the weekend to keep you in the loop.

Please see below for directions.



CELL PHONE POLICY

One thing that students have told us that they appreciate at camps and retreats is that we take up their phones. By doing this, it allows students to be able to focus on connecting with God and others and not be distracted by their phones. Thank you for adhering to the cell phone policy.

After students check in on Friday, the small group leader will take up phones for the week and give them back Sunday morning.

Should you need to reach your student for any reason, please reach out to their small group leader or one of the staff members listed below.

Elevate Staff Contact

Gabrielle Blakely (Elevate Event Coordinator) 817-907-0620

Pastor Jesse Wagner (Student Pastor) 817-941-3268

Pastor Ryan Martinez (High School Pastor) - 817-262-8042

Pastor Ethan May (Middle School Pastor) - 817-374-2346

MEDICATION

Our medication policy includes all prescription medication that is prescribed to the student, and any over-the-counter allergy medication or nasal sprays. We are not able to accept any other over-the-counter medications, including pain medications. If there is a medication at check-in that falls outside of the criteria above, our nurse will not be allowed to administer it to your student. We do have over-the-counter medication that we bring to camp if there is a need. These medications are listed below for your convenience:

Acetaminophen (Tylenol)

Ibuprofen (Motrin/Advil)

Phenylephrine decongestant (Sudafed PE)

Pseudoephedrine decongestant (Sudafed)

Antihistamine/allergy medicine (Benadryl)

Guaifenesin cough syrup (Robitussin)

Bismuth subsalicylate (Pepto Bismol)

Anti-diarrheal medicine (Imodium AD)

Calcium carbonate (TUMS)

Anti-nausea medicine (Emetrol)

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Any behavior deemed disruptive or excessive may result in the student being asked to leave the retreat. Parents will be required to pick up their student from the retreat location. No refunds will be given if a student is removed from the retreat for disciplinary reasons.

LATE ARRIVAL POLICY

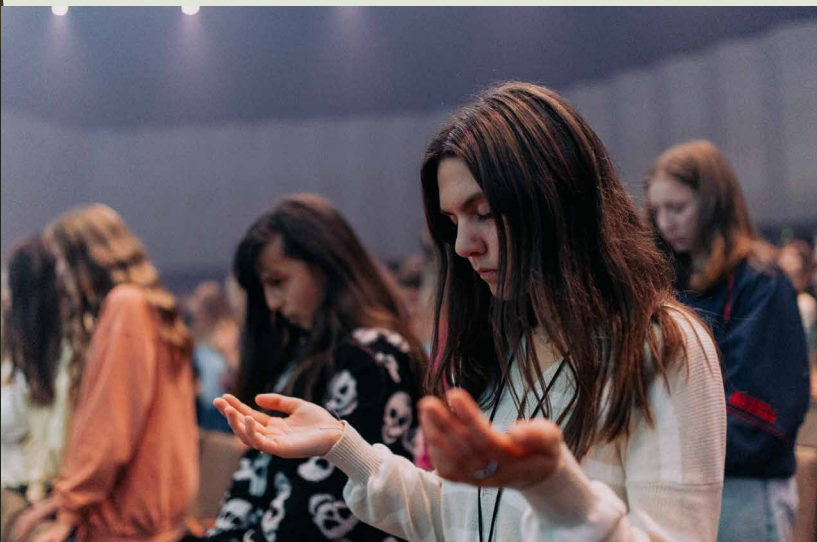
If your student will be arriving late to camp, or having to leave during any part of the weekend (football game, cheerleading, band, etc...) you must let us know beforehand.

- Fill out a "Time Away Form" letting us know the specific times your student will be at camp.
- Once "Time Away Form" is filled out, you will be given our on-call number to contact when you are arriving late or leaving early for camp.
- Our team will provide you with specific information on where to go once you arrive at camp and meet you on site as well.



