



YOUTH  
RETREAT

**SUMMER**  
*Splash*



# welcome

Summer Splash at Grace Adventures is a life-changing summer event for Middle School and High School students from around the Midwest.

We remove the responsibility of planning and running a youth retreat so that you can connect and disciple students in a safe and engaging environment away from everyday life. Let us take care of the scheduling, cooking, cleaning, and speaking so that your youth group can have fun and grow closer together and to God!

## Check-In: 7:00PM-8:00PM

- o Please have one leader prepared to handle check-in for your group.
- o Upon check-in, you'll receive Summer Splash booklets that contain the weekend schedule, campus map, activity options and more. Please distribute these to your students and leaders.
- o If you know that your group will be checking in after 8:00PM, please call our office so we can offer assistance with check-in when you arrive.
- o Please do not arrive before 7:00PM on Friday as our staff will be turning around our campus after a week of camp.
- o There will be two options for departure times. Either Saturday at 8:30 PM or Sunday at 10:15 AM.





# Final Attendance and Balance

## One Month Before:

If you have a good estimate of your girl/boy breakdown for your group, please send that information to Hannah Younglove, [hannah@graceadventures.org](mailto:hannah@graceadventures.org) so that we can maximize the number of attendees for the weekend for your group and others.

## Two Weeks Before:

- Please have all of your attendees confirmed online and inside of your group roster.
- All attendees (students and leaders) must have completed the online Health and Terms and Conditions forms by that date as well.
- Group leaders must pay their final balance.

## During Event:

While all activities and food are included in your reservation fee, it is a good idea to encourage your students to bring spending money for the Camp Store which will be open at different times throughout the weekend.



# Housing

Your housing assignment will be given when you check-in. One of our staff will direct you to your housing location.

Housing is assigned by Grace Adventures staff based on group size. Special requests may only be made if there is a need for handicap-accessible housing.

Attendees must bring their own bedding, including pillow, sheets, and/or sleeping bag. Most beds on our campus are twin size. All housing and buildings are smoke-free.

All housing units are heated and have bathrooms and showers located inside the building.



# Leader Information

## 1. VIRTUAL LEADER MEETING

Prior to the event, our team will send you a video orientation that contains a welcome from our staff, event orientation, and other necessary information about the weekend. Please watch this video and email us with any questions you have, [registration@graceadventures.org](mailto:registration@graceadventures.org).

## 2. SET EXPECTATIONS

Please set behavior and conduct expectations with your students before you arrive. You and your students will have a much more successful weekend when clear guidelines are set and communicated. Grace Adventures has a no-pranking policy.

Please set behavior expectations for your leaders as well. Group leaders set the tone for the weekend. Participation in sessions, activities, and small group time starts with you setting the example.

## 3. STUDENT-TO-LEADER RATIO

Grace Adventures does not require a leader to always be with every student, or a standard student-to-leader ratio. Your group must have at least 1 male and 1 female leader if you bring both genders. We recommend at least 1 leader for every 10 students.

## 4. BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

Building relationships with your students is an essential component of the Summer Splash weekend. Being intentional about reaching out to students, getting to know them, and having fun during activities will help make your retreat successful and impactful for the kids in your group.

Encourage your students to also build new friendships and relationships with each other. This weekend you and your leaders may spend as much or more time with the students than you will all year back at your church.

Our prayer is that God uses your relationships to touch the hearts of your students.

## 5. FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH GRACE

We program these weekends with an intentional focus on creating an environment and activities that will challenge and equip your students in their faith. We also want you to have a ton of fun!

Familiarize yourself with the weekend schedule, campus map, meeting spaces, and opportunities to connect with your students. Our goal is to remove barriers so that you can do ministry.



# Small Group Time

Small group time is your chance to dive in deeper with your students, process the main messages, and personalize the lessons to your church, group, school, and community.

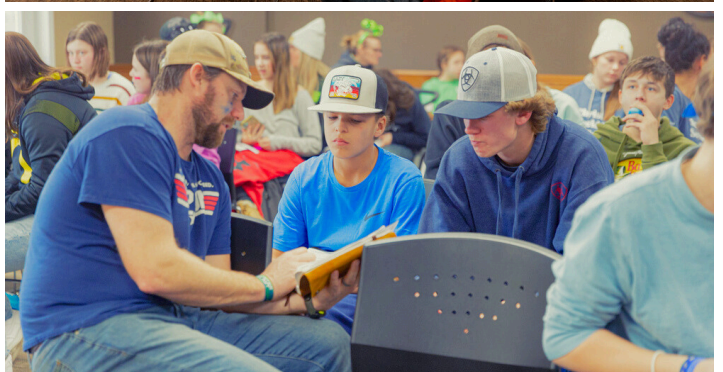
At check-in, you will be given discussion questions that go along with each main session. These questions are designed to be a guide to direct conversation with your group, but feel free to add or subtract questions based on where your conversation and the Holy Spirit leads you.

