

February, 2020

Hello, Parents!

We are writing to let you know about a summer camp opportunity for Sierra Vista kids. For the seventh year, Sierra Vista UMC, along with the staff and clergy from several other UMC congregations, is planning a children's camp at Butman Methodist Camp in Merkel, Texas, near Abilene. We continue to be excited about this intergenerational ministry opportunity, but we remain dedicated to separating these groups for various activities so that we can offer the best camp experience for all age groups.



This camp will be offered to children who are going into 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grades in the fall, 2020, as well as youth who are entering 7th, 8th, and 9th grades in the fall, and the camp will be held **July 26 to 30**, a Sunday through Thursday.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our years at Butman Methodist Camp; they continue to keep their facilities updated and well maintained with many activities for children and youth, including high and low-ropes course challenges, a rock wall, two Gaga courts (Israeli dodge ball), three indoor basketball courts, ping pong, sand volleyball, star gazing, geocaching, horseshoes and washer pitching, an outdoor slip and slide, a water-balloon catapult, three hill crosses to hike to, Butman's homegrown "Garden of Eatin'," and an Olympic pool with a slide and a climbing feature over the deepest end. The kids absolutely LOVE all that there is to do at Camp Butman!

Our theme for camp this year is "Be a Hero" – a theme that will invite your kiddos to consider how they can learn to live more like Jesus did. By being immersed into the vastness of nature, experiencing the power of community, and discovering the love in their own hearts, these young believers will indeed discover the building blocks to "Be a Hero" for God.

This year, we are increasing our camp fee for the first time since 2014. For 2020, **the camp fee will be \$300 per child**. However, **camp fees should not – in any way – limit your child's camp attendance!** As a result, camp scholarships are available, in full and in part. If you need more information about camp fees and scholarships, please let us know.

In the meantime, here is additional camp information:

- To sign up for this camp, kids should be entering the third through ninth grades in fall, 2020.
- All children are welcome.
- Camp facilities are air-conditioned, though many activities are outside.
- There is a very nice swimming pool, and time each day will be scheduled for this.
- Other activities include crafts, games, Bible study, worship, hikes, feet-on-bunk time, and many others.
- Camp Butman has a cafeteria where kid-friendly meals will be served.
- There will be qualified medical personnel at camp to administer medications and first aid, if needed.
- Parents are welcome to organize carpools to get kids to camp, and we will also plan to take the Church bus(es). More on travel info will be available in early July.

Finally, a number of Sierra Vista kids and adult volunteers will be there also. If you have or know of a responsible, hard-working, Jesus-loving individual who would like to serve as a member of the camp ministry team, we encourage their participation as well. Please have them get in touch with one of us so that we can walk them through the youth staff application process.

Church camps truly are a great experience for kids; they prove integral to their faith walks, both immediately and long-term. In truth, many experts in camp and retreat ministries claim that a week at camp is the equivalent of a year's worth of Sunday school classes. Please make an effort to start praying about your child's readiness to attend.

As ever, let us know if you have any questions!! (Texts are welcome!)

Kelly Duke

Associate Pastor

Cell: 325.656.8068

Email: kduke@sierravista.org

Tina Glass

Director, Youth Ministries

Cell: 325.450.1231

Email: tglass@sierravista.org

Madison Woehl

Director, Kids' Ministries

Cell: 325.234-8435

Email: mwoehl@sierravista.org

Sierra Vista United Methodist Church

4522 College Hills Blvd.

San Angelo, Texas 76904

Church website:

<http://www.sierravista.org/>

Church: 325.944.4041

Fax: 325.947.7086

