



2017 CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Sponsored by VoX and the Illinois South Conference
of the United Church of Christ

INFORMATION PACKET

PARTICIPATION

Youth: *Three Great Loves: Love for Neighbor, Love for Children, Love for Creation* is for all youth enrolled in confirmation classes for the 2017-2018 program year and their adult chaperones.

Chaperones: Adults, age 21 and older. A minimum of 1 adult chaperone is required for each 7 or fewer youth participants.

Churches are required to provide male and female chaperones in proportion to the male/female break-down of their group (e.g., 2 male and 6 female youth = one male and one female chaperone.) This requirement is related to supervision in sleeping areas. Churches are encouraged to team up with other churches in their area to make this work. **If you are having a problem with this, please contact Christy Pursell at cpursell@iscucc.org, 618-654-2125.**

DATE & LOCATION

Friday, September 22 through Saturday, September 23, 2017
DuBois Center, 2651 Quarry Road, DuBois, Illinois 62831

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

The retreat begins with check-in at 7:00 pm on Friday evening. The program will begin promptly at 7:30 pm, so plan to arrive in time to get settled. **Participants should have dinner BEFORE arriving at DuBois Center.**

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be provided on Saturday. The retreat will conclude on Saturday, immediately following closing worship, with departure around 8 pm.

CONTACTS & IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

BEFORE the Event

Program: Rev. John Holst at pastor@zucc.org or (618) 997-5190

Registrar: Christy Pursell at cpursell@iscucc.org or (618) 654-2125

DURING the Event

Leadership: Sept. 22—23, Rev. John Holst (618) 579-4924

DuBois Center: On-Call Pager at (618) 791-6545

NOTE: Please use these "during the event" numbers only in case of an emergency. Participants and leaders will be out and about, involved in the program during most of the day and evening.

\$ EVENT FEE \$

\$60 - if full payment and all paperwork is POSTMARKED by Friday, September 8, 2017
\$65 - after this date

The event for each youth and adult participant includes one night's lodging, breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday, and program materials and activities.

REFUNDS

Refunds for registration fees are refundable **ONLY** if cancellation is received by Friday, September 8, 2017. There will be a \$10 administrative fee.

COVENANTS

Enclosed, there is a covenant for youth participants and a separate covenant for adult chaperones. Please take the time to review these carefully. All attendees, youth and adults, will be expected to abide by these. These covenants are to ensure the well-being of all participants and to emphasize our responsibilities toward one another. Please return a signed copy of the appropriate Covenant for each youth and adult with your registration materials, postmarked by September 8, 2017.

HOUSING

Housing will be assigned according to gender (males together, females together). Local church groups will be assigned together for overnight lodging when possible. Smaller groups may be combined within cottages. **Chaperones should work in advance with neighboring churches to ensure adequate supervision in male and female sleeping areas. If you are having problems with this coverage, check with Christy Pursell as soon as possible at 618-654-2125 or cpursell@iscucc.org.** Notes regarding arrangements for male–female sleeping area coverage should be sent with the Group Reservation Form so housing can be correctly assigned.

ADULT LEADERSHIP – SAFE CHURCH/CONDUCT VERIFICATION

The Illinois South Conference and many of our churches have adopted “Safe Conduct” policies as tools to help us provide the safest environment possible for those we serve. Implementation of these policies is on-going. We have instituted procedures for adult chaperones and other adult leaders involved in Conference-sponsored youth programs with an overnight component. Even though youth attend these events with chaperones from their own churches, they interact with adults from other churches in small group settings and, sometimes, in the sleeping areas.

HEALTH CONCERNS - VERY IMPORTANT!!

Local church chaperones are responsible for first aid and health issues for their participants. Chaperones should carry Permission to Treat authorizations for each adult and youth attendee and come prepared with basic first aid supplies. NOTE: The authorizations included on the “Registration & Health Information” form include this authorization. Be sure chaperones keep a copy for their use. In an emergency, the event coordinator will provide back-up supplies and support. We recommend that medications be kept by the church chaperones. It is the responsibility of the family and/or each local church to provide health and accident coverage for their and participants.

In addition to the Registration & Health Information form and Covenant, adult attendees need to submit the following:

1. Illinois South Conference Adult Volunteer Disclosure Form dated within the past 12 months.
2. State of Illinois, Department of Children and Family Services AUTHORIZATION FOR BACKGROUND CHECK or a completed background check that has been returned from the State, dated within the past 12 months. If your church already utilizes the DCFS system, a copy of a current report signed by the pastor, dated within the past 12 months, may be submitted, and an AUTHORIZATION FOR BACKGROUND CHECK WILL NOT BE NEEDED.

Start NOW to ensure that you have the report in hand by the September 8, 2017 deadline for forms. If you have questions about this procedure, contact the Christy Pursell, 618-654-2125, cpursell@iscucc.org

POLICY ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS

The possession and/or use of tobacco products is not allowed by persons under the age of 18 and/or **ANY YOUTH PARTICIPANTS**, even those who are 18 years of age or older, at any ISC-sponsored youth event. The use of tobacco products by adult chaperones is allowed only at designated times and in designated places. Smoking is prohibited in all DuBois Center buildings, within 15 feet of any building, or in the woods.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

The possession and/or use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs or controlled substances will not be allowed at any Conference-sponsored youth event or retreat. The one exception might be the provision of wine as an option during communion. This includes every participant and leader, youth and adult. Such activity is destructive to the spirit of Christian community we hope to build at all our youth events. The possession and/or use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs or controlled substances will result in the offending parties being sent home **AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE**.

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THINGS NOT TO BRING

Please **DO NOT** bring expensive or valuable items or lots of money or any of the items listed below:

Illegal drugs or controlled substances • alcohol or tobacco products • skate boards • fireworks • weapons (including knives & hand guns) • food for the bunk room (Bugs love it!) • clothing that promotes sex, violence, alcohol, drugs, etc. (e.g., NO Co-ed Naked, Budweiser, etc.) • inappropriate clothing – too tight, too short, too revealing • items that will detract from the event

Illinois South Conference and DuBois Center and their staff/representatives are not responsible for the loss, damage or theft of personal property.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT LIST (Do Bring)

- _____ Pre-packaged Snacks to SHARE with entire group in Oak Lodge
- _____ Comfortable clothes for two days
- _____ Two or three pairs of shoes and lots of dry socks
- _____ PJ's
- _____ Rain gear, sweaters, gloves and a jacket
- _____ Sleeping bag (or sheets & blankets) and pillow
- _____ Wash Kit (soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)
- _____ Towel and wash cloth
- _____ Bible
- _____ Paper & pens or pencils
- _____ Money to buy souvenir hats, shirts, etc. (optional)
- _____ Any extra \$\$ needed for the trip to and from the event
- _____ Any necessary medication (***Please be sure that the home church chaperone is aware of any medications to be taken and any special medical considerations.***)
- _____ All necessary forms
- _____ Camera (optional)
- _____ Twin, fitted sheet
- _____ Positive attitude