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2022

MEGA

DAYS

Counselor and Support Staff Info Packet and Application

Hey High Schoolers -

We are so excited about MEGA DAYS for 2022. And we’re excited that you are considering being a part of our MEGA DAYS Servants Team. After 10 years of MEGA DAYS, we had an unexpected pause in 2020 because of covid. But in 2021 we had one of the best years of MEGA DAYS ever, and we hope to continue the awesomeness in 2022.

Here are some details: MEGA DAYS will be June 6-10, 2022. It is a camp just for students currently in 3rd-6th grades. MEGA DAYS is co-sponsored by the youth ministry and the children's ministry, and staffed by students and adults from our church family. High school students serve as our counseling and support staff for the week. We’ll take some parents of students in 3rd-6th grades to work as craft leaders, nurse, activities coordinator, etc. As a part of MEGA DAYS, students will get to participate in Bible lessons, crafts, games, swimming, games, devotionals, and friends. MEGA DAYS will take place at a camp called Waters Edge (which is different than Forest Glen – MEGA DAYS was at Forest Glen from 2010-2018.) Waters Edge is about 2 hours east of B/CS near Crockett. (Counselors and staff may need to be available on June 5 if we are able to go to camp to decorate and make final preparations for camp.)

Counselors will have a group of students that he/she would be responsible for during the week. Each counselor will have a co-counselor. Support staff will help Monty and Heather and Jenni with running the events for the week. We do not know how many campers will come to MEGA DAYS this year. It could be a normal amount…it could be higher or lower than normal. The number of campers matter because we can only take a specific number of HS students, and it is based on how many campers sign up. Regardless of how many counselors and support staff we are able to take, if you feel led to apply to be a part of this week, please do. It’s a great opportunity for you serve God by sharing his love with younger students. And we’ll do our best to take as many high school students as we can.

MEGA DAYS began in the summer of 2010 with the goal of taking upper elementary students to camp. The first ten years were incredibly successful. As we look forward to MEGA DAYS 2022, we pray that God will help us reach out to elementary students with His love and help them to know His Word. In the coming weeks we will be posting information about MEGA DAYS on the youth website for parents of elementary students to read. Feel free to look at this information to learn more about the camp or ask Monty or Heather anytime. You can also go to www.amyouth.smugmug.com and see pictures from MEGA DAYS from past years.

If you are considering applying for MEGA DAYS, we ask you to spend time praying about this before you make a final decision. It is mucho importante that you do not just sign-up because you think it is a good idea…or because your friends are signing up…or because your mom or dad told you that you need to sign-up. Rather, we want you to sign-up because you want to serve God and you feel like God is opening a door for you to be at MEGA DAYS. God will use faithful high schoolers in powerful ways to share His love with elementary students. But it is very important to us that our high school students are truly living for God. You can not be an example of how to live for Christ if you are not living for Him yourself. That means: you are seeking to grow in Christ; you are trying to live your life in a way that glorifies Him; you are not involved in sinful behaviors or actions; you seek ways to worship Him and encourage others. We’re not saying you have to be perfect – no one is – we all have our struggles and failures – only Jesus was perfect – but because you will be an example to younger students, your life needs to line-up with a desire to be Christlike. It’s not about perfection, but rather it’s about progression.

Additionally (and excitingly – if that’s even a word), there are some other things happening this summer as well. MEGA DAYS should not be your only involvement in youth stuff this summer. Therefore, we want you to know about Paint-O-Rama on May 31-June 2; High School Week on June 19-24; and High School Mission Trip on July 11-15 or maybe 16.

Here is what is involved in being a counselor or a part of the support staff at MEGA DAYS:

Our support staff (called DA’s or Directors Assistants) will work closely with Monty and Heather and Jenni making all of the events of Mega Days happen. You’ll work directly with the campers are many times throughout the day. Specifically you’ll step in at times like crafts and some game times and be leading students when the counselors may not be around. There are also other times when you’ll be helping us set-up or clean-up things for an activity. This is a serving role (just like being a counselor) and so you’ll need to be willing to work to make camp great for the 3rd-6th graders.

Counselors are responsible for a group of 3rd, 4th, 5th, or 6th graders for the 5 days of MEGA DAYS. This means you’ll be taking care of them and making sure they are okay throughout the whole week. You’ll have many opportunities to offer encouragement, to motivate and to have fun with your group of students. It will be a big responsibility, but it will be a great way to serve God by loving children. You will also help teach Bible lessons and help lead devos. Lots of our teaching will be done in a "big group" setting, and we will do the teaching during these times, but there are also some times when you will need to lead your group in lessons or devos.

For all counselors and support staff, your primary importance for the week will be your group of students. We will be putting their needs in front of our own. We’ll be doing our best to make sure they have a great week at camp. You will need to have an "others first" mindset in order to be a successful part of our servants team. And here is something you need to know: You really won’t have any "time off" during the week. Your entire time at camp will be spent with the students. It’s not a week to hang out with other HS students. It’s a week to serve. The elementary students are our priority for the week. It will be a busy week and it will be a hard week, but it will be a great week.

Sometime in late April or in May, we will have some servants team training sessions. All HS students must go through this training before they can go to MEGA DAYS. These will likely be on Sunday afternoons before Intersection.

Here are the requirements to be a part of the counseling or support staff at MEGA DAYS:

-Current 9th-12th grade student, involved with A&M Church of Christ

-Have a solid relationship with Christ

-Be striving for personal holiness in your own life. This includes not using profanity, alcohol, drugs or other similar behaviors.

-Regular church attendance and youth group participation

-Passing grades in your classes at school

-A willingness to spend time with elementary age children and teach them about God’s love.

