

## Planting Seeds, Growing Hope 2016

**Drop Off: Sunday, July 17, 2-4 PM**  
**Pick Up: Saturday, July 23, 9:30-10:30 AM**

May 30, 2016

Dear Campers,

Hi there! Our names are Liz and Marcia, and we are the deans for your week of Pilgrim Lodge (PL) this summer. Our week – from July 17 to 23 - is called “Planting Seeds, Growing Hope.” We have been meeting for months and months to plan our week together at camp and we’re ready to go. We have a whole team of wonderful counselors who are excited to meet you. Now all we need is YOU! We can’t wait to see you at camp!

We both went to summer camp for the first time when we were your age, so we know what it’s like to get ready for your first week ever, and how exciting it is to return if you’ve been before. We loved camp so much that we’ve never stopped going! Here is some information to help you as you’re getting ready for our special week. When you first arrive at PL, you will be greeted by camp staff who will show your driver where to unload your bags, park the car, and find us to get signed in for the week. You’ll then check in with the camp staff, the nurse, and then us! We’ll be waiting to greet you and tell you what cabin you will get to stay in. You can then head to your cabin, meet your counselor, and set up your bunk...and the fun begins!

At camp we have all kinds of fun activities like doing crafts, playing games, going swimming and boating, and learning about nature. Our activities also include talking about our theme for the week. **This summer’s theme is “Courage in Community.”** Throughout our week we will be sharing our experiences of how God’s presence and love offers courage to each of us and as a group – courage to show up, trust, forgive, stand up to do the right thing, and the courage to do justice.

Every summer Pilgrim Lodge takes part in a special mission project. This summer we’re supporting a program called “Daisy’s Children” which operates a daycare center where children from a rural community in Honduras can access food, education, safe drinking water and health care. This project was founded by a courageous woman from Maine who took action when she learned that children were often not getting enough to eat. To support this project, we are invited to collect and bring donations of **money, children’s vitamins, lice shampoo and children’s Tylenol**. This is a great opportunity for us to reach out to our family, neighbors, or friends at church to invite a wide community to be part of this important work. (Grown-ups of campers, you can put donation dollars in your camper’s store account when you register your camper on Sunday.) For more information you and your parents can check out the website for Daisy’s Children at [daisyschildren.org](http://daisyschildren.org).

On Thursday night we are going to have our **COURAGEOUS CHARACTER CELEBRATION!** We will celebrate courage by dressing up as a favorite courageous character. This can be someone that you know and admire from your own life or maybe

you'd like to dress up as Kid President or Commander Chris Hadfield, the astronaut. Perhaps you'd like to be Judy Hopps from Zootopia or a superhero - maybe even one that create yourself! Whatever you choose to be, we want it to be simple, silly, and especially fun.

In addition to the list of things to bring that you received when you registered, **please bring a plain, white, cotton tee-shirt** and we'll make it *beautiful*. Tie-dying is a very fun camp tradition - we'll provide the dye, so bring your shirt! (If you missed the packing list, go to page 9 of your Camper Guide: <http://www.pilgrimlodge.org/document/PLParentCamperGuideYOUTH.pdf>)

On Sunday, July 17, the day you come to camp, please arrive between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. We'll be ready and waiting for you. Your family can stay and help you get settled into your cabin until 4:00.

On Saturday, July 23, the last day of camp, your family will **pick you up between 9:30 and 10:30 am. Beginning at 9:30 we will be having a special closing program** right in the lodge that **your parents are invited to attend if they wish**. They'll get to hear about what made our week together so special.

So pack your suitcase (don't forget your favorite stuffed animal to make your bunk cozy!), get excited, and we'll see you at camp on July 17th. We can't wait to meet you and spend a great week together at Pilgrim Lodge!

See you soon!  
Deans Liz and Marcia Charles

**P.S. to PARENTS: The camp office asks that the balance of your fee be paid by June 15. Thank you!**