PRAYER POINTS

- Students will have open hearts
- Students will encounter God
- Students will build friendships
- Students will connect with their leaders
- Safety
- Continued connection with God and church after camp



MILESTONE BELIEFS & LEADER EXPECTATIONS

At our camps & retreats, we communicate God's truth on love, sex, and dating. What we believe about these issues and how we communicate them to students are both of the utmost importance.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

1. Marriage

Christian marriage is a beautiful covenant relationship between God, one man, and one woman. Jesus affirms this powerful union in Matthew 19:4-6: *"4 He answered, 'Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."*

2. Sex

Sex is meant to be between one man and one woman within the covenant of marriage. Anything outside of that is perversion and sin. Pre-marital sex, homosexual activity, pornography, and anything else outside of sex between a married man and woman is sin.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 *"18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. 19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies."*

3. Gender

We believe that God created gender and is the one who defines gender. We do not define ourselves, God defines us and gives us our identity. As such, we believe that bisexuality, transgenderism, and gender fluidity are not what God has intended a person to identify as. Genesis 1:27 *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."*

WHAT WE EXPECT

1. We expect you to uphold all the above beliefs regarding marriage, sex, and gender.
2. We expect you to communicate all of God's truth with grace and love. While we may not condone someone's actions, we also do not condemn that person.
3. How you communicate in regard to these topics to a confessed believer is different than how you communicate to someone who does not have a relationship with Jesus.
 - a. We do not expect someone who doesn't have a relationship with God to live their life according to the Bible and God's standard. As such, the best response for a student who is not a confessed believer in Jesus is to love them, pray for them, and believe for God to open their heart to receive from him.
 - b. Someone who is a confessed believer in Jesus, has a relationship with God, yet is living in contraction with God's Word on love, sex, and dating, may be more open to a conversation about God's view on this issue. For that type of student, the best response is to start with the standard of God's Word as authority and go to the Bible for the answers on love, sex, and dating. All of this should always be done with a heart of love, and communicated with grace.

Leader name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Incident Communication Escalation Policy

Effective October 2019

Purpose

Milestone Church offers various events for your student. For the purpose of this policy, an “Event” refers to any camp or retreat. Each event gives students opportunities to worship, develop spiritually, connect with others, and hear life-transforming messages. During the course of events, students’ phones are taken up for the duration of the event so they can fully focus on building relationships with others and receiving from God. Thus, we have implemented various forms of communication to ensure you have the information needed before, during, and after these events.

Definitions

Incident

An unplanned or undesired event that adversely affects someone or multiple people involved in a Milestone Church event.

Procedures

The standard mode of communication to parents during events will come from our Elevate staff team utilizing Remind online services (Remind.com). Each event will have a unique access code given at parent meetings where parents can opt into the communication. This is the mode of communication used for all non-emergency situations (changes to schedule, general updates on how the event is going, etc.). Should there be an incident, communication will flow appropriately as follows.

Student or Group Incident Communication

1. *Individual incident with student*
 - a. The parent listed on the registration form will receive a phone call from an Elevate staff member to discuss the incident.
 - Example: alcohol is found in students’ belongings
2. *Small group incident*
 - a. The parent of each student in the small group incident will receive a phone call from an Elevate staff member to discuss the incident.
 - Example: Students view inappropriate material in a host home.
3. *Group-wide incident*
 - a. An email will be sent to every parent listed on the registration form to

describe the nature of the incident.

- Example: tropical storm or other safety threat that impacts every student at the event.

Transportation-Related Communication

There will be times when transportation of students is involved, whether in the form of charter busses, school busses, shuttles, or adult leader vehicles. Unforeseen circumstances can cause delays or changes in the transportation plan, such as weather, automobile malfunctions, alternate routes, delayed arrivals, etc. Since students do not have their phones for the duration of events, the following communication protocol is in place for you to receive necessary information concerning transportation and schedule delays.

