

Camp WOW

Dear Counselor Applicant and Parent,

While the warmth and fun of the summer months seems light years away, it is nevertheless time for us to begin planning for the 18th annual Camp WOW on Tues., June 23 through Fri., June 26, 2015.

As you know, Camp WOW is a four day middle school summer camp for students from several local area parishes including St. Mary's in Sycamore, St. Catherine of Sienna in Dundee and Our Lady of the Wayside in Arlington Heights. It is the joint effort of these participating parishes that makes our camp so successful! More specifically, it is the leadership and guidance provided by the high school camp counselors that makes camp both a significant social and spiritual experience for the middle school students. Therefore, it is at this time that we are beginning the volunteer camp counselor recruitment, interview, and selection process.

Important Change: For the past couple of years, dozens of students have applied for a limited number of counselor positions, and while it's exciting to have so much interest in the camp, we are saddened to realize that many cannot be accepted due to our limited camp capacity. We anticipate the same situation this year. Therefore, it is important to note that, **due to the extraordinary number of candidates applying for counselor positions, we will be using a TWO-PHASE application process.** During Phase One, the youth ministers from all parishes will review all student applications and determine a select number of candidates to proceed onto Phase Two of the application process: Counselor Interviews. *Therefore, it is possible that not all students who apply to be a counselor will be granted an interview. In the event a student is not asked to enter Phase Two of the applicant process, he/she will be invited to continue their participation in their youth ministry programs at their parishes and applying for a counselor position next year.*

For your information, below we have listed some of the criteria we will use as we interview, discern, and select counselors for the 2015 Camp WOW. Specifically, we will focus on:

- A student's ability to work within a group;
- A steady pattern of involvement in spiritual activities including praying, reading of scripture, attending Mass every Sunday, and participation in Reconciliation;
- Active involvement in parish youth ministry events;
- Having previous retreat and/or camp experience;
- A student's ability to connect with and minister to middle school students; and
- Age-appropriate maturity and emotional/spiritual health.

Some parents ask about whether or not their student has a better chance at being selected as a counselor if a) he/she attended camp in the past or b) he/she has already been a camp counselor. In response, while having students with previous camp experience returning as counselors is a tremendous benefit to the program, our overall desire is to grow disciples of Christ through camp participation. Therefore, previous camper and/or counselor experience does not guarantee anyone of a counselor position. As we discern camp counselors, we aim to have a balance of introverts and extroverts, as well as counselors from different grade levels with different experiences. Students applying should also be aware that turning in their completed application on time and their attendance at the counselor training sessions will be considered in our selection process. **Be assured that every student who applies to be a Camp WOW counselor will be given full consideration as we value each and every one of them! They have been a blessing to our parishes and youth ministry programs!**

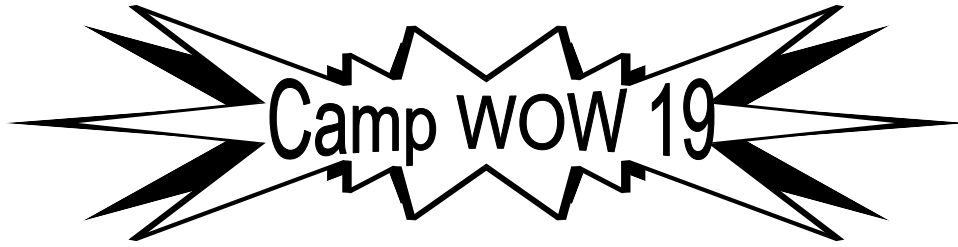
If you have any questions about this process or Camp WOW, please contact your parish youth minister.

On behalf of all the parishes involved in Camp WOW, we thank you for your support of our program. May God bless you and your family always!

Sara Blaser
St. Mary- Sycamore

Jessica Cranston
St. Catherine-Dundee

Kevin O'Connell
Our Lady of the Wayside ,Arlington Heights



Are you interested in applying to be a high school counselor at Camp WOW this summer? Camp WOW counselors consist of high school students, current freshmen through seniors, who are committed to serving Jesus Christ through a life of prayer, service, and by proclaiming His Gospel to MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS. The goal of Camp WOW is Catholic youth evangelism. This is done through skits, mimes, talks, games, discussions, prayer, and the daily example of a Christian lifestyle. Through word and action, counselors attempt to expose these young people to a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ.

Prospective counselors should have a personal commitment to Christ and an openness to growing in their faith. Additionally, they should have a desire and openness to sharing their faith with middle school youth, be spiritually and emotionally healthy, and free from serious wrong doing in their life.

What can one expect while being a Camp WOW counselor? Hard work, lots of fun, the support of a Christian community, a sense of fulfillment, spiritual challenge and personal growth, and the joy of affecting others lives in a positive way are just a few of the things you'll experience when you serve as a Camp WOW counselor.

