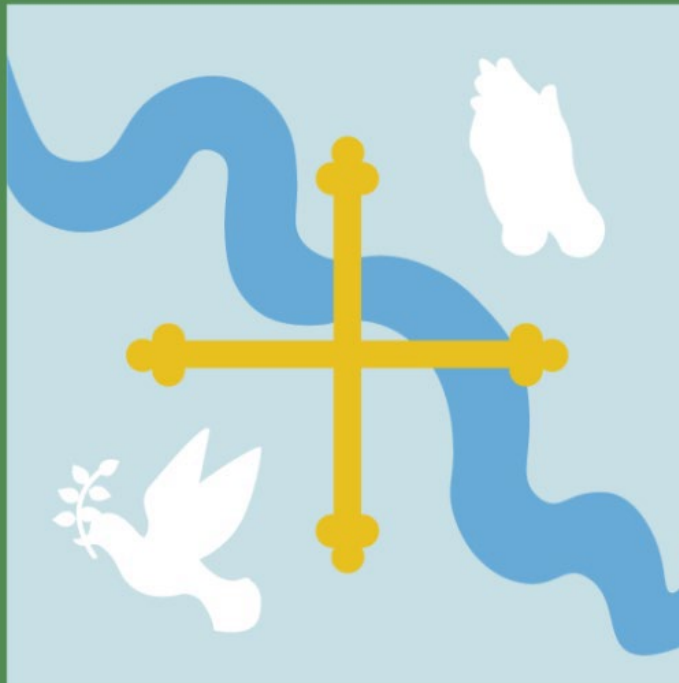


# CAMP SAVIO

# CHAPERONE MANUAL

KCSJ Youth Camps

KANSAS CITY - ST. JOSEPH



CAMP SAVIO

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## Welcome Message:

Welcome to Camp Savio! We hope that this week will be spiritually fulfilling, not just for the campers, but for you too. Firstly, we would like to recognize your dedication to Camp Savio. Giving up a week of your time is no small thing to ask, let alone spending that week with 100 junior high kids. We know that you have sacrificed time with your family and work to join in bringing Christ to these campers this week.

Maybe you have volunteered because you love camp, maybe you have volunteered because your kid is a camper and would feel more comfortable being away for a week with you close by, or maybe your pastor and/or youth minister bribed you to volunteer as a chaperone because without you a few campers would not be able to attend. Whatever your reason for being at camp: **THANK YOU!**

Thank you for saying “yes” to serve as a chaperone for camp. Camp would not be able to function without you. Your love and support for these campers are invaluable. Campers will walk away from this experience talking about all the fun, friendships, and new faith-filled experiences they have gained. It is because of you we can do what we do - we would not be able to do anything without your support! We are so grateful to you for sharing your valuable time and energy here at Camp Savio.

Secondly, as a chaperone, you are an extension of camp leadership and a liaison to the campers. Your role is to assist the Camp Staff and your Parish Group Leader keep the campers safe; however, you are also tasked with assisting the Camp Staff in providing a spiritually enriching experience for the campers. As a chaperone, we do not want you to be a passive spectator of camp; we want you to be an active participant of camp!

One of the main goals of Camp Savio is that the campers will engage in their youth ministries upon their return home from camp. We need your help to extend the mission of Camp Savio beyond just this week. Your parish youth minister would also greatly appreciate this.

All teenagers desire meaningful and authentic relationships with adults. While our Camp Staff is well formed in forging relationships with the campers, we are not able to accompany them beyond this week. But you can! You don't need to have all the answers or become someone you're not to connect with teenagers; you just need to be present to them. You have a tremendous opportunity to model the love of Christ to the campers. We highly encourage you to actively participate in camp activities whenever possible. God greatly desires to use you this week to bring Christ to these campers. Your joyful witness to His love will significantly impact their camp experience and ultimately their lives.

Lastly, we invite you to take some time to review the enclosed materials to familiarize yourself with our program, policies, and facilities. This manual contains all the information you need to prepare yourself for a visit to camp. If you have any questions or concerns, please check-in with any of our staff so that your needs and concerns can be addressed promptly.

