

JUST
CHILL

June 30-July 3, 2024
HopeWood Pines | Marengo, Ohio



NWOS Youth Retreat at HopeWood Pines
June 30-July 3

Housing Location

HopeWood Pines: 2790 State Route 61 - Marengo, OH – 43334 / (419) 864-8030

Accommodations

Youth will be assigned to gendered rooms in cabins that sleep between nine and fifteen individuals. Cabins utilize an exterior restroom and shower house. Chaperones will be present in the cabins overnight. Please see the FAQs for more information. Meals will be serviced in the dining hall. The HopeWood dining staff is incredibly skilled at being inclusive of all dietary needs.

Adult Leaders

At least one adult leader must accompany every youth group. Congregations are welcome to send additional adult leaders. If a congregation is sending more than 10 youth, an additional adult will be required. All adult leaders must have an updated background check, verified by their pastor. Please contact us if you are struggling to get enough adult leaders to accompany your group.

Parish Participation

We invite each parish to bless the young people who have committed to this week of rest and recreation. Youth will attend their congregation's worship service on Sunday June 30th. Blessing young people in front of the congregation during the worship service is highly recommended. The ELW has great resources for anointing our young people for moments of spiritual growth. Please don't hesitate to reach out for more ideas or information. We also ask that your congregation be in prayer for the young people you are encouraging for this week of service.

Additionally, if members of the congregation would like to write letters of encouragement and affirmation to the young people who will be retreating, we can help!

We have worked hard to make this retreat affordable for churches and families. Congregational contribution to help cover the remaining cost would be a great gift. Noisy offerings, soliciting gifts and securing funds would be very generous for congregations to consider.

Lastly, we would ask that congregations assist in organizing carpool travel to and from camp.

Theme for Summer 2024: Just Chill!
The Year of Rest

“So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God” (Hebrews 4:9)

In our busy world, rest can feel like one more thing that there is no time for, but in Hebrews 4, we are reminded that God intended rest as a gift for all people. How can we find space to receive it? That is the focus of “Just Chill”, our youth retreat at HopeWood Pines.

2024 is **The Year of Rest** in Northwestern Ohio Synod. Adults throughout Northwestern Ohio are learning about active rest through reading, bible study, and prayer practices, but rest isn't just for adults. Youth today keep busy schedules and need space to explore their own need for rest and rejuvenation. The theme of "Just Chill" will provide space to lean into practices of rest, during this formative period in their faith development. Our focus during this retreat will be to learn about active rest through play, explore spiritual practices, enjoy fellowship, and worship together. Youth will gather at HopeWood Pines for swimming, kayaking, low ropes, archery, climbing wall, hiking, ziplining, campfires and much more. Bishop Daniel and other Synod Staff will be around during the week to engage youth in tactile ways to engage in rest.

This retreat is designed to be low cost, simple, and relational so that churches, who may be busy planning for The Gathering in New Orleans this summer, can offer an experience for Middle School aged youth who are unable to attend The Gathering. HopeWood Pines is the perfect environment to play and notice the goodness of God that surrounds us.

We are offering this event to youth across the synod, to provide the opportunity for young people to meet in a relaxed setting for an abbreviated week. If you are new to camp or have a busy summer schedule, this is a perfect opportunity to explore camp with others. This will also allow youth leaders the time to network with other area congregations to imagine future collaboration.

With school schedules, extracurricular activities, sports, and family event, youth today need an opportunity to "Just Chill" and see the goodness of God all around them. We hope you will join us for this chance to experience the gift of rest.

NWOS Youth Retreat at Hopewood Pines

June 30-July 3

Sample Schedule

Here is a quick idea of what awaits your young person at the Summer Youth Retreat. Our host, HopeWood Pines, will be providing our accommodations, including a comfy place to sleep, delicious meals, and enriching recreational activities.

Sunday, June 30

Morning: Youth attend their own worship service and are blessed by their congregation

2:30-4:30 pm: Check-In and Free Time

5:00 pm: Orientation

5:30 pm: Dinner

7:00 pm: Introductory Session

8:30 pm: Bonfire + Snack

9:30 pm: Cabin Time / Get ready for bed

11:00 pm: Lights out

Monday through Wednesday

7:00 am: Wake Up + Quiet Time

7:30 am: Good Morning!

8:30 am: Breakfast

9:30 am: Morning Session

12:00 pm: Free Time

12:30 pm: Lunch

2:00 pm: Camp Staff Led Activities:

 Kayaking

 Low Ropes Course

 Archery

 Climbing Wall

 Hiking

 Zip Lining

 Pool Time

4:00 pm: Rest Time / Quiet Activities

5:30 pm: Dinner

7:00 pm: Evening Reflection

8:30 pm: Bonfire + Snack

9:30 pm: Cabin Time / Get Ready for Bed

11:00 pm: Lights Out

Thursday, July 3

7:00 am: Wake Up and Pack Up

7:30 am: Good Morning!

8:30 am: Breakfast

10:00 am: Final Session

11:00 am: Closing Worship

12:00 pm: Lunch

1:00 pm: Departure

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the dates and times of the Youth Summer Retreat?

Participants are invited to arrive at HopeWood on Sunday June 30th around 2:30pm and will depart on Thursday, July 3rd at 1:00 pm.

How old does my child have to be to participate in Summer Youth Retreat?

Programming is designed for youth who have are entering 6th grade in the fall of 2024 through those entering the 8th grade in fall of 2024.

What is the cost for one child to participate?

The cost per participant is \$100.

How will my child be transported?

Each congregation is responsible for providing transportation to and from camp.

Do you require background checks on your leaders?

Yes. Each group will need to conduct a national background check on any participant that is 18 years and older. Church groups will provide written confirmation that every participant 18 and older has been approved to work with youth and children. If you need more information or suggestions on good background check resources, please contact the synod office at 419-423-3664.

How many adult chaperones will there be?

One adult from every participating congregation is the minimum. If the youth group is larger than 10 students, an additional adult is required. Please reach out if you having trouble finding adult leaders.

What will my child eat?

Breakfast, lunch, dinner and an evening snack will be provided by HopeWood Pines. If you have special dietary needs please inform your adult leader. Camp staff are excellent at accommodating dietary needs.

What will my child do when not in a session lead by synod staff, pastors and deacons?

HopeWood Pines offers a variety of activities including worship around the campfire, team building, a low ropes course, swimming, kayaking, a climbing wall, a zip line, archery, hiking and other nature activities. Participants will have the option of exploring these activities with new friends. We also will spend time fellowshiping together with quieter activities, around board games and journaling as well as movie night. You are welcome to bring a board game to share.

How will room assignments be decided? What are sleeping accommodations like?

Our group will be housed in cabins while at camp. Each cabin sleeps between nine and fifteen individuals in twin bunks. All cabins are heated and air-conditioned and are within walking distance to a shared restroom and shower facility. All lodging is gender segregated. Chaperones will be present in each cabin overnight.

Who should I contact with further questions?

Please contact Pastor Sarah Schaaf, Assistant to the Bishop for Emerging Church and Community Engagement at sarah.schaaf@nwos-elca.org or (419) 518-6067.

**Nonbinding Interest Form:
2024 Youth Summer Retreat at HopeWood Pines
June 30-July 3, 2024**

Please return to your Pastor / Youth Leader by Sunday, April 14th.

YES, my child is very interested _____

YES, & my child may have friends interested _____

Yes, but I we need more information _____

No, not this year _____

Name _____

Friend(s) Name(s) _____

Friend Contact information:

I may be interested in being an adult chaperone. _____

Add any questions you may have here:

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