

# Extreme Faith Camp 2021



## What is Extreme Faith Camp?

Extreme Faith Camp (EFC) is a Youth Ministry camp that has been coordinated and facilitated by youth ministers since 2001. It is not an organization, but a collaboration between youth ministers that just love the Lord and desire for the youth to know Him and love Him as well. When middle school youth and high school teens think about faith and religion, “fun” isn’t exactly the word they have in mind along with that. This camp exists to show that faith and fun are not mutually exclusive. God wants to give us happiness and joy, and Jesus can encounter us in the liturgy and the sacraments as well as through fun and friendship.

Extreme Faith Camp is a 5-day summer camp for middle school youth (completed 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade). During this week there will be no shortage of fun and games. Everything from water activities on the beach of a lake, zip lines, 9-square, archery tag, wiffleball and laser tag to indoor activities such as rock climbing, blacklight dodgeball, and much more!

Of course, though, this camp is about our Catholic faith and an encounter with our Lord, Jesus. Each day we will have Mass. We will have talks and skits about faith. We will sing praises to the Lord through Praise and Worship. We will experience his love and mercy in Confession, and we will encounter him personally through the Eucharist and Adoration. This is a life-changing experience!

High School teens are invited to help lead small groups, participate in the activities, and be there as a peer-mentor to the middle school youth. These are teens invested in their faith and the faith of their peers. They have been to EFC before and desire for the middle school youth to encounter Jesus personally just as they did a few years back.

We go to our week of Extreme Faith Camp with parishes that we have been going with for many years now. The other youth ministries that join us are from Holy Name of Jesus (Wayzata), St. Raphael (Crystal), Sacred Heart (Robbinsdale), St. Bonaventure (Bloomington), and Our Lady of Grace (Edina).

## Where is Extreme Faith Camp?

Extreme Faith Camp will be at Trout Lake Camp in Pine River, MN. This camp is about 2.5 hours north of St. Vincent de Paul. For EFC, this is a brand new camp site, but they are not new to faith camps. They have been running and growing for a long time. Even during the pandemic in the summer of 2020, they were still able to run their camp! They had 2000 summer campers at various times and ZERO covid-19

cases. We have a lot of trust in their system of management to provide a fantastic and safe space for us to have Extreme Faith Camp. We could not be more excited about Trout Lake Camp!

## **When is Extreme Faith Camp?**

EFC 2021 is July 19-23. For high school leaders, they come 2 days earlier to prepare and have their own retreat before the camp. So, for high school, it is July 17-23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **What does camp look like for high school teens?**

There are two teams that high school teens (completed 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) can serve on. The first is Prayer Team, and once you have done that, you can serve on the Extreme Team.

**The Prayer Team** is generally for 9<sup>th</sup> grade youth or those high school teens who want to serve on Extreme Team. Prayer Team is a totally different look at Extreme Faith Camp. This is the year where you serve behind the scenes, and the best way to do that is through prayer. For the 5 days of camp, you are praying everyday in intercession for the WHOLE camp. You are doing behind the scenes work to set up for Mass, the evening sessions, for the prayer experiences, and more. You are also being formed through talks, small groups, and mentorship during this time as you will experience quite a bit of spiritual growth. For all of those who have done Extreme Team, a vast majority say that this year on Prayer Team is their favorite year of camp! The Lord does good work with the heart that is open.

**The Extreme Team** is for 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth. These teens are invited and selected because of their willingness to serve the middle school youth and because of their love of God. These are the small group leaders that walk with the campers everyday and are with them most of the time. They take care of them if they need anything, they grow in relationship with them in a mentorship way, they help them have fun and they help them along their spiritual journey. These teens are true disciples of Jesus!

For both teams, teens must apply before they can register.

## **What is the cost and how do I apply for scholarship if I need it?**

The cost for campers and leaders is \$495.

If you need financial assistance in the form of scholarship, please contact John Boyle and he will gladly help you!

## **How are you accommodating for the current pandemic?**

Trout Lake Camp is an incredible facility and they have been able to make camp work throughout this pandemic! Campers will be placed in small groups and these small groups will be their "pods". They will stay in these pods with their friends for the whole week of camp. Cabin space is limited to accommodate

these pods. Masks are to be worn at all times in indoor spaces. The cafeteria has been adjusted to create a safe place for eating within your pods. Indoor spaces have been adjusted for social distancing. There are Registered Nurses that will be with us the entire week of camp.

More details will come when we get closer to the event. Things are changing all the time, so when May and June come, we will have a better idea what July will look like.

## How many spots are available?

Spots are certainly limited right now and will open up more if things look better. For now, **register as soon as possible!** When spots are filled, a waitlist will begin. The order of the waitlist will be based off of seniority primarily and siblings secondarily, but the open registration will be first come first serve. Again, register as soon as possible!

## How do I register?

This year begins the collaboration between Extreme Faith Camp and Damascus, a non-profit organization in Ohio that specializes in camps and retreats for youth using young adult missionaries. This collaboration includes not only EFC and Damascus but also the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis with Bishop Cozzens as they have much greater plans than just EFC.

Damascus will be handling the registration for Extreme Faith Camp and so follow the steps below to register:

### Steps for Registering: Campers

1. Go to [cysc.com/extremefaitth](http://cysc.com/extremefaitth) and click "Register"
2. Create an account and add your camper(s)
3. Select a person and click "Register"
4. Choose "I belong to a group that has already reserved space"
5. Enter your Group Code: **CAMPER6**
6. Select the session for **St. Vincent de Paul** from the options that appear
7. Proceed through the steps of making a reservation until you come to your cart
8. If you are making additional reservations, you may add them before proceeding. Please enter the Group Code for every new person.
9. When you come to payment, choose "Add a sponsorship or promotional code" and enter a **parish Sponsorship/Promo Code if provided with one from John.**
10. Select a payment plan and complete your reservation!

### **Steps for Registering: High School Leaders**

Contact John Boyle ([johnboyle@saintvdp.org](mailto:johnboyle@saintvdp.org)) and he will provide an application form for your high school teen to complete. If accepted, you will then be provided the steps to take to register.

### **Steps for Registering: Adult Chaperone**

If you want to help with this incredible ministry in any way, please contact John Boyle! There have been adult volunteers helping with Extreme Faith Camp for many years passed the age when they have children in high school because they love this ministry so much! If you want to be a part of this and see this for yourself, do not hesitate. There is nothing quite like this camp and it is worth being a part of it.

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact John Boyle via email or phone.

Work: 763-762-7371

Email: [johnboyle@saintvdp.org](mailto:johnboyle@saintvdp.org)

I hope you may be able to join us for this incredible and life changing experience!

Thanks, and God bless,

John Boyle

Coordinator of Youth Ministry

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church