

How do I prep for a Camp Rivercrest Winter Weekend?

- 1) **Pray!** Pray for your students' hearts to be open to the Spirit's leading and deep transformational work in their lives. Pray for your students to reach out to new people and invite them along. Pray for your leaders to make authentic connections with your students. Pray for safety at the retreat and safe travel to and from the retreat. Pray for your students to apply what they learn and live out their faith to those around them.
- 2) **Promote this event to your youth!** Check out our promotional tools to help promote this event to your students. Watch the video during a large group meeting. Share a picture and post on social media. Hang up a flyer at church. Send a postcard to parents. We have already prepared **videos, flyers, social media posts, and graphics** for you to use – get the word out! If you need assistance or would like to personalize or modify any of these promotional tools, please contact our Media Director at jsturgeon@camprivercrest.org.
- 3) **Encourage students to invite friends!** This is a great opportunity for students to reach out to classmates or friends who don't have a faith background and help them hear the gospel and get plugged into a Christian community.
- 4) **Find leaders for your group.** Your students' **small group or youth leaders** are a great place to start! This retreat will strengthen those relationships and build trust between students and leaders. Another place to look is at **students a step ahead** of the group you are bringing (high school students for middle school retreats or previous high school students who have gone on to college or the work force). This is a neat way not only to connect your students with someone a little further on the journey, but also an opportunity to give them some hands on experience serving and mentoring others. Another option is the **parents** of your students. This gives parents the opportunity to experience a retreat alongside their children and gets them involved with your ministry.
- 5) **Register your group online at <https://www.camprivercrest.org/winterweekends>**
- 6) **Keep parents informed.** Share information with parents about the retreat as it approaches. Have a meeting with parents or send letters to them with details about the event. Afterward, give them a list of questions or topics they can discuss with their child.
- 7) **Check out the schedule.** Schedules should be available within a month of the retreat. Contact Emily with any questions at esturgeon@camprivercrest.org.
- 8) **Tell your students what to pack.** Check out our packing list and make sure students, parents, and leaders know what to bring.
- 9) **Plan transportation to and from the retreat.** We have parking for cars and buses at camp (and a place to plug in 1 or 2 buses, if necessary). Start strategically thinking about how the trips to and from the retreat can be part of the experience, with games, songs, discussion questions, fun music, etc.
- 10) **Plan for travel meals.** Decide what your group will do for **Friday Dinner** and **Sunday Lunch** as these meals are not included as part of the retreat.
- 11) **Bring appropriate forms and money to the retreat.** Make sure to turn in the **Liability Waiver** signed by parents for each student at the retreat check-in, along with payment. We can invoice your church after the retreat as well. Carry **health forms** for your students with you during the retreat in case of an emergency.