During small group times, you are the facilitator of the discussion and helping to connect the messages to the student's lives in their church, school, and family. Use this time to explore what is most interesting or connects the most with your students.

This is also the time to challenge their understanding and assumptions to get them thinking more about their relationship with Jesus Christ.

You may find it helpful to ask questions based on this familiar pattern of facilitation:

- What? – Ask your students what they heard, saw, learned, or experienced.
- So What? – Find out why that lesson/aspect was important to them.
- Now What? – Allow your students to connect the lesson they learned to how it can be applied back home in their relationships with God, friends, parents, or community.



# Sample Schedule

## FRIDAY

- 7:00PM Registration /Move-In / Free Time
- 8:15PM Session 1
- 9:30PM Small Group Time
- 10:00PM Late Night Free Time
- 12:00AM Lights Out

## SATURDAY

- 8:30AM Breakfast
- 9:45AM Session 2
- 11:00AM Small Group Time
- 11:30AM Large Group Event
- 12:30PM Lunch
- 1:45PM Waterfront Free Time
- 4:15PM Afternoon Activities
- 6:00PM Dinner (Pack & Clean for 1 night attendees)
- 7:15PM Session 3
- 8:30PM Small Group Time (1 night attendees depart)
- 9:30PM Late Night Free Time
- 11:30PM Quiet Time
- 12:00AM Lights Out

## SUNDAY

- 8:30AM Breakfast/ Pack & Clean
- 9:30AM Session 4
- 10:15AM Depart





# Packing List

- Bedding (sleeping bag/sheets and pillow)
- Toiletries (including towels, comb or brush, toothbrush, toothpaste)
- Warm, outdoor, comfortable clothes
- Modest Swimsuits
- Pajamas, underwear, lounge clothes
- Bible, notebook, pen, highlighter
- Closed-toe shoes
- Flashlight
- Spending money for Camp Store

## MEDICATION

Any necessary medication should be kept by a leader in a safe and secure place where students can't access it. Grace Adventures does not store or distribute medication.

## DO NOT BRING

Alcohol, Tobacco, Marijuana, Firearms, or Weapons

Non-Prescription or Illegal Drugs

Fireworks or Prank Items

Pets

# Connect, Share, and Tag Us



/GraceAdventures



@grace\_adventures\_mears



/GraceAdventuresVids

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **1. WHAT DOES THE REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDE?**

In short, everything! The registration fee is all-inclusive. All housing, meals, and activities are included. The only extra money you may need is for extra snacks and drinks or apparel at our Camp Store during the weekend.

## **2. IS WI-FI AVAILABLE DURING THE RETREAT?**

Because of the beautiful and remote area that surrounds us, we are only able to offer Wi-Fi to our guests during their stay on a limited basis. We encourage you to disconnect from the internet and enjoy time with the students and leaders in your group.

## **3. WHAT IF ANY OF US HAVE SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS?**

We are happy to accommodate some dietary needs and restrictions that our guests may have. We are pleased to offer Gluten Free, Tree Nut/Peanut, Dairy, and Vegetarian menu options. If your allergy/dietary needs fall into any of these four categories please inform us at least one week prior to your experience by mentioning those needs on your online Health Form. If your allergy/dietary needs exceed those listed above, please contact our Food Service Manager, Gail Salazar, at [gail@graceadventures.org](mailto:gail@graceadventures.org) or 231-873-3662 to make arrangements to bring your own food with you.

## **4. HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN COME TO SUMMER SPLASH?**

Our capacity for each weekend is 230 people.

