

# WHY CAMP EAGLE?

## Who We Are

Camp Eagle's mission is to inspire Christ-like change through outdoor adventure, authentic relationships, and Biblical truth. Our ultimate vision is fully incorporated into our mission: we exist to inspire Christlike change through outdoor adventure, authentic relationships, and Biblical truth... to change the world.

## Why Adventure?

We see outdoor adventure as both an incredible opportunity in its own right and as a key to the other key elements of our mission: authentic relationships and Biblical truth. Our incredible 1400-acre property is nothing less than a gift from God, and we hope to steward it by opening it up to our thousands of guests in a unique way. At Camp Eagle, adventure takes shape in different ways: through high elements such as a 3000-foot zipline and massive rappels, to our beautiful trail system and waterfront area, and everywhere in between. Through these adventures, campers are stretched outside of their comfort zone as they overcome challenges and achieve individual and group goals. It's in this new zone, outside of the comfort zone, that relationships form and deepen between group members, and the truth of the Gospel can be encountered in a fresh way.

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## **Why Relationships?**

Groups come to camp in various stages of their growth process: a seasoned youth pastor will bring out a group of high schoolers that have come since sixth grade; a brand new leader comes for the first time with experienced campers; or any number of other circumstances. We've seen God work through all of these situations to strengthen the bonds within groups—camper to camper, camper to leader, camper to counselor—and send them back home to take on the rest of the year in a new way. Lasting, meaningful relationships are so crucial in building Christian community, and we design our programming to bring people together around the truth of our shared faith.

## **Why Truth?**

We live in a time where truth is often substituted for falsehoods that promise to bring us comfort, security, acceptance, or any number of other desires we may have from day to day. The reality of these lies, however, is that they can never deliver on these promises; instead, they lead only to death. As Christians, we know that God's word is truth, that the Holy Spirit is our Comforter, that our hope is secure in Him, and that we can be accepted into His family as children of God. The Gospel of Jesus Christ, the good news of His death and resurrection, ultimately informs all of the programming—and everything else—out at Camp Eagle. Our curriculum is centered around the fundamental truths of our faith: we have fallen short, but God has made a way for us in Christ.

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## **Our Curriculum**

As a camp, we've spent the last seven summers making our way through the entire Bible, from FamUnity all the way to Encore. In 2020, we're excited to cycle back around to the start and approach it in a new way with Story. Beginning with, well, the beginning, we have the opportunity to cause our faith's foundational stories—Creation, the Fall, the calling of Abraham, the life of Joseph, and more—to come alive to campers in ways they've never seen. Through this, we want to illustrate the story that God is telling with his people, and to share this amazing news: we're called to be a part of it!

## **Our Experiences**

The most distinctive element of our Group Camp programming is each day's experience, where a different passage of the Bible is brought to life through an interactive experience for the whole group. Each year, we work hard to construct lasting experiences that truly convey the powerful truths of scripture, rather than relying on the gimmicks, scare tactics, or emotional manipulation used in other environments. We believe the power of Scripture speaks for itself; we simply aim to showcase that power in a way that reaches everyone present.

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## Our Ministry

Nearly as important as the message itself is the presentation of that message. Camp is not affiliated with any one denomination; rather, we host groups from many different denominations all at once, and each one is able to have an experience suited to their needs. We accomplish this not by watering down our message or pandering to different groups, but by allowing time for groups to grow together on their own, to allow pastors and youth leaders to take the lead, and to focus on the truth of Scripture in our programming, rather than the latest hot button cultural issue. We believe that Biblical truth is found, first and foremost, in the Bible. Each day, groups will spend time reading the Word of God and discussing it with each other. Our philosophy of Bible Study at camp follows the 80/20 rule: campers should speak 80 percent of the time, with counselors and leaders only speaking 20 percent. Our staff act as facilitators of discussion, rather than teachers of scripture, allowing groups to handle the all-important responsibility of instruction in the way they see fit. In a similar way, we ask our dynamic speakers to connect the experiences with scripture in a way that invites further discussion among the groups. Rather than rambling or relying on shock value with their time on the microphone, they deliver concise, focused messages aimed at giving your group time afterwards to learn and grow with each other in a more intimate setting.

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## Our People

Our speakers are leaders who come from a variety of different churches around the state. They are chosen for their excellent speaking ability, of course, but just as important is their humility of heart and genuine desire to partner with this camp ministry in this unique setting. Rather than selecting speakers based on a big name, we bring out people who are committed to sharing God's Word and the truth of His saving power each time they step onto our stage. Like our speakers, our bands come from a number of areas in (and sometimes out of) Texas, and they provide a crucial component of our mornings and evenings at camp: time for worship. It's a big task to lead hundreds and hundreds of people in unified song each session, but we see the Lord work in incredible ways through this time over and over. Our college-age counselors are the heart of our program staff. Handpicked from universities around Texas and the rest of the country, our staff are servant-leaders committed to guiding your group through an incredible session of camp. Before the summer, we train them on everything from facilitating group development to deeply understanding the Scripture in our curriculum. They sacrifice their entire summer to come serve the Lord in the Texas hill country, and we equip them to give your group the best possible experience.

## So... Why Camp Eagle?

We are all in need of Christ-like change. We hope that you'll consider bringing your group to Camp Eagle to partner with us in the incredible ministry God has given to us. We want your group to experience our brand of outdoor adventure on the way to forming authentic relationships that are centered around Biblical truth. We pray for your group as you make the important decision of how to spend your time this summer, and we hope to see you rolling across our water crossing on opening day. May God bless you.