1. *Level 1: Minor Delay*
 - a. Communication will take place through Remind.
 - i. Example: unforeseen traffic that delays arrival by one hour.
2. *Level 2: Major Delay*
 - a. Communication will take place through Remind and an email to parent listed on registration.
 - i. Example: Automobile malfunction requiring assistance and delayed for more than 2 hours
3. *Level 3: Minor Emergency*
 - a. Communication will take place through Remind and an email to parent listed on registration.
 - i. *Additional communication will occur by phone calls to parents if/when only certain small groups are impacted.*
 - ii. Example: A bus break down or tropical storm causing certain groups to experience an extended delay.
4. *Level 4: Major Emergency*
 - a. Communication will happen through email & individual phone calls to parents of all students impacted.
 - i. Example: Car/Bus accident during transportation.

Forms or Supplemental Information (if applicable)

- Incident Report

Policy Owner

Executive Office

Policy Approved By

Jeff Pelletier, Executive Pastor

Emotional Disclosure Statement

(Updated July 2019)

Milestone Church offers various camps for your student. Each camp gives students opportunities to worship, develop spiritually, connect with others, and hear life-transforming messages. During the course of overnight camps and/or day camps students are encouraged to be involved in small group discussions. Some students feel led to discuss past “hurts” or present “hurts” during these small group discussions. Most students discuss normal life hurts and our leaders are trained to guide discussion that brings about God’s healing. In a situation where past or present “hurts” falls within abuse, harm, or neglect there are steps that our leaders take in order to protect your student.

Milestone Church breaks down these “hurts” as follows: harming self, harming others, and being harmed.

[Procedures for reporting and addressing the “3 Harms”: harming self, harming others, being harmed:](#)

- 1) The government requires that we report any alleged abuse of minors.
- 2) We also report any potential harm of a minor to a safe parent/guardian. Reporting to a safe parent/guardian can be done by the minor and staff member will follow-up, by the staff member, or together by the staff member and the minor, all in accordance to our “3 tells”; you tell, I tell, or we tell.
- 3) If a minor is in immediate danger then a call is made to the police department and a wellness check is requested.
- 4) If a minor is physically safe for the moment but has not been in the past or might not be in the future, we tell the minor that we need to inform a safe parent/guardian of their choice and when warranted by state reporting laws, and we also call DFPS to report our knowledge of recent or potentially ongoing abuse. We also call the police if there has been a crime. Harms in this category include sexual abuse, rape, neglect, physical abuse, exposure to explicit material to a minor, self-injury, risky drugs.
- 5) We report any drug or sexual activity between minors to a safe parent/guardian.
- 6) An Incident/Accident Report is to be filed out for any of the above situations and turned into human resources to keep on file.

Examples of the action to be taken in response to certain “harms”:

1. Minor is in immediate danger and is not safe going back home.
 - Call police, report to DFPS, and report to a safe parent/guardian.
2. Minor opens up about being raped or taken advantage of by a family member.
Minor opens up about being physically abused by parent or other family member.
Minor opens up about being raped or abused by an adult figure outside of their family (teacher, coach, etc.)
 - Report to DFPS and report to a safe parent/guardian, possibly call police.
3. Minor opens up about being raped or taken advantage of by another peer.
Minor opens up about severe bullying.
Minor is caught severely bullying/hazing other minors.
 - Report to DFPS and report to a safe parent/guardian, possibly call police.
4. Minor opens up about attempting or thinking about committing suicide.
Minor is caught vaping, smoking, drinking alcohol, and or using drugs.
Minor is caught acting inappropriate with another minor (sexual acts).
Minor is caught physically fighting with another minor.
 - Report to a safe parent/guardian.
 - Report to DFPS if the situation falls into abuse/neglect category.
 - In a suicidal/self-harming situation, we will report to DFPS if we feel the safe parent is non-responsive or not as responsive as they should be, and possibly call police.

Milestone Church abides by federal and state laws and guidelines for the safety of students in circumstances when and where Milestone Church maintains a responsibility to ensure their well-being. We take the responsibility of protecting your student very seriously and commit to working with parents to ensure the safety of every student.