

Fall Retreat Frequently Asked Questions

How do you transport students to camp?

We use school buses with trailers for luggage to get our group to camp in an organized fashion.

Can I drive my student to camp?

In order for students to get the full retreat experience, it is our desire for them to participate in as much of retreat as possible. Therefore, it is our goal for students to leave and return with the group on the buses. However, we understand that sometimes extenuating circumstances and prior conflicts prevent this from happening. If there is a conflict that does not allow your student to ride the bus to camp or home, please reach out to Amy Dahl (amyd@friendshipmn.org) to see what arrangements can be made.

My student has prior engagements and needs to come up later than Wednesday. Is that allowed?

Yes. With prior approval from the Fall Retreat Coordinator (Amy Dahl – amyd@friendshipmn.org), students may come up late or leave early from retreat. However, since each chapel session builds upon each other and the bonding that takes place in the cabin groups, late arrivals/early departures can be quite difficult. If coming up late, **students must arrive at camp** no later than noon (12:00pm) on Thursday and if they are departing early, **students may not leave camp** any earlier than noon (12:00pm) on Saturday. Also, please note that students are not allowed to drive themselves to or from camp. Parents are responsible for transporting students if they need to arrive separate from the buses.

Are your volunteers background checked?

Yes. All our volunteers at camp (cabin/d-group leaders, program staff, band members, etc.) are background checked and have completed a Child Safety Training course.

What does my student need to pack?

You can access the packing list on the Fall Retreat webpage.

Can my student take their own medications?

ANY medication your student brings will need to be turned into the camp nurse when you check in your student for Fall Retreat. You will meet with the nurse at check-in and confirm that she has all the correct information for your student and their meds. The nurse distributes all meds (including over-the-

counter) while at retreat. Meds will be given back to students before they get on the bus to come home on the final day.

What if my student gets sick or injured?

We strive to take good care of your students at retreat! There will be two nurses on our team at camp to distribute meds, help students who don't feel well, and provide care should injuries happen.

Sickness

Being at camp for five days with minimal sleep can be very taxing on our bodies! We see a lot of students get run down and start to not feel well, especially towards the end of retreat. If students start to feel sick, we encourage them to drink lots of water and take some time to rest. After they've given their body a little bit of a reset, if they still aren't feeling well, we will call their parents and talk through next steps. If they continue to get worse, parents may be asked to come pick up their child.

If students ever spike a fever, parents will be asked to come pick them up.

Injuries

Our nurses will provide care for students should injuries arise. If a student needs additional care beyond what our nurses can provide at camp, we will call parents to discuss taking them to the ER. Depending on how urgent the situation is, parents may be given the option to come pick their child up and take them to the ER themselves or opt for one of our nurses or pastoral team to take them. If a student must be taken to the hospital via ambulance, we will call the parents to meet us there.

We will **ALWAYS** call parents if a student is taken to the hospital for any reason!

What if my student has a behavioral issue?

The way behavioral issues are handled varies widely based on the type of issue. Any time we encounter behavioral issues, we always start with a conversation with the student. Depending on how the student responds and what issue is present will determine next steps. Further discipline can look anything like not being able to participate in an activity while at camp to being sent home if the infraction is severe enough. (Note: we rarely have to send students home for behavioral issues. Our goal is for genuine repentance to occur and restoration with those they've wronged if needed so that they can finish their time at retreat.) Any time discipline has to move beyond a conversation with pastoral staff, parents will be informed. If you have concerns or questions about how specific situations would be handled, please contact Amy Dahl (amyd@friendshipmn.org).

My student has a disability. Do you accommodate for that?

It is our goal to have all students participate in retreat! We do our best to accommodate wherever possible. Please reach out to Amy Dahl (amyd@friendshipmn.org) to further discuss your students situation and if/how we might be able to accommodate that while at retreat.

What are the sleeping arrangements?

Students are broken up into cabins by gender and age. D-Groups are always kept together and, depending on the size of the group, they may be paired with another group within their same ministry age group (ex. 6th and 7th grade might be paired together to fill a cabin, but 8th and 11th wouldn't be put together). Every cabin has at least two background checked adult leaders. Cabins are heated and have twin sized bunk beds. Students sleep one to a bunk and will need to bring bedding and pillows for their bed.

Are there showers at camp?

Yes. There is one bath house with showers on the guy's side of camp and one on the girls.

Is there a washer/dryer available?

There is not a washer/dryer available for student use at camp. There are washers/dryers available in case of emergency (Ex. Bed wetting) If they are needed, students can tell their cabin leader or the nurse, and they will discreetly get their bedding/clothes washed for them.

Are meals provided?

Yes! Breakfast, lunch and dinner are provided daily.

Does my student need to bring extra money?

Bringing extra money is completely optional. If students choose to bring spending money, we recommend bringing small bills (\$1's and \$5's) We have a retreat coffee shop where we serve coffee, Italian sodas and ice cream. Drinks are all \$2 each. We also sell candy for \$1.50 each. There is a Trout Lake gift shop that is available as well. Apparel ranges from \$15-\$50. There are also drink vending machines around camp that are available to students.

Can my student bring their cell phone and/or homework with them?

No. Our goal is for students to be free from all distractions so that they can fully focus on God. Please tell your students to leave their cell phones and homework at home. All phones found will be held by staff until we return home. Friendship staff all have access to camp phones and cell phones as necessary for emergency purposes.

If your student is a part of PSEO classes that do not have a break over MEA weekend, please contact Amy Dahl (amyd@friendshipmn.org) to discuss options for keeping up with course work while at camp.

I applied for a scholarship. When will I find out if we got approved?

Pastors will meet about scholarship applications shortly after the application deadline closes. (scholarship deadline closes at the same time as early bird registration) A pastor will be reaching out to you to let you know if you were approved.