

April 2024

Dear Parents,

We hope this letter finds you well. It's that time of year again and we are gearing up for another exciting and memorable summer at Higher Calling Ropes Camp!

Entering our 25th year, Higher Calling Ropes Camp continues to thrive under the leadership of Mike Douglass, Coordinator of Youth Ministry at St. James Parish in McMinnville. Since its inception in 2000, Mike has been instrumental in nurturing the camp's growth, which now draws teens from across the Archdiocese and neighboring states. Assisting Mike in camp leadership this year are Valeria Orosco, Patti Stritzke, and Emily Rastovich, with guidance from Christina Kosiewicz, who has been an integral member of the team since 2012.

We are pleased to welcome back Fr. Hans Mueller, pastor at St. Juan Diego Parish, as our camp chaplain. He will be celebrating our daily mass and leading a small group. Additionally, we will have several priests from neighboring parishes coming to offer Reconciliation during our Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Abra Cummings will once again provide musical accompaniment. Abra is returning for her 4th year as camp musician and leader. Stay tuned to hear who the keynote speakers will be!

Joining us again this year are professional coordinators of youth ministry and a dedicated group of chaperones, many of whom are parents themselves. All chaperones have undergone thorough background checks by the Archdiocese of Portland as well as comprehensive child protection training to ensure the safety and well-being of every camper. Together, we are committed to ensuring that your child has a memorable and safe experience filled with good, clean fun.

Higher Calling Ropes Camp takes place at Camp Yamhill. As you prepare your child for camp, please review the "What to Bring" list with your camper to ensure they have everything they need for a successful week. Appropriate clothing is an important part of safety on the rope's courses (especially longer shorts for when teens are in a climbing harness). Modesty is an important part of our faith and extends to clothes the campers wear on the ropes courses, in the cabins, and at the swimming hole.

It is essential that your child understands the camp rules and the consequences of breaking them, as it could result in early dismissal. By reviewing this information beforehand, we aim to prevent any misunderstandings or issues during the week.

We encourage you to send letters to your child while they are at camp. Letters sent via USPS should be addressed using the following format:

Child's First & Last Name
In Care of Camp Yamhill
19651 NW Old Railroad Grade Road
Yamhill, OR 97148

You can also email your child through Camp Yamhill's website (www.campyamhill.org) and they will receive a print-out of the email during our daily mail call.

Cell phones do not work at camp, but in case of emergency, you can reach your child by calling (503) 662-3710.

If you have any questions or concerns about the camp, please don't hesitate to contact us or your parish Youth Minister.

We are excited about the upcoming summer and the opportunity to create lasting memories with your child. Thank you for entrusting them to us.

In Christ,

Mike Douglass, Camp Director
Valeria Orosco, Patti Stritzke, and Emily Rastovich, Assistant Directors