

CAMP PACKET

Junior Camp at Hartland August 9-14, 2009

Dear Parents of current 3rd, 4th and 5th Graders,

Junior Camp (for students entering 4th, 5th & 6th grades next fall) is **August 9-14, 2009**. I would like you to know just a few details about camp and invite you to consider registering your child for this spiritually enriching opportunity. The information below is designed to answer the most common questions parents ask about camp.

Why should my child attend camp?

Everyone needs spiritual benchmarks to make and remember their important life commitments. Camp is a place where big decisions for God are made. Camp is also where kids are motivated to follow through on those commitments. With junior age kids there is also the added bonus of learning how to be away from home for more than one night. The camp staff makes every effort to ensure a pleasant transition for the kids. And finally, kids think camp is great – the fun, the new friends, the new experiences, the fresh air. And everyone loves Mr. J and his band.

Who is Mr. J?

Mr. J and the Kid Possible Band will provide the Bible teaching and worship at Junior Camp 2 August 9-14. Mr. J is an experience every kid will love – and the counselors too. I call it an experience because it is not like any other children's Bible teaching. It involves the kids in worship and Bible study through the creative use of music, games, drama and story telling. Children will sing songs, play games, enjoy great skits and learn from God's word all at the same time.



Mr. J (Kurt Johnson) has a passion for junior age children and God has equipped him with an amazing gift to teach them how to love God with all their hearts. Kids will learn to dig into God's Word on their own, to encourage one another in their faith and to follow Him in every area of their lives. Learn more about Mr. J at www.kidpossible.com.

Who will be my child's counselor while at camp?

I believe the relationship between your child and his/her camp counselor is a major key to a positive camp experience. That is why I take the selection of counselors very serious. Our camp counselors are the best. I select them from the highest quality ministry volunteers in our church. They are usually adults or college students with proven character and ministry experience. We may use older high school students if they meet our high standards. Occasionally, Hartland Camp has provided a counselor when we needed one. All counselors are trained and expected to perform at the highest level of personal integrity and ministry proficiency. They are also required to live out their faith as an example to the campers. Every effort will be given to keep your child safe and provide a positive spiritual experience.

What about medical care while at camp?

Hartland Camp has certified medical personnel on site at all times during camp week to handle medical emergencies. Medication and treatment are only given by your written permission. Please, make sure all medications are listed on your child's **MEDICAL & LIABILITY RELEASE** form and sent to camp with me. All medications must be in their original packaging and clearly marked with your child's full name and full instructions to ensure proper dosage and treatment times.

Where is Hartland Camp located?

Hartland is just under 1 ½ hours drive from Porterville. The camp is located near Badger in the Sierra Mountains northeast of Visalia. The address is: 57611 Eshom Valley Drive, Badger, CA 93603. A map and driving directions are available on the camp website: www.hartlandcamp.com.

What about Transportation?

We will carpool to camp from PEFC at **1:30pm on Sunday afternoon, August 9th**. We will also carpool back to PEFC at **9:00am on Friday morning, August 14th**. If you are able to help with the carpool, please let me know right away so we can properly plan transportation for all campers. You are welcome to drive your child to and/or from camp on your own. However, please let me know of your plans to do so. This will help us plan our carpool. Also be aware that camp staff will not be ready to receive campers before 2:00 pm on Sunday and all children must be picked by 10:00 am Friday.

Can I communicate with my child during camp week?

Camp staff discourages phone calls from home to campers during camp week because they tend to prolong and intensify homesickness. In case of emergency, you can contact the camp office at (559) 337-2349 or (800) 2024024.

However, mail to campers is highly recommended. Kids love to get letters, postcards and packages at camp. In fact, if they get a lot of mail, they may have to sing before they can get it. That's always fun! Send your mail early in the camp week, or even a few days before camp starts to ensure that it arrives by Thursday (last day for mail call). Make sure you address it as follows: **Hartland Christian Camp**

**Attn: (Camper's name)
57611 Eshom Valley Drive
Badger, CA 93603**

What if we can't afford camp?

Register anyway! Our church has generous givers who would love to see every child who wants to go to camp actually be able to attend camp. When there is a need, we usually grant camp scholarships up to ½ of the camp balance. In some cases we cover more. We do require the \$35 deposit for all campers. However, we do not want cost to be the reason a child misses camp. So, if cost is the only barrier, please let me know and I will work with you to make sure your child can attend.

How do we register?

Below is a check list for the registration process.

- Look over this **Camp Packet** TODAY! **Take note the important dates and forms. Place the dates on your calendar.** Notice that the registration process begins with a non-refundable camp deposit. All children must pay this to be placed on the camper list. This amount is deducted from the camp tuition (**\$320**) and the difference becomes your initial camp balance (**\$285**).
- Submit to the church office **\$35 Camp Deposit** right away, or **not later than June 6**, to secure a spot. **Make checks payable to PEFC.**
- If financial assistance is needed, complete **Campership Request Form** and submit it with your camp deposit. Your request will be confidentially considered and you will be notified by mail of the amount granted.
- Complete **Medical Release** form and submit it to Pastor Rick Hart at PEFC **by July 12.**
- Submit **Camp Balance** amount to Pastor Rick **by July 12. Make checks payable to PEFC.**

More information is available at the Hartland Christian Camp website www.hartlandcamp.com for your convenience. There you can find what to bring, how to send letters to campers, a camp week schedule and much more.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. You can contact me at the church office by phone 783-2636 or email pastorrick@ocsnet.net or you may call me on my cell phone 361-8513.

Looking Forward to Camp Week,

**Rick Hart
Children's Pastor
Porterville E. Free Church**