



GENERAL INFO

Dates: June 3-7, 2024

Location: Riverbend Retreat Center, Glen Rose, Texas (Riverbend.camp)

Speaker: Oza Jones

Worship Leader: 317 Collective

Cost: \$350

INSTRUCTIONS

To register for camp, go to www.fbcshreveport.org/youthcamp and click on the registration link. We are using our Parent Dashboard again this year for registration!

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

- Online Student Registration
- Time Away Form if applicable
- Payment for camp or Scholarship Application

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PARENT MEETING

We will have a mandatory Encounter Week Parent Meeting as we prepare for Encounter Week 2024. This will provide information to help you to know how to prepare for camp, how to pray for your student and for camp, and will allow opportunities for you encourage your student during camp. At least one parent needs to attend!

Pre-Camp Parent Meetings

- Sunday, May 19 at 5:00PM
Youth Center

WHAT TO BRING

- twin size sheets/blanket or sleeping bag & pillow
- Bible & pen
- appropriate, comfortable clothing for 5 days
- athletic clothing for recreation (a Rec shirt will be provided)
- shoes/sandals (closed toe shoes required for some activities, including recreation)
- toiletries (throw some insect repellent in there!)
- towels (a couple would be great)
- swimsuit (check dress code before packing!)
- extra cash for the canteen & camp store (Encounter Week shirts, water bottles, sunglasses, etc.)
- a friend who doesn't go to our church or another church
- sunscreen (because you'll be in the sun a lot)
- a good attitude that will last all week!
- flashlight (it gets dark at night)
- a camera (you will not have your phone to take pictures)
- softball glove (if you are so inclined)

WHAT NOT TO BRING

- cell phones**
- inappropriate reading material
- any prank stuff
- drugs, alcohol*, tobacco products & e-cigarettes
- roller blades, bikes, scooters, H3's, ATV's, motocross bikes
- any type of weapon (firearms, guns or knives)
- fireworks or anything explosive
- cell phones**, MP3's, iPod's, CD players of any kind (take a break)
- bikinis or speedos
- whiney, grumpy, complaining attitude
- anything else that would take the focus off of what you are at camp for!

*Possession of alcohol or illegal drugs will result in immediate dismissal from Encounter Week 2024

****A Note on Cell Phones:**

Minors are not permitted to have cell phones at camp! Riverbend Retreat Center has asked that we help them in protecting all campers by not allowing minors to bring cell phones. This is a requirement set by the campsite and their insurance provider. Riverbend has asked that we help them in protecting our campers by not allowing students to have cell phones with internet availability on campus. The following is a statement from their insurance provider:

The effort to protect a single camper from the reaction to a devastating text-message, or a photograph of an unsuspecting camper placed on the internet is reason enough to prohibit Internet availability of cell phones at camp. Parents who trust you and value your program will comply.

Parents, if you need to contact your camper, please reach out to me or one of our other adult leaders and I will make the connection. Also, you can call Riverbend and a message will be delivered to the student.

Cell phones are a needless distraction at camp. Our goal is to help create an environment with as few distractions as possible for all of our students, to allow them to fully participate in gospel community, and to focus on what God teaches them throughout the week.

Thank you for helping us to provide the best possible atmosphere for our camp as well as to protect all of our campers. If you have specific questions regarding cell phones, please let me know.

THINGS WE HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING ABOUT

PLEASE READ OVER THIS LIST, GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING OF EACH ITEM, AND BE PREPARED TO FOLLOW THE EXPECTATIONS OF ENCOUNTER WEEK...

1. All Campers and Sponsors must maintain a good attitude. Attitude is the key to everything else!
2. All Campers must be ON TIME and participate in all services, activities (including Late Night), and meals (unless permission is given by a Dean or Camp Executive Staff).
3. If you aren't sure where to go or what to do... ask an adult!
4. Campers must remain in their dorms from "lights out" until 6:00am (unless permission is given by a Dean or Camp Executive Staff).
5. No girls in guys' cabins/no guys in girls' cabins! The only exception is while specific groups meet in the center meeting room of some cabins during Family or Church Group Time.
6. Students are expected to read and follow the dress code. Please respond quickly and cheerfully if a Dean or adult sponsor asks you to change clothes.
7. Shoes should always be worn outside the cabin.
8. Stay off of the cliffs - climbing on the rocks can result in serious injury!
9. No food should be taken from the Dining Hall. Please do not eat in the dorms - it creates a mess and attracts insects.

10. You are responsible for keeping all of your belongings ON or UNDER your bunk. You will be expected to keep your cabin and bathroom clean. Take care of your things and respect other campers' property.
11. Campers are NEVER allowed in the river - no exceptions! The result of going into the river is immediate dismissal from Encounter Week.
12. There will be no rough play permitted in the cabins, cafeteria, or worship center. Any property damage will be paid for by the student(s) responsible and his or her family.
13. A Camp Nurse will be available 24-hours-a-day for minor accidents and illnesses. If you feel sick or become injured, please tell an adult sponsor immediately.
14. Limit the use of shaving cream, toothpaste, and toilet paper to the restroom area. Do not administer these items to anyone or anything other than yourself. If you make a mess, clean it up.
15. The following items are not allowed at camp: cell phones, tablets, computers, knives, fireworks, firearms, radios, personal stereo devices, video games, illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, e-cigarettes, water balloons, airsoft guns, or water guns. These will be confiscated by Deans or adult sponsors upon detection. Leave the games, weapons, and technology at home! ONLY Adult Sponsors are allowed to have cell phones at camp.
16. Campers and adults should not have any medication in cabins. All medication, prescription or over-the-counter, must be checked in at Check-In on Monday before we leave the church and will be dispensed by the Nurse while at Encounter Week.
17. Couples, please maintain a "hands off" policy and avoid any PDA (public display of affection). Save it until you get married.
18. Do not leave the Riverbend campus without the permission of the Deans or Camp Executive Staff (this includes leaving with your parents). We must know if you are planning to be picked up early via the *Camper Time Away Form*. Leaving the Riverbend campus without permission will result in the camper's immediate dismissal from camp.
19. Please do not tamper with the air conditioning controls. You can cause a problem for everyone! Turning the thermostat too high or too low can result in the unit malfunctioning.

