



## Greetings from Camp Harvest!

We are thrilled that you and your son(s) will be joining us for the Father Son weekend retreat. Our entire ministry team is hard at work, planning and preparing for an awesome weekend event. From check-in on Friday night until you leave us on Sunday, you will have countless opportunities for fun and purposeful moments with your son(s), during a weekend experience that is designed to help you create lifelong and life-changing memories. You'll receive encouragement and advice from other dads, have intentional and intimate moments of sharing and bonding with your son, and HAVE A BLAST along the way!

Enclosed is some information that should help you prepare and pack for the weekend, including a schedule and "what to bring" list. During check-in, be sure to sign up for our additional Saturday activities. We have also enclosed a "**FATHER'S BLESSING**" information sheet about a special time of blessing your son. Please read over the material and prayerfully consider how God will direct this important time. We continue to prayerfully prepare for your arrival and anticipate great things from this weekend! We know that God has something specific in store for each of you – please be in prayer as you prepare for this time together, that God would really do a new and cool thing in your relationships! We are so excited that you are coming and look forward to spending time with you. If we can answer any questions for you, please let us know.



## **IMPORTANT THING TO KNOW**

### **CAMP HARVEST**

6829 East 72nd Street  
Newaygo, Michigan 49337

### **CAMP HARVEST PHONE NUMBERS**

(231) 652-8020 — Camp answering machine in case of emergency  
(269) 277-6463 — Cell number of Camp Director, Michael Holets  
(321) 519-1296 — Cell number of Maintenance Director, Al Rosenberger

**FRIDAY CHECK IN & NO DINNER:** Please enter through the main gate and head into camp. You may arrive any time between 4:00 and 7:00 pm EST. Please note that we ***will not be serving dinner on Friday night***, so you will need to eat before arriving. Check in at the lodge lobby begins at 4:00 pm EST.

### **SATURDAY NIGHT CAMPFIRE AND FATHER’S BLESSING See attached information**

**WHAT TO BRING:** • Outdoor clothes you can play in (could get messy) • Sleeping Bag, pillow, blankets • Toiletries & Towels • Tennis shoes or closed toed shoes • Bible, journal, and pen • Camera – VERY IMPORTANT to capture all of your memories! • Jeans, sweatshirt, or lightweight jacket – typically, days are around 70 degrees, nights in the 50’s • Water bottle • Insect repellent • Poncho-raincoat (Let’s hope this won’t be needed!) • Flashlight • Gift for son (see “Father’s Blessing” page) • Fishing – You will have time in your schedule to fish at our ponds, if you choose. However, Camp Harvest will not be providing gear for this activity, so bring your own poles, tackle, bait, and whatever else you may need!

### **CAMP HARVEST RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

- Establish and continue communication with local and state authorities to determine current mitigation levels in our community.
- Protect and support staff, guests, and their families that are at high risk for severe illness.
- Follow the CDC’s supplemental guidance on the operation of Camps with Food Service operations.
- Ensure that any other community groups or organizations that use our facilities also follow the CDC guidance.
- Follow the Michigan Department of Health and State of Michigan’s Licensing and Regulatory Affairs guidelines.

### **Camp Harvest has developed a plan to reopen at 80% occupancy that will:**

1. Ensure proper healthy hygiene practices.
2. Provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors.
3. Be responsible for intensifying cleaning, disinfecting and ventilation of buildings.

4. Ensure social distancing, and mask wearing whenever possible.
5. Monitor for COVID-19 signs & symptoms.
6. If needed, provide quarantine housing for campers and staff.
7. Train all staff in the above safety actions, ensuring social distancing is maintained.