In Christ,

*Camp Savio Leadership Team*

## Camp Savio Leadership Team:



### **Brad Horn – Camp Director**

*Brad serves as Director of Camp Savio/Camp Bosco and the Director of Youth Ministry for the Diocese of Kansas City - St. Joseph. Brad and his wife Annamarie moved from Texas to Kansas City in the fall of 2022 with their two children, Lucas, and Jacquelyn. He has a passion for leading youth into a relationship with Christ and accompanying them on their faith journey. Brad is a self-proclaimed nerd.*

*He loves all things Star Wars, watching action movies, and is an encyclopedia of useless knowledge. In his spare time Brad teaches his kids how to wield a lightsaber, reads countless fantasy books and polishes off his dad jokes for a rainy day.*

### **Sam Geringer – Leadership Team**

*Sam Geringer is the Director of Youth Ministry for St. John LaLande in Blue Springs, MO. Sam started working as a summer staffer at Camp Savio in 2012. He became part of the leadership team in 2014.*



### **Tim Volk – Leadership Team**

### **Jeni Doolittle – Leadership Team**

*Jeni Doolittle is a wife and mother of 6. She has a great love for the Holy Rosary and her relationship with our Mother Mary. She enjoys the ever-new awe and wonder of family life and continually ponders the lessons of its joys and sorrows. Her vocations of spouse and mother are her primary priority and cause of joy. She has a deep desire to encourage others on their faith journey through retreat and camp experiences. She is particularly passionate about creating youth and family experiences that provide opportunities for participants to encounter the Lord. She hopes to help individuals create strong Catholic relationships and routines that will empower them to become active disciples. In her leisure Jeni enjoys silence, spiritual reading, nature, exercise and encountering others who are also on this journey to sainthood.*



### **DeLyne Knox – Leadership Team**

*DeLyne Knox has been involved with Camp Savio since its inception. She first began as Youth Minister at St. Patrick Catholic Church, and with the help of her sisters, grew the group to 30 kids. After that first year, DeLyne joined the Camp leadership team where she quickly became known as "the one who does the t-shirts" (and other marketing materials). She is excited to share her faith with the youth, and although she's always had strong people in her life showing her the faith, feels we don't give young people enough credit for being able to understand the tough stuff. Camp Savio is just that place. She loves seeing kids leave Camp on fire for their faith and return the next year with more friends, or even joining the staff! DeLyne works full time in Retail Marketing. She and her husband Troy have been married for 30 years and have 2 children, and one Granddaughter. She loves going to movies and spending time with her extended family.*

### **Fr. Etienne Huard – Chaplain**



## About Our Patron – St. Dominic Savio



St. Dominic Savio was born in Italy in 1842. Dominic was an ordinary boy with an extraordinary love for God. At the age of twelve, Dominic entered the school run by St. John Bosco. Everyone in the school saw from the way he prayed that this boy was different.

He greatly loved all the boys, and even though he was younger, he used to worry about them. He was afraid that they would lose the grace of God by sinning. One day Dominic began to feel sick and was sent home to get better. While at home he grew worse, instead, and received the last Sacraments.

He was only fifteen then, but he did not fear death. In fact, he was overjoyed at the thought of going to Heaven. Just before he died, he tried to sit up. “Goodbye,” he murmured to his father. Suddenly his face lit up with a smile of great joy and happiness. “I am seeing such wonderful things!” he exclaimed.

Dominic Savio appears to be the perfect patron saint for this age group. He entered John Bosco’s school around the same age campers are allowed to participate. He died around the same age as the oldest campers. Most of his active years as a saint were during his middle school years. We felt he would be easily relatable to the junior high school because of his age. While at school, he constantly challenged his peers to be better in their faith – something we also try to do with camp.