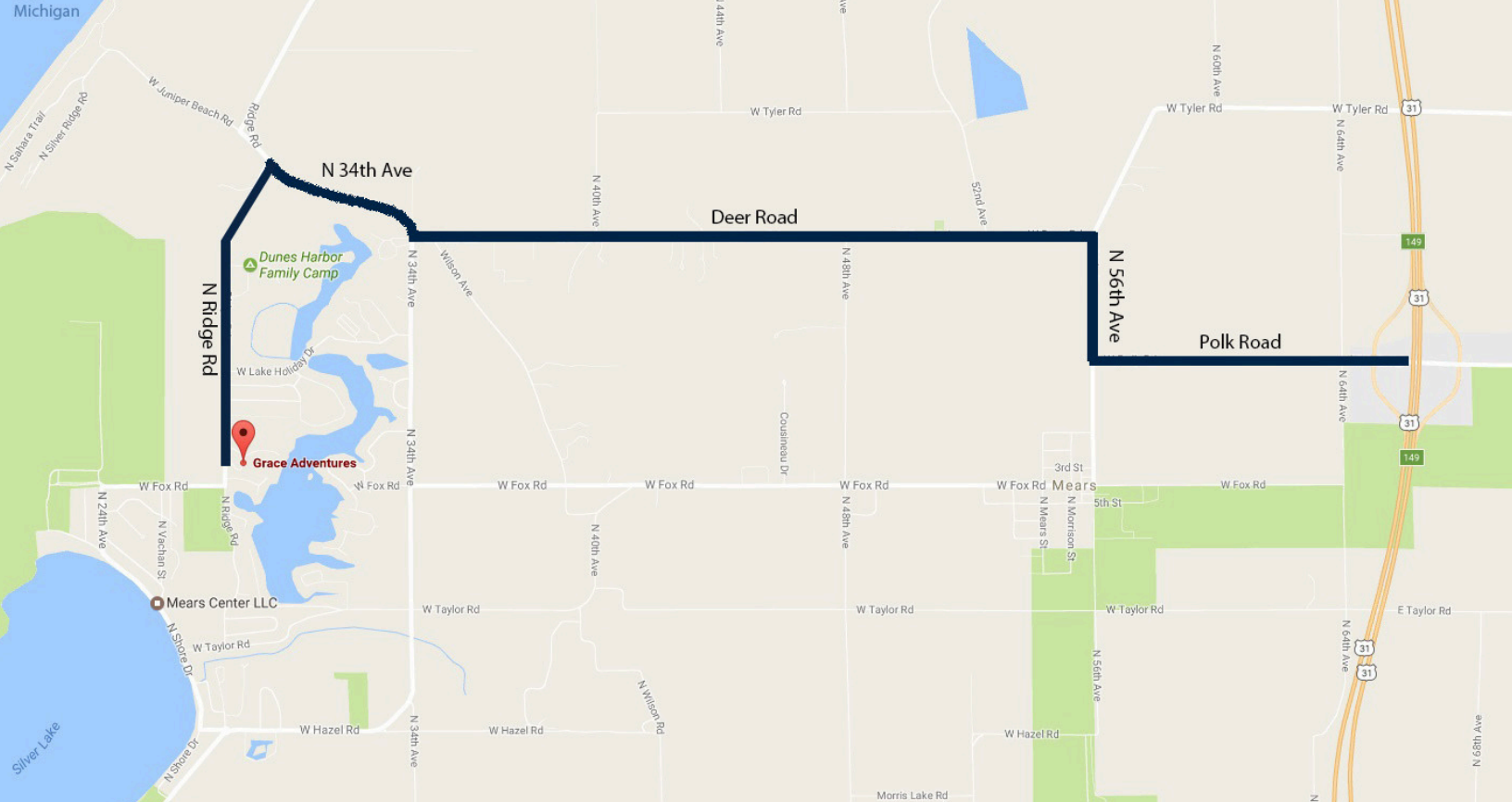
## **5. ARE YOUR BUILDINGS HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE?**

Many of our buildings and housing units are handicap accessible, but not every housing unit and activity site. We have paved sidewalks that go between the main session space, gymnasium, Lakeview Commons dining center, the Lodge housing unit, and the Retreat Center housing unit. There is a significant amount of walking required to get around campus. If you require handicap accessible lodging or accommodations, please let our staff know ahead of time so that we can plan for those needs.

## **6. WHAT SHOULD WE DO IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY?**

In the event of an emergency, please call 911 and inform a Grace Adventures staff member. Make sure you have the proper insurance, medical information, and releases for each student. At the leader's meeting, you'll be given more information on how to reach a staff member at any time. The nearest hospital is Mercy Health Lakeshore (72 S State St, Shelby, MI 49455).





# directions

Grace Adventures is located about 35 miles north of Muskegon, 20 miles south of Ludington, and 80 miles northwest of Grand Rapids. Grace Adventures is on Upper Silver Lake, almost 7 miles west of US-31.

## Traveling from Grand Rapids

Follow I-96 West toward Muskegon and take the exit for US-31 North toward Ludington, then follow US-31 Northbound to the Hart/Mears (Exit 149). Turn left (west) and stay on this road until it stops (approx. 1 ½ miles) and follow the signs to the Grace Adventures campus.

## Traveling from Holland

Follow US-31 Northbound to the Hart/Mears (Exit 149). Turn left (west) and stay on this road until it stops (approx. 1 ½ miles) and follow the signs to the Grace Adventures campus.

## Traveling from Ludington

Follow US-31 Southbound to the Hart/Mears (Exit 149). Turn right (west) and stay on the road until it stops (approx. 1 ½ mile) and follow the signs to the Grace Adventures campus.

Grace Adventures    2100 N Ridge Rd. Mears, MI 49436    (231) 873-3662