



Dear Parent,

Thank you for supporting your child in their desire to participate in Foundation Camp. It is important to understand that FC is not like any of our other camp sessions. The goal of the program is to equip Foundation Campers to be godly servant leaders with a lifelong eagerness to engage in the work of God at Living Waters and The Church. This means that expectations are much higher, the intensity is much greater, and the pace is intentionally relentless. FC-ers will be pushed to their limits as we stretch them out of their comfort zone to learn new attitudes and skills. All this means that FC students leave with a hard-won sense of accomplishment, great memories, and an opportunity to form friendships with other students who can be a positive influence on each other for the glory of God.

Our goal is not to make them into better people. Our goal is to help them become more like Christ. The key to becoming like Christ is cultivating the humility of Christ (Philippians 2.3-8)—the kind of humility that dies to self in order to put the interests of others ahead of their own. Humility is like a muscle that must be strengthened over time; the main exercises include learning to submit to authority and serving others sacrificially. Not exactly the kind of virtues that play well in our self-serving society.

During their three weeks at FC, (read below for explanation of three weeks), students will:

- Learn to study the Bible using the best internet-based resources.
- Learn to recognize how God is using relationships and circumstances in their life to conform them to Christ.
- Learn what it means to lead by serving in a variety of ways.
- Identify how God has hardwired their personality and spiritual gifts to serve Him in specific ways.
- Be trained to serve at camp in a way that reflects their gifts and abilities.

You should know that we are obligated to set the bar high. We believe that God has entrusted us with three treasures: the reputation of the gospel, the lives of people (mostly children), and the facilities and resources that are needed to carry on this ministry. We have a responsibility to in turn entrust these treasures only to those who demonstrate a high degree of maturity and responsibility. The reason FC lasts three weeks is because it often isn't until the second week of training that the true character of a student is exposed and the third week serving that their training begins to solidify. The extended duration gives us ample time, not only to train the students, but also to carefully observe, instruct and enable them to serve. At the conclusion of FC, students will be "certified" to serve at a level that is commensurate with the level of readiness they have demonstrated to us during the two week training of FC.

The evaluation process consists of five steps:

- Step 1: On the first day, the goals and expectations of FC are explained, and students are introduced to the evaluation process.
- Step 2: Each student is assigned to a team leader who is their primary mentor serving as our eyes and ears. It is their job to shepherd their students, to confront and encourage as needed.
- Step 3: Midway through FC, each student is given a mid-term evaluation that identifies strengths and weaknesses. The intent is to give them opportunity to improve in specific ways.
- Step 4: At the conclusion of FC, mentors meet with the FC directors to finalize their evaluation for each student. The conversation is intended to be honest yet constructive and encouraging. Students are informed as to what level of service they are ready for at camp, and are given other ideas for service at home, as well as in their local church, and community.
- Step 5: Each student is given a written copy of their evaluation so they can review it with their parents.

3 weeks

- Additionally, to enable the training during FC to take root in your child we are requiring them to implement their FC training for a week during the summer. During the application process they will be asked to give 2-3 options of weeks after FC that they would be able to serve. Our desire in implementing this third week is that your child will have an opportunity to practice what they learned during FC and solidify the work God is doing in their lives.
- Upon acceptance into the FC program, we will let you know which week (out of the options you selected) in which we will have you serve, so you can plan accordingly.
- **Important note:** If you only give one option and it is unavailable we will contact you about serving a different week. If none other is available, your child may not be accepted for that year into the FC program.

Partnership training model

- While FC is a tested and effective training grounds there are limitations on the lasting influence we can provide in the life of your child. This is why we view FC as a partnership with you, the parent, in the spiritual development of your child. FC is designed to equip your children to become godly lifelong servant leaders and Lord-willing there will be much spiritual ground plowed up and planted in their lives through the FC program. We ask you as the parents to continue this spiritual growth by watering and fertilizing the good work that God has begun in their lives. Our prayer is that we open the door for you to train your child to be servant leaders over the long- hall.

Two final observations

- First, Scripture is very clear that God has given every believer gifts that equip them to perform some critical work (1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 2.10). While humans may value one gift above another, God does not — and neither do we. Not every student is called to serve as a cabin leader. This is God's design, and we do everyone a disservice when we assign them to roles for which they are not suited. Being certified to serve in the kitchen or to maintain the facility is just as honorable as serving in the more "glamorous" roles as cabin leader or program facilitator. As a parent, you will encourage your child the most by applauding whatever role they are encouraged to fill.



- Second, there are some parents who have never sent their child away for three weeks before—one week maybe, but not two or three. This is a good time to loosen the apron strings to give them space to spread their wings. Students will be too busy to call. Unless it is a true emergency, we ask that you not call or visit. This part of the training is as much for the parent as it is for the child. This is your chance to learn to entrust your child's well-being to God.

NOTE: Please plan on staying for a 30-minute kick-off ceremony immediately following check-in on Saturday June 14 and a 45-minute closing ceremony on Saturday, June 28. It is very important for parents to be part of these ceremonies.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's participation in Foundation Camp, please let me know. Again, I thank you for encouraging your child to participate. We trust the Lord to do amazing things in these three weeks. We are counting on you to pray for us.

Your fellow servant,
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