### Prayer of St. Dominic Savio

Dear Saint Dominic, you spent your short life totally for love of Jesus and His Mother. Help youth today to realize the importance of God in their lives. You became a saint through fervent participation in the sacraments, enlighten parents and children to the importance of frequent confession and Holy Communion. At a young age you meditated on the sorrowful Passion of Our Lord. Obtain for us the grace of a fervent desire to suffer for love of Him.

We desperately need your intercession to protect today’s children from the snares of the world. Watch over them and lead them on the narrow road to Heaven. Ask God to give us the grace to sanctify our daily duties by performing them perfectly out of love for Him. Remind us of the necessity of practicing virtue especially in times of trial.

Saint Dominic Savio, you who preserved your baptismal innocence of heart, pray for us.



# Our Mission

KCSJ Camps inspire youth to live as lifelong disciples by empowering them to form a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church.

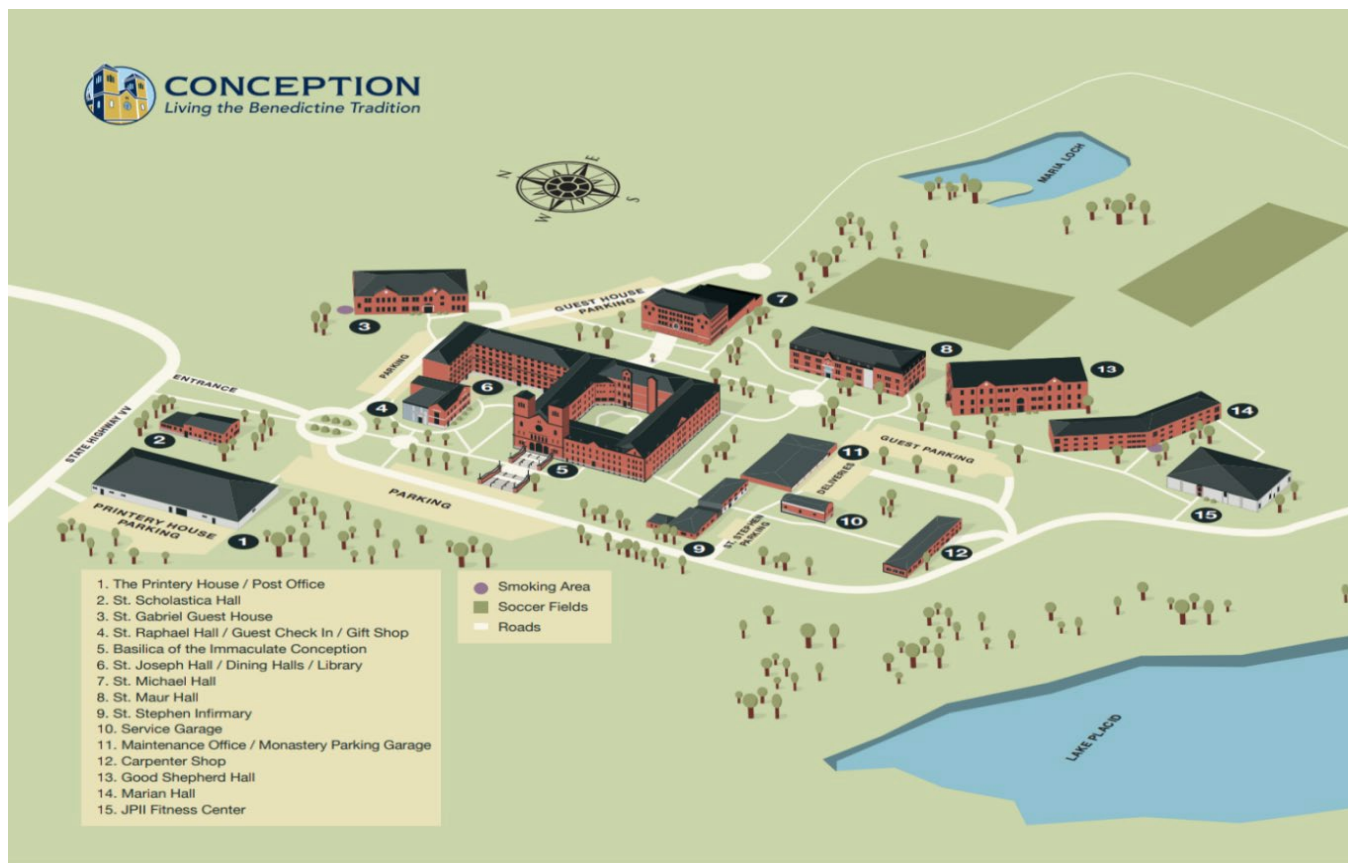
# Program Goals

1. Grow the personal relationship of youth to embrace Jesus' love and the Church.
2. Empowerment of youth to follow the inspiration and spirit of St. Dominic Savio to develop their spiritual formation.
3. Fostering participation in parish and diocesan youth ministry after the conclusion of camp

# Pillars of Camp Savio

1. Daily prayer - including daily Mass
2. Adoration
3. Small group time
4. Parish time
5. Fun

# Map of Campus



# Expectations & Responsibilities

## General expectations

An essential trait for any chaperone is a genuine comfort and desire to be with middle schoolers.

The four most important things to remember about being a good chaperone are: energy, a positive mental attitude, flexibility, and good leadership.

- **Energy** – You will be up before and go to bed after the campers. You will be present for every part of the week. It's up to you to make sure that your campers show up for breakfast, get on the bus, and to ensure they are ready for the next activity. You are 'mom or dad' away from home. You need to be able to keep up with it all with a smile on your face.
- **Positive Mental Attitude** – The mood of the group will be influenced by your attitude. If you're in a great mood, they will feed off your energy. If you're tired or frustrated, the kids will feel that and it will influence how they perceive their week.
- **Flexibility** – It is so important be able to calmly handle the changes that WILL come up, and to be mindful of expectations. The directors will do everything in their power to make things run smoothly, but changes will happen, and every chaperone needs to be able to roll with it.