**2015 TRAINING DATES (ALL TRAININGS ARE A VITAL PART OF THE COUNSELOR EXPERIENCE)
PLEASE CONFIRM WITH A CHECK MARK THE TRAINING DATES YOU ARE ABLE TO ATTEND!**

- ___ Sun., Feb. 8 @ St. Catherine, W. Dundee 2:00-4:00 pm
- ___ Sat.-Sun., Feb. 28 & March 1 @ St. Catherine's Dundee 3:00pm Sat.-1:00 pm Sun (Overnight)
- ___ Sun., Apr. 19 @ St. Catherine, W. Dundee 2:00-4:00 pm (Forms & Money due)
- ___ Wed., May 6 @ St. Catherine, W. Dundee 6:30-8:30 pm
- ___ Mon., June 15 @ St. Mary's Sycamore 6:30-9:30 pm

Here are some general facts about being a 2015 Camp WOW counselor:

- The camp will be Tuesday, June 23 through Friday, June 26
(Counselors will arrive at camp on Monday, June 22 @ 6:00pm).
- This year's application process is open to current freshmen through seniors. The number of counselors from each parish WILL BE LIMITED, thus the application process (see cover letter).
- You are expected to attend all preparation and training meetings. Let your youth minister know in advance if this is a problem (Attendance may impact participation).
- Prospective counselors are encouraged to support and participate in the various ministries offered at their churches to continue their spiritual development and community building opportunities.
- The deadline for applications (PART A and B) is Monday, Jan. 12, 2015.** Once your application is turned in, you will be contacted.
- The cost for this year's camp is \$140.00 for counselors. (The cost for campers is \$245.00). No money is due now. If you are selected as a counselor, money and reg. forms are due Sun. 4/19.
- Please review this application and discuss the commitment and dates with your parents.

Thank you again for your interest in being a camp counselor. If you or your parents have any questions, please call your high school youth minister.

Sara Blaser	Jessica Cranston	Kevin O'Connell
St. Mary-Sycamore	St. Catherine-Dundee	Our Lady of Wayside, Arlington Heights
815-895-3726 ext. 2	847-426-2217	847-253-5353 ext. 241

**CAMP WOW 19 – PART A
COUNSELOR APPLICATION**

DEADLINE: MON, JAN. 12, 2015

(Please print or type)

Name: _____ Student Cell (__) _____ Home Phone (__) _____

Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

Best Email : _____ Birth Date _____ Parish: _____

School _____ Grade _____ T-shirt size _____

Have you ever been a counselor or camper at Camp WOW in the past? How many years as a camper? How many years as a counselor?

Please state why you would like to be a counselor at this camp?

What leadership qualities do you have?

How does your faith impact your everyday life?

Please describe how you pray . Be specific.

Are there any activities (jobs, sports, plays, clubs, vacations, etc.) that would affect your ability to participate in the listed trainings or the actual dates for camp ? If so, how?

Student Signature

Date

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN A CAMP WOW COUNSELOR, OTHERWISE CONTINUE TO PART B ON NEXT PAGE:

What parts of the training helped you feel most prepared for camp? What can we improve on?

When, at camp, were you at your best? What parts could you improve on?

What advice would you give a new counselor?

Living out your faith in a public way is essential. Please share how you do this. (Be specific).

CONTINUE TO PART B

CAMP WOW 19 –PART B (Due Monday, January 12, 2015)

This form must be completed and returned with the application in order for the application to be complete.

By signing below, I understand:

By signing below, I understand:

- The commitment of time and energy my teen is making by applying to be a Camp WOW counselor;
- The selection criteria outlined in the application cover letter to be used by the youth ministers who will be reviewing applications, interviewing applicants, and selecting camp counselors;
- The parishes involved in Camp WOW anticipate many teens applying for camp counselor positions, thus not every teen that applies will be given an interview; and
- All who apply will be called by their youth minister concerning their application, and
- That *if my teen is invited to be a counselor, I will be asked to volunteer my time during camp.*

Consequently, I fully support my student's participation in this program and commit to helping him/her meet the counselor responsibilities as required. This includes, but is not limited to providing transportation to and from counselor training sessions and the camp itself, supporting their active participation in training sessions, and attending the camp in its entirety.

Print Parent Name

Parent Signature

Parent Cell

Parent Email

NEW INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Interviews are a vital part of the Camp WOW Counselor Application process. Both Kevin and one other youth minister/adult from the other parishes will be a part of each OLW interview. This is simply a time to have a personal conversation and discussion about what being a counselor is all about.

Please sign-up online for an interview time slot by following this link:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b4facad2ea75-camp1>

Interviews must be scheduled before turning your application (deadline Monday, January 12th. We caution you to please not wait until the last minute to schedule your interview just in case there is any tech issue.

Our Lady of the Wayside Interviews will take place on Wednesday, January 21st from 4:00-9:00pm and on Monday, January 26th from 3:30-9:00pm.