



Hey Prospective River Campers!

Here are **full details** on our awesome summer trip! I was able to chat with staff up at Kidder last week, and they are so excited for us to come up in July!

This is a full trip run-down including the health and safety measures that Kidder has been given by their County. Some of these may change as we get closer to the trip, given where case numbers are at in our respective counties.

Trip Departure & Duration:

- Wed-Sun, Jul 13-17
- We leave @ 6am on Wed morning from the church parking lot in the two church suburbans and various other borrowed suburbans and large vehicles.
- We arrive back @ 6pm on Sunday evening in the church parking lot - Student will call when we are about an hour away to give a confirmed pick up time.

The Journey:

- We make 4 stops along the way - two shorter bathroom breaks and two longer meal stops. The bathroom breaks are at rest areas along the freeway and the meals stops are at Fast Food places (and there are other food options in close proximity).
- The whole thing takes about 9hrs

Where do we stay?

- The first two nights we stay at a Public Campground in a town called Happy Camp.
- The last two nights we stay at Kidder Creek (one of Mt Hermon's camps).
- At both places, we sleep out under the stars on large tarps - separated by middle school and high school and guys and girls in separate areas of course! We're basically all in a row on the tarps with a leader at either end. If it rains (which it has on occasion in previous years), we rig a tarp over us as well, which works very well.

Facilities:

- There are NO showers for the week! It's ok, you'll survive without them we promise!
- At Kidder, we have porta potties
- At Happy Camp, we have the "hole in the ground with a toilet seat above it" kind of public bathrooms that you get at campsites
- We will have lots of hand sanitizer and hand washing stations.

Meals:

- Our River Guides cook/provide all meals for us. They have a large trailer with all the food and equipment and the food is great - this is NOT trying to boil a small pan of water of a camp stove :) They are also very good about dealing with food allergies and restrictions!
- All food will be prepped according to Covid guidelines and will be served by Kidder Staff
- Note: The students are REQUIRED to eat. **This is not a trip where you can just decide you don't like the food and not eat - you need the calories! I'm not going to force students to eat everything but they'll need to find something substantial and eat it at every meal.**

Activities (aka how does this trip go down?!)

Wednesday:

- This year we will be heading straight to the River, we'll drop our luggage and gear at our campsite in Happy Camp, change and head out to a swimming spot.
- We'll do dinner and then our first teaching time
- We'll break out into discussion groups based on gender and grade.

Thursday:

- Breakfast & Devo
- Get on the River by ~10am, split into boats of 6 + a river guide. There is at least one staffer in each boat and we make sure to balance strength/ability among the various boats
- There will be separate floats (a float is made up of 4-6 boats) for middle school and high school.
- Raft for about 2hrs: Dragonstooth (big rapid), several smaller rapids and a short stop for River Jumping (jumping off a specific jump spot into the river)
- We stop at a beach for lunch
- After lunch, we leave the boats and hike up a trail to Ukonom (a waterfall and large pool)
- Then we hike back down to the boats and head on up the River
- Exit the River ~4-5pm
- At the start of the day, we drop the cars at this end point so we're ready to head back to camp
- Dinner & Teaching

Friday:

- Breakfast & Devo
- Get on the River by ~10am
- Raft until lunch: Rattlesnake (big rapid), several smaller rapids and a short stop for River Jumping
- Exit River and eat pack lunch
- Load up cars and head to Kidder Creek
- At Kidder we'll head to pond time (they have a man-made pond with a life guard and a deep end and a shallow end and you have to prove you can swim to be allowed in the deep end)
- Dinner & Teaching

Saturday:

- Breakfast/Devo
- Breakout into groups to do Ropes Courses
- Lunch
- Back into groups for Laser Tag/Pump Track and Archery
- Free time
- Dinner
- Teaching and Breakout Groups
- Skit/Open Mic night!

Sunday:

- Breakfast & Devo
- Pack up and leave by 9am

SPECIAL NOTES:

Jumping

- A River Guide or Staffers 'open' every jump - which means they jump first to check the jump is safe
- Students are instructed on how to jump safely
- Students are prevented from jumping if they're not doing it correctly

River Safety

- Life jackets are worn at all times while on the River
- Students are instructed on what to do while going down a rapid, including what to do if they fall out - we review river safety every morning!
- The River Guides are excellent and they don't mess around! In fact, most of the River Guides and Trip Leaders are returners, so they know the river well and are very well trained!

COVID Guidelines

Right now Kidder Creek and Mount Hermon are in full compliance with the state health and safety guidelines. This means that masks are not required, neither is vaccination or testing required to come to camp.

Those guidelines may change slightly as we get closer to the trip, but we're moving forward with planning that this will be our reality when we go in July. The safety of each of your students and our staff members is a priority for us, and we will be doing everything we can to make sure that we have a fun, but safe trip. We will continue to keep you all updated as we get closer.

Hopefully that gives you a good idea of what the trip is like.

This is sure to be an awesome trip, especially in terms of your student's relationship with God, Staffers and other Students!! We know that this trip takes most students out of their comfort zone but we are well prepared to deal with homesickness and every year we walk students through the difficulties they're facing and into enjoyment of the trip! :)

Please feel free to reach out if you have any other questions or concerns!

Becca