

PARENTS: Welcome to Word of Life Camps!

Thank you for encouraging your teen to join the most exciting, life-changing summer ministry team in the world! God is going to do some amazing things in the lives of our campers and guests. And, if your son or daughter is open to His leading, God will do amazing things in their life too!

This summer, God will use the unique components of the **Camp Crew** to help mold and shape your teen into the person He created and designed them to be. The best parts of our discipleship program include:

1. **Quiet Time:** A personal time alone with God each day, reading the Bible and talking to Him in prayer.
2. **Personal Accountability:** Someone who cares about your child, challenging them in their walk with Christ.
3. **Great Teaching:** Speakers who will open up God's Word and teach its truth in a dynamic way.
4. **Hard Work:** Serving in various parts of the camp, helping us do what we need to do to make camp run.
5. **Activities:** Fun group activities as well as access to the fun features of camp.
6. **Personal Responsibility:** Learning to respect other people, obey authority, and live Biblically.
7. **Solid Friends:** Godly guys and girls with whom to laugh, pray, play, and grow.

The parts of the application that follow include some documentation that you as a parent will need to sign for your minor. However some of the terminology can be a bit confusing, so we want to clarify it here.

If accepted into Camp Crew, your son or daughter will be part of our summer camps team. Some students choose to raise support, as a summer missionary, while others simply donate their time serving as a volunteer. In either case, the discipleship program is a 24/7 commitment of service. This service is comprised of work, rest, play, Bible study, time alone, and time with others. Even though the attached New York State documents refer to "work" and "employment," the students in our program are technically not *employees* of Word of Life. However, since our summer program does involve a good deal of work, some of which involves equipment (such as lawnmowers for the grounds crew or knives for the kitchen staff) the State of New York prefers we use the same documents as a teenager working at a traditional summer job.

As student missionaries or volunteers, our Camp Crew does not fall under the traditional "Child Labor Laws" which are designed to affect minors earning wages, **however, since the safety, security, and overall well-being of our summer team is our top priority, we voluntarily ensure that our program meets and exceeds the safety requirements of New York.** Based on their ages, certain Camp Crew team members are not permitted to use certain pieces of equipment nor engage in certain work activities.

In regards to hours of service, our program is an all-day endeavor. We work hard, play hard, and also insist that our students get adequate rest. While sometimes our teens do not appreciate bedtime or ask to work beyond their shift, we are very careful to maintain a healthy balance, as we not only want to ensure a satisfying summer experience, but also train our teens on living an overall balanced and biblical lifestyle.

To assist in this, we schedule our program using the NY State "Hours of Employment" as the general guideline for a student's primary service area (kitchen, housekeeping, maintenance, lifeguard, etc.).

However, depending on a student's age, on their secondary ministry areas (such as music teams, puppets, etc.), on the needs of communal living (jobs such as keeping their dorm room clean), and on each camp's unique schedule, a student's day may start/end earlier or later than the times listed.

Overall, however, these guidelines have served us well over the years.

So, please complete the attached forms as part of the application process, and let us know if you have any specific questions about Camp Crew.

We can't wait to see what God will do this summer!