

Hello Campers and happy 2018!

In just two weeks we'll gather together for another glorious year of Arts Alive! If you are returning, welcome back! If this is your first year, I am sure you'll find Arts Alive to be a welcoming and kindhearted week of both friend-making and art making! This letter is to give you an idea of what the week will be like and offer a list of things to remember to pack for camp! (and what not to pack too). My name is David Clark and this is my third year Deaning Arts Alive! I'm excited to get at it!

At Arts Alive our primary reason for gathering is to celebrate and nurture the creative Divine spirit of God that can be found all around and in us, all the time. We recognize we are all creators too, giving form and substance to the world as we experience it. But it doesn't end there – we also believe that creators should have venues and opportunities to both showcase their work and the chance to be an audience and see what others are creating and celebrating that work too. Whether your medium is the written word, theater, music, or visual arts, we want to offer each other support and encouragement in our creative endeavors!

On Sunday the 24th when you arrive, you'll receive your cabin number, your Family Faith Group, and you'll sign up for your workshop. Each workshop focuses on a specific style of artistic expression and meet each day throughout the week. Some options are visual arts, instrumental music, and theatre, just to name a small handful.

Family Faith Groups are small groups with a couple counselors leading. Family Faith Groups play games, do activities and projects together, and spend time with our week's theme. Did you know there are a total of seven different Creation stories/allusions in the Hebrew Bible and New Testament? In our week together, we'll look at five of those stories and explore what they might have to teach us about our art: Creation by Intellect, Creation by Getting Messy, Seasonal Creation, Daily Creation, and Creation from Destruction. Your Family Faith Group will also lead the rest of the camp in either a Chapel or Vespers service on one of these themes.

On Wednesday we'll have our big all camp cookout with campfire, then on Thursday we'll have a dress-up dinner and party, and on Friday we'll wrap up the week with Arts Alive On Stage! This is our chance to have the spotlight and share our gifts and talents with each other. This is what the whole week builds to! There will be music, art, theater, comedy, dance, monologues, everything!

On the next page, you'll find a list of Things-To-Pack and a list of Things-Not-To-Pack. They are very helpful lists! If you have any questions please don't hesitate to drop me a line! My email is below and I'd look forward to hearing from you. As always, Arts Alive is a beautiful, sweet, silly, and exciting week and I'm happy we'll be gathering so soon!

Start the countdown!

See you soon,

David

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Things-To-Pack:

- II Clothes for each day and PJs for each night! (A bit obvious I know, but all reminders can be helpful!)
- II Warm PJs
- II Warm clothes for daytime wear
- II Bathing suit
- II A rain jacket or poncho
- II A white shirt to tie-dye (or other piece of white clothing)
- II At least one pair of closed toed shoes: sneakers or similar
- II A set of nice or fancy (or downright silly) clothes for Thursday night
- II Pillow & pillowcase
- II Bedding (either sheets or a sleeping bag)
- II A towel for swimming and a towel for showering
- II Soap & Shampoo
- II Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- II A notebook & writing utensils
- II Water bottle or travel mug
- II A book to read
- II A Bible
- II Flashlight
- II Bug spray
- II Sunscreen
- II Money for ice cream and the camp store

Things-Not-To-Pack:

- II Anything not easily replaced if lost or damaged. We are careful with each other things, but this is camp and mistakes do happen. We recommend leaving anything of value, monetary or sentimental, safely at home
- II Cellphones, laptops, DS, Switch, any and all gaming systems and devices with mobile data abilities. **We do though allow exclusive music players at Arts Alive** for in cabin time and before bed. However, cellphones or tablets with music on them and music players (ipods) with mobile data abilities are not allowed.
- II Food and snacks. If you have special dietary needs, please be in touch with the Pilgrim Lodge office. Because of animals and pests in the cabins, we ask you leave food at home.
- II Pocket or Swiss Army knives.