DRESS CODE

Out of respect for Christ and each other, and as a result of fashion trends, we have established a dress code (similar to local school dress codes) at camp. Please keep the following guidelines in mind when shopping and/or packing for the week. The Deans of Women and Deans of Men will help make sure we are all following this agreement. Students who choose to violate these guidelines will have the choice of changing clothes or wearing something that is provided for them by the Camp Staff.

The dress code can be summarized with several key points:

- Dress appropriately for the occasion
- We ask that your tank tops, shirts, dresses, etc. have straps that are two fingers wide
- One-piece swimsuits or modest, appropriate two-piece
- If your clothing is distracting to others around you, you will be asked to change

SHIRTS AND BLOUSES:

Please do not wear shirts that have questionable or potentially offensive graphics, logos, or statements on them. It's not the best way to draw attention to yourself.

Wear appropriate shirts for daytime activities. Tank tops may be worn. A tank top is considered a sleeveless shirt with a strap width 2 fingers-wide or more.

Changes to your team recreation shirt must stay within dress code. If you cut your sleeves out, do not cut down the side of the shirt or you will be asked to wear a shirt underneath.

Shirts, tank tops, or blouses must have an appropriate neckline and cover the entire torso at all times, even in movement. No offense, but we don't want to see your stomach or undergarments.

SHORTS, SKIRTS AND DRESSES:

Appropriate short length for daytime activities – no short-shorts. No tight shorts; no "sagging" - we don't want to see your underwear.

Please be sure that any shorts, skirts, or dresses are at least the length of fingertips when fully extended by your side. **If you have to ask, it's probably too short.*

SWIMSUITS

Please wear an appropriate swimsuit that is secure and comfortable for water activities (diving, the Blob, etc.). Swimwear is only to be worn in the swimming pool area. Students must be fully clothed when traveling to and from the swimming pool or lakefront. If you have questions, please contact Chelsea Judkins (chelsea.judkins@fbca.org).

These guidelines are intended to help everyone have the best possible experience at Encounter Week. If you have any questions about the dress policy, please call the Youth Ministry Office or email Chelsea. We appreciate your help with this!

LATE NIGHTS

Each night at camp we end the day with a themed “**Late Night**” activity that includes drinks and snacks:

Monday – Hoedown Throwdown

Let’s have a Square Dance! If you aren’t into the dancing, Rec Point and the Rec Fields will be open for you to hang out and play. Wear your favorite “western” attire!

Tuesday – Luau Night

Dust off that Hawaiian shirt and let’s party at the pool with our “King/Queen/Monarch of Pain Contest” (aka: belly flop contest) and some great outdoor games. Rec Point and the Rec Fields will also be open.

Wednesday – Silent Disco

SILENT DISCO IS BACK and we are kicking it old school with this year’s theme: Decades. Choose your favorite decade (70s, 80s, 90s, etc.) and dress accordingly. This will be an unforgettable night of dancing, costumes, and incredible music. Rec Point and the Rec Fields will also be open.

Thursday – Street Party

On the last night of camp, we will spend time celebrating what God has done in our midst, then finish the night off with all of the churches at our Street Party, which includes ice cream and fireworks.

A FINAL WORD

I am so excited for Encounter Week 2024! This is the best week of the year. This will be our ministry's 3rd visit to Riverbend. Each year is better than the last! Encounter Week is becoming a major part of our ministry's culture as students make memories, grow spiritually, and look forward to going back.

Remember, this is a Christian camp. We don't expect everyone who participates to follow Jesus, but we do expect everyone who participates to respect our commitment to Christ and follow the guidelines for Encounter Week. A positive, flexible attitude is essential! While we want each individual to have a good experience, our greater responsibility is to the larger group.

Please look over and be familiar with *Things We Have an Understanding About* before we get to camp. These are not just "suggestions", they are requirements. Also, please look over the Dress Code and keep it in mind when you are shopping and packing for camp.

You can go to fbcshreveport.org/youthcamp to find the registration portal for Encounter Week. This will lead you to forms where you will complete all paperwork, Time Away forms, etc. and choose to pay online or in-person with cash or check.. If you have a **food allergy, a special dietary need, or follow a special diet**, please visit BendFoodAllergy.org no later than May 6 to submit a form and retrieve a copy of the planned menu. If you register after that date, please complete this form immediately upon registration. Riverbend's staff will work directly with each family to help with meals and meal planning.

The week of camp is full of all sorts of excitement – here is an overview of the schedule for the week:

Monday, June 5:

9:45am Arrive at FBC Parking Lot with luggage. When you arrive, you will check in at the registration tables and turn in your medication **in the original container** and dosage card. Bring money for lunch stop!

Friday, June 7:

3:00pm Return to FBC. Parents pick up.

Sunday, June 9:

10:30 Worship Service in the Sanctuary (wear your camp shirt)

I hope you are excited for all of the Encounter Week 2024 activities! This week has the potential to be a life-shaping event for each of us. Begin asking God now to prepare your heart for what He has for you. Be open to new people and new experiences. Expect God to do something miraculous in your life!

Let me know if you have any questions!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan McCoy".

Ryan McCoy
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