- **Good Leadership** – Even though today's kids are so independent, they still look to adults for guidance, especially when they are out of their comfort zones. There are times when they get excited or upset, and having a calm, mature voice of reason is crucial. The Camp Leadership Team rely on the chaperones to respect and support the decisions that have been made, and the itineraries that have been developed.

You are a role model to the children in your group. Please act accordingly. Chaperones are to refrain from using negative or foul language, smoking on the property, leaving the campus at any time, using cell phones, or being a distraction in any way.

Chaperoning can be abundantly rewarding. Successful chaperones will form relationships with the campers and the other chaperones in your group. You might not have much downtime, but you will help to shape the lives of so many youth, to be there and share in some of their most memorable faith experiences. So **HAVE FUN!** Learn with your group. Your interest in the program is contagious!

## Responsibilities

The primary responsibilities of a chaperone while at Camp Savio are:

- Supervise students through all activities
- Help students come prepared for the day with a full water bottle, along with whatever is needed for the day (we will inform them the night before)
- Model positive behavior for campers
- Reinforce manners and proper behavior during mealtimes
- Assist with student supervision during evening programs
- Ensure proper behavior in the dorms
- Monitor the dorms throughout the night
- Enforce lights out

## Free Time Supervision

During free time, you will be assigned a location to help supervised the free time activities. Your role is to ensure all students are supervised, their behavior is under control, and that they are paying attention and following the instructions of the staff instructor. If a behavior situation occurs during an activity, in most cases the chaperone should take the involved camper(s) aside and address the issue. When the issue has been resolved, the camper may rejoin the activity.

During the activity, a chaperone may either be actively doing the activity alongside the campers where appropriate or encouraging them from afar. Either way, we ask that chaperones should be actively involved with the students and helping the instructor keep the students actively engaged.

## Dorm Room Supervision

Generally, these students are very excited and for many of them this will be their first time away from home without mom or dad. Therefore, the noise level in the dorms at night can often become an issue. As a chaperone it is important that you are understanding of this, but also know when to help the students settle down to get some sleep.