Any questions about our policy or plan can be addressed to Michael Holets, Camp Director.  
mholets@harvestbiblechapel.org or 269-277-6463

## **RULES OF CAMP HARVEST FOR FATHER SON RETREAT**

1. No alcohol, drugs, tobacco or any sort of pornography.
2. Respect others people's property.
3. No pranks or "raids". This will not be tolerated as it causes a breakdown to our value of community.
4. No weapons of any kind, such as air soft, knives, guns, spears, numb chucks, and razor blades, etc.
5. No assaults or battery. Wrestling/horseplay/hazing activities of any kind or threats of harm.
6. Do not draw, write or carve on camp buildings, equipment or natural surroundings. Any destruction of Camp Harvest property is vandalism and is unacceptable. Any person(s) determined to have destroyed camp property will be charged for damage.
7. No pets allowed at camp. The only exceptions are certified service animals.
8. No gas lanterns, candles, or fireworks allowed at camp.
9. Shoes must be worn at all times unless participating in waterfront or water park activities.
10. Guy's shirts must be worn at all times unless participating in waterfront or water park activities.
11. Lights out at 11:00 pm.



## **CAMP HARVEST SCHEDULE**

### **FRIDAY** (In EST time)

- 4:00 pm—7:00 pm Registration & Father/Son
- 7:45 pm Welcome, Intro, & Orientation
- 8:00 pm Father Son Intro Session
- 8:45 pm Campfire with S'more's and Hang Out Courtside
- 10:00 pm Back to cabins and time for bed

### **SATURDAY**

- 8:00 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am Father/Son Session 1
- 10:00 am Free Time around Camp with Dad – Warriors In Training Activities Part 1
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:30 pm Free Time around Camp with Dad – Warriors In Training Activities Part 2
- 4:00 pm Free Time/Cabin time
- 5:30 pm Father/Son Dinner
- 7:00 pm Father/Son Session 2
- 8:30 pm Tiki torch walk to the bonfire and “Circle of Men” with Father’s Blessing
- 10:00 pm Back to cabins and time for bed

### **SUNDAY**

- 8:00 am Breakfast
- 9:30 am Sunday Worship Time
- 10:45 am Departure Camp Harvest

*We will be participating in the Harvest Bible Chapel Worship Service this Sunday morning.*

# CAMP HARVEST MAP



# A Father's Blessing for the "Circle of Men Ceremony"

You were hand selected by God to instill in your young man a sense of security, hope and confidence that comes from experiencing the love of his heavenly Father through you. Don't worry, you don't need to be perfect, but you do need to be present and purposeful. This weekend you will have the opportunity to be both.

One of this weekend's highlights will occur on Saturday night. You will have the opportunity to bless your young man in a special rite of passage called the "Word of the Father."

Preparation for the Word of the Father Blessing:

## Here is how it will work.

After Saturday Night's session, you will gather in the lobby of the lodge with your son and his warrior gift. The Circle of Men will start with the tiki torch walk with your son to the waterfront. You get to set the tone that this walk is a time to share your heart privately with him. Along the way you will stop to give him a symbolic warrior gift which you need to provide, and you will encourage him by communicating things such as I love you because... and I am proud of you because...

We would also encourage you to write your thoughts down in a letter and present them to him with the gift. He will cherish it for sure. But don't use the letter as a substitution for talking to him. Remember that your words don't matter as much as your sincere attempt to say them. God won't let you fail in this. So enjoy it! Your son needs to hear from the man he wants to be.

We will gather together in something we call the "circle of men." We will explain to the boys that they are about to face the "Word of the Father" challenge. We will tell them that it has been going on their entire life. You, as their father and guide to becoming a man, have been watching their progress. On this night, you will let them know if they have what it takes to go to the next level. They will be, in essence, "weighed and measured" by you, their father.

Then, we might break into smaller groups and your son will stand before you. At this point, you will speak your blessing to him. Don't sweat this. You don't have to be great with words. This really will mean the WORLD to him.

1. I see that you are on the path to becoming a fine young man; I am here for you, and want to offer you my blessing for your journey.
2. Select a Scripture to read to him.
3. Pray over him.
4. Big hugs.

After circles have completed the blessing – quietly walk up to the lodge. Free time begins.