-A willingness to put the needs of elementary students before yourself. This includes everything from making sure they have their food before you get yours...to not having your cell phone for the 5 days of camp. In all things the campers come first.

-A counselor should have these qualities: faithful, responsible, trustworthy, mature, outgoing, honest, patient, enthusiastic, caring, helpful, encouraging, POSITIVE. If these qualities are not a part of your life, you will probably not enjoy MEGA DAYS. Honestly, the being positive thing is huge. No complaining. No whining. This week is not about you…it’s about serving the Lord and helping encourage younger students.

A few final things to know:

It is our goal that every high schooler who wants to participate in MEGA DAYS be able to do so. Obviously, we don’t know how many elementary students will sign-up, and we don’t know exactly how many counselors we will need. The number of counselors we have will be based on the number of 3rd-6th graders who sign-up. We anticipate needing 6 HS guys and 6 HS girls as counselors for MEGA DAYS, and around 4 DA’s. Before you sign-up, please know that we will do our very best to be fair in the selection process. Maybe it will work out so that every high schooler who wants to go can go can go, but it might not. We will be prayerful about this process. This is not a youth ministry that shows favoritism, and we do not want it to start being that way.

In the event we have more high schoolers sign-up than we have spots available, students will be selected based on these areas: the answers given on the application, experience, church participation, seniority (grade level), and possibly the order in which the applications are submitted.

Counselor applications should be turned in no later than Sunday, April 10. They can be turned in to the Youth Box (in the Refinery across from High School room door.) We will contact the HS students who will be serving as soon as we can. The 3rd-6th graders will be signing up by early-May, so we won't have a final number of HS students needed before then, but we hope to have a really good idea. After we find out who will be the counselors and support staff for MEGA DAYS, we'll work with everyone's schedule to find the best time to meet together for preparation classes.

There is no cost for serving at MEGA DAYS. And just because you are nice, you even get a free t-shirt! Yea!

If you have read all of this info and you are interested in being a counselor or a part of the support staff at MEGA DAYS, fill out the application on the next two pages and turn it in to Monty or Heather or the youth box. (If you can’t print it off, let us know and we’ll print a copy for you.)

We look forward to a great year at MEGA DAYS, and we invite you to be a part of it!

MEGA DAYS 2022 Counselor Application

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Tell us some things about your relationship with God: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Have you been baptized yet? If not, are you thinking about it? (feel free to elaborate as much as you are comfortable doing…there are not wrong answers on this…just a chance to let us know about your walk with God.)

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What summer camps have you been to (church/sports/etc)?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
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When have you worked with children before? (list classes, camps, VBS, babysitting, tutoring, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Why would you like to be a counselor at Mega Days? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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What are some activities/characteristics/qualities do you think are important in a summer camp for 3rd-6th grade children? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What are some characteristics/qualities you think are important for a camp counselor or support staff member to have? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please read the following and circle yes or no:

Part of being a Mega Days counselor or support staff member will be to go through some training sessions in late April or early May. Are you willing to attend these training sessions? Yes No

Are you willing to help with group games, up-front singing, skits, activities, etc? Yes No

Are you willing to spend time preparing for camp by writing a letter to each of the students in your group before camp? Yes No

Are you willing to spend time studying and gathering supplies for Bible lessons? Yes No

Are you willing to work before camp to help prepare activities at camp? Yes No

Are you willing to put the needs of 3rd-6th graders in front of your own needs for the week of Mega Days? Yes No

Are you doing your best to live a Christ-like life? Yes No

Have you read all of the things in this packet on the pages before the application? Yes No

Is there anything in your life (behavior, hidden sin, attitude, etc) that would keep you from being a great example to our elementary students? Yes No

(continued on next page)

On the following list of things, rank yourself on a scale of 1-10 (1 being low and 10 being high.) But here’s the tricky part: your final total needs to equal 77. So that means this: 7 is the starting point for each question. If you are an 8 in one category, you need to be a 6 in another category to make up for the 8. Make sense? So if you put a 10 in one category, that means you need to find other categories for the extra 3 it took to give you a 10.

Feel free to ask family or friends if you need help knowing where to rank yourself. If you want to elaborate with some words or give an explanation to any of it, feel free to write on any of these.

No one is a 10 in all situations. Some things you are better at than others. Again, assume 7 is the starting point…and try to get the total of all numbers to equal 77…so…that would be like having a 7 on all things, right? Are you catching on? But you’re not a 7 on all things…although you may be on many. We’re just looking for areas where you feel your strengths are. Or weaknesses. If you need to start with a 5 on each of them and then go up in the ones where you’re particularly strong, that’s fine.

Spiritually Minded \_\_\_\_\_

Is spiritually minded - seeks to be Christ-like in all aspects of his/her life.

Appropriateness \_\_\_\_\_

Speaks, (no profanity) dresses, and behaves appropriately for whatever occasion.

Personality \_\_\_\_\_

Has a pleasing personality - is not abrasive and demanding with family and friends.

Responsibility \_\_\_\_\_

Is organized and responsible.

Group Work \_\_\_\_\_

Is able to work well in groups.

Respect \_\_\_\_\_

Has the respect of his/her peers.

Dependability \_\_\_\_\_

Is dependable - does what he/she says he/she will do.

Adaptability \_\_\_\_\_

Is adaptable to most situations. Flexible. Willing to change when needed.

Positivity \_\_\_\_\_

Has a positive outlook and encourages others with their words. Looking for the good in all situations, not complaining about things, not being negative.

Communication \_\_\_\_\_

Willing to communicate if there is an issue and/or be open with teammates/leader. Expresses themselves well.

Patience \_\_\_\_\_

Is patient in most situations.

Total for all numbers above: \_\_\_\_\_\_ (should be 77)

Turn this application in to the youth box no later than Sunday, April 10