**NOTE:** The top floor of Marian Hall (the girl's dorm) houses the Abbey staff. Female chaperones should help the girl campers maintain a respectful noise level and not permit them to venture up to the top floor.

Snacks are NOT permitted in the dorm rooms! There are lounge areas in every dorm that will be designated snack rooms. We do this to promote communal interaction between the campers but, it also helps keep the dorms clean and bug/critter free. If you see a camper eating in their room, kindly redirect them to the snack lounge.

Rooms will be assigned to parishes. It is up to the group leader to assign specific individuals to those rooms. Every room will have two beds, except for a handful of boys' rooms, which have three. Please DO NOT allow campers to sleep more to a room than there are beds.

Each dorm contains communal bathroom spaces, but each shower has a privacy curtain. Chaperones should help the campers maintain proper boundaries and shower etiquette (particularly among the boys).

**NOTE:** To help make cleaning up on the last day go faster, it may be wise to ask campers to clean their rooms daily. This can also help campers learn how to live respectfully in a community space.

**NOTE:** All chaperone rooms have private bathroom and showers.

## Rest & Relaxation Supervision

We have built in time for the campers to rest in their rooms and take a break from the fast pace of camp. Many campers may grumble about being required to take time for rest or may have difficulty calming down. Chaperones should guide campers towards the following activities: napping, praying/journaling, reading, playing cards, or talking quietly amongst themselves. Our Camp Staff will also provide writing materials for campers to write thank you cards to the Abbey monks & staff.



# Schedule

## Prior to arrival

Our goal is for the youth to return to their parish knowing some adults they can turn to for faith advice. Your relationship with them at camp will grow even deeper if you get to know them before camp starts. We suggest you have a pre-camp gathering to get to know the names of your campers.

## Arriving at Camp

When you arrive at camp, our friendly staff will be on hand to welcome you. They will help you take your luggage to your room. The boys' dorm is located on the top two floors of St. Michael Hall and the girls' dorm is located on the bottom and middle floors of Marian Hall. We invite you to spend as little time possible getting your room set up so you can join us on the quad for fun games, snow cones, and a camp tour.

**NOTE:** Camper will receive their small groups assignments upon arrival. These groups are final and will not be changed.

## Chaperone Meetings

Chaperone meetings will happen daily. We will give you the schedule, talk about the reasoning behind some of our activities, and get feedback from you on how camp is going. If you have a question or concern that is specific to you, please come find a member of the Leadership Team at the conclusion of the meeting. This will keep the meetings from running long. We also ask that you do not share the schedule with the campers for a few reasons.

1. Sometimes plans change at the last minute. Rain, the movement of the Holy Spirit, changing of priests' availability, and more - all reasons why our original schedule might change.
2. If a camper knows what is happening next, they might be focused on the next activity rather than living in the moment.

## Sessions

Every day we will gather as a camp to for a musical pump-up and to hear a talk on the yearly theme. We invite you to dance and sit with your campers in the main section. Not only will this help the campers from talking during the session, but it will also help you bond with your campers. If you are unable to sit on the floor a chair will be provided for you.

**NOTE:** the gym floors are very squeaky and cause distractions when walking during the talk. Please help remind the campers to use the restroom before the session starts to minimize the amount of movement during the session.

## Parish Pow Wow

At the end of every day, you will gather as a parish group. This is your time to discuss what the campers learned that day as well as discuss how to bring this back to your parish. This session will be led by your parish group leader. As you dismiss your campers from Pow Wow remind them to be respectful as they make their way back to their dorms as other groups may still be meeting.

## Activities

Every day we will have different activities. Sometimes we need to space the same activity out over multiple days, however every camper will get the chance to experience every activity. (e.g. Suzie might play bubble soccer on Tuesday, but Jimmy won't play until Friday). During free time, campers may choose any activity that is open. We will announce the open activities prior to each free time.

