

Planting Seeds, Growing Hope 2017

Drop Off: Sunday, July 9, 2017, 2:00-4:00 PM
Pick Up: Saturday, July 15, 2017, 9:30-10:30 AM

Dear Campers,

Hi there! Our names are Liz, Marcia, and Erin and we are the deans of the week called “Planting Seeds, Growing Hope” from July 9-15. We get to bring all of the awesome counselors and plan the activities that make our week at camp so fun and special. We prepare all winter and spring to be ready for our time together. Now all we need is YOU! We can’t wait to see you at camp!

All three of us 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! There are lots of activities that campers who come to Pilgrim Lodge love: we have swimming and boating, crafts, nature exploration, singing, ice cream time and worship services. At “Planting Seeds, Growing Hope,” we also have some fun traditions that are unique to our week at camp. We grow our own plants to care for during the week, we make tie-dye t-shirts and have a dress up dinner in costumes. Every afternoon, we have “Mystery Hour” when anything could happen...games of kick ball, slime-making or theater games. There is something for everyone!

Our activities will also relate to this summer’s theme for the week: “Branching Out: Connecting Through Christ.” We will discover the importance of being connected to God, to Jesus, and to one another – how this makes a difference in our lives.

Throughout our week we will also participate in activities that will help us learn about this summer’s mission project, Tree Street Youth Center, which supports the youth of Lewiston-Auburn through programs rooted in academics, the arts, and athletics in a safe space that encourages healthy physical, social, emotional, and academic development while building unity across lines of difference. Campers, you can help in a big way by bringing donations from your families, friends and people at your church. [Mom/Dad, you can put donation dollars in your child’s store account when you register your child on Sunday] You can also bring items on Tree Street’s “wish list:” markers, colored pencils, crayons construction paper, drawing paper, fine art paper, coloring books, glue sticks, watercolor paints, acrylic (craft) paints, paint-brushes, beads/jewelry supplies, pipecleaners, paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, napkins, cups/plates/plasticware, garbage bags, liquid hand soap, hand sanitizer, band-aids, rubber gloves, disinfectant spray, cleaning supplies. For more information you and your parents can check out the **Tree Street website at <http://treestreetyouth.org>.**

On Thursday night we will have our annual “**All God’s Critters**” **CELEBRATION!** Whatever you choose to dress up as (bring a costume from home or create something while you’re at camp), we want it to be simple, silly, and especially fun.

On Sunday, July 9, the day you come to camp, please arrive between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. 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! Your family can stay and help you get settled into your cabin until 4:00.

On Saturday, July 15, 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** that your families are invited to attend if they wish. They’ll get to hear about what made our week together so special.

In addition to the list of things to bring that you received when you registered, **please bring a plain, white, cotton t-shirt** and we'll make it *beautiful*. (If you missed the packing list, go to your Camper Guide: **(<http://www.pilgrimlodge.org/document/PLParentCamperGuideYOUTH.pdf>)**)

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 9th. We can't wait to meet you and spend a great week together at Pilgrim Lodge!

See you soon!

Deans Liz and Marcia Charles and Erin Shultz