

Middle School Youth Connection Summer 2018!

The Youth Ministries Committee, Middle School Youth Connection Advisors, and myself are very pleased to announce a GREAT summer 2018 experience! We will be taking in some of the best of what southwestern Wisconsin has to offer!

What is it?

We will be doing an outdoors experience that will encompass biking on the Elroy-Sparta bike trail and then moving on to Governor Dodge State Park for hiking, swimming, **and more.**

Where is the Elroy-Sparta Trail?

The trail is located between the towns of Elroy and Sparta, about 90 minutes northwest of Madison. The trail itself is an old train bed from which the tracks have been removed. It's relatively flat and reserved for bicycles only. The tunnels are very cool! (Literally!)

How far will we ride?

That depends upon the riding group. The opportunity exists to ride 25-30 miles in one day if the group is up for it. We will always be traveling as a group with Advisors leading the way.

Do I bring my bike?

Participants will be able to use their own bikes for this part of the week. Tunnel Trail Campground has some rental bikes available. Talk to me privately if you're in need of a bike.

Where will we be staying during this portion of the week?

We will be camping at the **Tunnel Trail Campground** from Sunday until Wednesday morning. They have a great in-ground swimming pool and nice shower facilities. There is also a small general store. They are located right along the bike path about 12 miles west of Elroy. Covenant will provide all of the tents and cooking utensils.

Then what?

We will break camp on Wednesday morning and head to **Governor Dodge State Park** near Dodgeville. While at Governor Dodge we will do some hiking, possibly a service project for the park, & swim at the beach. We have 4 campsites reserved in a very cool part of the park.

Anything else?

We are planning on taking part in the low and high ropes courses at Bethel Horizons Bible Camp, located just north of the park. Horizons highly trained and certified staff is going to be leading us through the challenges with safety being of the utmost concern.

Keep reading...there's more!

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What will we eat?

We are planning on buying fresh stuff throughout the trip at local grocery stores. A grill will be packed along for chicken, burgers, and the finest in tubular meats. There will always be fresh fruit and vegetables too. We take a lot of pride in having great food on our trips!

The trip facts:

Dates: Sunday, June 24, depart at 2 pm and return on Friday, June 29, by 4:30.

Cost: \$295, which includes food, transportation, tents, and all activities.

General gear to bring: sleeping bag, self-inflating air mat or pad to sleep on, rain gear, flashlight, bike helmet (mandatory!), and a bike unless you wish to rent one.

What is provided by Covenant: tents, cooking utensils, food, transportation (including hauling the bikes), great Advisors!

Sign up deadline: Sunday, December 10.

Downpayment: \$50 due at the time of registration.

Scholarship money is available: talk to me privately about it. I can be reached at 233-6297, and via the E waves at: sroyalton@covenantmadison.org

Between now and then...

Our trips should be a celebration of who we are during the year. By signing up to take part in our trip next summer you are ***agreeing to be active at some level in our Middle School Youth Connection program between now and then.*** In my years in Youth Ministry many week-long trips, I have seen time and time again that the better a group knows each other before a trip, the better the trip will be. This can only happen through regular participation in the program. Nobody wants to travel with a group of strangers on a trip such as this. Youth from outside of Covenant are welcome **only IF** they agree to be active in the program between now and the time of the trip.

Questions? I can be reached at Covenant at 608-233-6297, or via the E waves at sroyalton@covenmadison.org

In Christ,

Steve Royalton