### List of activities and their locations

- Bubble Soccer - Soccer Field
- Tricked out Trikes – Parking Lot in front of Basilica
- Archery Tag – Across the road from the JPll Fitness center, next to Lake Placid
- Paintball – Water Tower
- Mud pit – Across the road from the water tower
- Gaga Ball – JPll's Playground
- Giant Games – JPll's Playground
- Human Foosball – Behind the JPll Fitness Center
- Low Ropes – St. Joseph's Workshop (these may only be used during official times)
- Craft Time – inside the JPll Fitness Center (furthest racquetball court room from entrance)

**NOTE ON LOW ROPES:** Team building programs are designed to take students out of their comfort zones and present them with challenges that they will only succeed at by working together as a group, therefore most groups fail during their first couple attempts. This can be very hard for most parents to watch, but it is very important that your child is allowed the opportunity to fail, pick themselves up, try again, and finally succeed without you jumping in to help them. Our Camp Staff has been trained and certified on leading these activities. Your job as a chaperone is to be there to support the campers safety-wise as instructed, but to step back and let the campers accomplish the obstacles by themselves.

## Meals

Meals are their own fun and exciting portion of camp. To help everything flow smoothly, please patiently line up outside the cafeteria. The doors to the cafeteria will be opened by the staff when the kitchen is ready. We invite you to spread out amongst the campers and sit with them. Eating and waiting in line together are the perfect time for relational ministry!

Campers are encouraged to take only what they will eat from the serving dish. We will announce seconds once everyone has gone through the line and ask that no campers come up for seconds until the announcement is made. Sometimes it may appear as if everyone has gone through the line, but we are waiting on people who haven't entered the cafeteria yet.

**NOTE:** If you or one of your campers has a food allergy that was not addressed on the registration form, tell one of the Camp Leadership Staff and we will address it with the Abbey Kitchen Staff Head Chef. Please DO NOT ask one of the Kitchen Staff servers.

## Leaving Camp

Campers are expected to clean their rooms back to how they were when they arrived. It is up to you to make sure the rooms are sufficiently cleaned before they can leave. Once you have confirmed a room is clean have the campers place bag and all their belongings on the wall outside their door.

# Camp Savio Policies

## Stewardship Policy

The monks at Conception Abbey have graciously opened their home to us for the summer. To show our appreciation for their generosity and hospitality we ask that as a chaperone you assist us in helping the campers keep Camp Savio a clean, safe, and pleasant place to study and live. Campers will be expected to clean up after themselves but will need gentle reminders to be aware not to disturb the monastic life of the monks when near their cloister & prayer spaces.

## Safe Environment Policy

All chaperones are required to be Virtus certified in the Diocese of Kansas City- St. Joseph. This includes:

- Current Protecting God's Children Training
- Completion of the Mandated Reporter Training
- Certified background check
- Reading and acknowledging Ethics and Integrity in Ministry (EIM) Code of Conduct Policy

**NOTE:** Any adult who is not up to date on their Virtus Status OR did not register for Camp Savio will not be permitted to participate as a camp chaperone.

Chaperones and campers are not permitted to drive any camp vehicles unless given permission by the Leadership Team. Camp vehicles are to be driven by members of the Leadership Team and other staff members who have been given special permission – such as the camp photographer.

If you need to step away from camp for any reason inform your parish group leader and a member of the Camp Leadership Team.

## Reporting Abuse or Neglect of a Minor

Abuse of a minor or a vulnerable adult is a crime that cannot be tolerated. Church personnel have an ethical responsibility and are required by state law to report suspicions of abuse or neglect.

When you have reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or neglect of a minor, you must report:

1. To the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at **1.800.392.3738**, if the victim is under the age of 18.
2. To local law enforcement or **911** if you believe a child is in immediate danger.
3. To the Ombudsman – **816.812.2500**, if the report involves a Diocesan employee, cleric or volunteer.

All reports pointing to criminal behavior will be reported to the proper civil authorities. Diocesan personnel are expected to fully cooperate and not interfere in any civil or internal investigation.