



AGAPÉ CAMPFIRMATION

A dynamic, experiential way of presenting catechetical material. Learning is intensified and the community built and relationships forged are wonderful in helping your material mean something in daily experience.

2012



To learn more about Campfirmation offered by Agapé Kure Beach Ministries, continue reading this packet. If you have questions, please call Katie at 919.552.9421

**This collection of stapled pages is called
THE CAMPFIRMATION PACKET.**

**We ask that every
pastor and lay leader involved with the
program in any way
please read through these pages.**

**If you have questions,
please contact Katie.
919.552.9421
program@agapekurebeach.org**



WELCOME to the exciting world of Campfirmation. Agapé ☩ Kure Beach Ministries strives to provide the best quality camping experience around. Even if you are experienced in coming to one of our Campfirmation programs previously, please take the time to read through this packet, as some things have changed. We hope you are as excited as we are about the dynamic ministry of Agapé ☩ Kure Beach Ministries Campfirmation Camping.

PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE OF CAMPFIRMATION



Campfirmation provides the opportunity to present catechetical material in an experiential way. Learning can be intensified when in a place apart – away from everyday distractions, for increased amounts of time, and being presented in a fun and engaging way. Building intentional Christian community is key to forming a solid confirmation program at any church. Relationships between pastors, youth leaders and their youth will strengthen the overall confirmation program once returning back to the church setting. Pastors/youth leaders are responsible for leading faith formation sessions and Agape staff will lead the rest of the programming. Campers will be exposed to young adults (their counselors) who live out their faith daily.

What is a Campfirmation Cluster?

Generally, a congregation will pair up with another congregation (or two or three or ten!) to form what is known as a “cluster.” Campers are exposed to different leadership styles (different pastors/leaders) and other Lutherans who are going through the same thing they are! Campfirmation cluster leaders work together to present curriculum and lead sessions. Camp Agapé has several clusters that have already been established and they are open to you joining them. Contact Katie, the program director, and she will guide you in the process of which cluster will best fit your congregational and teaching style. If you would like to form your own campfirmation cluster with other congregations please plan early. Depending on the size of the cluster, dates are set in early fall of the previous year.

AGAPÉ ☩ KURE BEACH MINISTRIES MISSION STATEMENT

Agapé ☩ Kure Beach Ministries calls and gathers all peoples to experience the Spirit through unique, small-group encounters with Christ, in Creation and Community.

GOALS OF SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM

- Build self-value and identity as a child of God.
- Provide quality Christian role models in our staff who can live out their faith in all aspects of their lives.
- Provide a safe environment for campers to grow emotionally, spiritually, mentally, and physically.
- Teach creation stewardship through environmental education experiences and by example.
- Develop and nurture leaders for the church and the world by focusing on camper’s call, gifts, and faith in vocation.
- Use music in a positive way to share our faith.
- Have FUN!

STRENGTH OF AGAPÉ CAMPFIRMATION

The strength of our Campfirmation program is the staff. Campfirmation is staffed by a team of young adult counselors led by a Team Leader. Our summer staff is carefully selected for their Christian commitment and love of children. They are trained in leading worship, devotions, singing, crafts, nature study, and recreation. More importantly, they are trained in a relational style of ministry that seeks to meet the individual needs of your confirmation students. Our emphasis is on offering quality Christian role models to young people.



DAILY SCHEDULE

Agapé Campfirmation is designed to be a six-day program, Sunday-Friday. Campers arrive between 3:30-4:30 on Sunday and depart after our closing program on Friday which begins at approximately 2:30. Our Campfirmation teams are trained to lead your campers through a variety of activities that best meet your clusters unique needs. The “meat and potatoes” of the Campfirmation program remain consistent, but how the “meat and potatoes” are presented on the plate can be re-arranged by your cluster. For example, if your campers really enjoy hiking, they may go on several hikes during cabin times or may plan an outpost experience for an evening. Our staff customizes the activities and flow of the Campfirmation program to best fit your campers. Session times will remain the same each day, unless arrangements are discussed with the program director.

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

Campfirmation Sample Schedule						
	Sunday	Monday w/ 1 session	Monday w/ 2 sessions			
MORNING	Campfirmation Week at Camp Agapé (basic sample schedule--all times and activities subject to change)	8:00	Breakfast	8:00	Breakfast	
		8:45-10:45	Session 1	8:45-10:45	Session 1	
		10:45-11:45	Cabin Time	10:45-11:45	Cabin Time	
		11:50	Morning	11:50	Morning	
		12:15	Lunch	12:15	Lunch	
AFTERNOON	3:30	Arrival	1:00	Rest & Hang	1:00	Rest & Hang
	4:15	Get to Know You Activities	1:30	Cabin Time	1:30	Cabin Time
	4:45	Leaders meeting	2:30-4:00	Activity Time	2:30-4:00	Activity Time
	5:30	Cookout				
	6:30	Orientations Crafts, Pool, Health	4:15	Cabin Time	4:15	Session 2
			5:15	Hang Loose	5:15	Hang Loose
	7:50	Out of pool	5:30	Dinner	5:30	Dinner
EVENING	8:30	Singing	6:30	Worship	6:30	Worship
	8:45	Worship	7:00	Camp Activity	7:00	Camp Activity
	9:15	Campfire				
	10:00	Candle Power	8:15	Store	8:15	Store
	10:30	Quiet Time	9:00	Campfire	9:00	Campfire
	9:30	Candle Power				
10:00	Lights Out	10:00	Candle Power	10:00	Candle Power	

***NOTE:**
Sessions Times are planned and led by the pastors/chaperones from your church. This is purposeful time for your church group to be together without the presence of Agapé staff--to learn and make memories together outside our programmed activities. Please plan to bring and use your own materials.

CONGREGATION'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Establish a planning team from the congregation or cluster to work with the A+KB Ministries Campfirmation staff in planning and preparation.
 2. Meet (via phone conversation or personal visit) with the A+KB Ministries Program Director at least once during the Spring to make all arrangements for the program.
 3. **Create and teach a curriculum tailored to the faith development needs of your youth during “Campfirmation Sessions.” In addition, churches will supply any materials needed for activities or the curriculum being taught during these sessions.**
 4. **All adult leaders must be at least 21 years or older and must attend a brief orientation with our Agapé staff (Program and/or Executive Director) on Sunday afternoon/evening.**
 5. Provide all transportation to and from the site. **AGAPÉ WILL NOT TRANSPORT CAMPERS.**
 6. Handle all Campfirmation registration procedures as outlined on page 7.
 7. Handle the distribution and collection of all camper health, permission, and profile forms. Provide these forms to the Program Director, at least 3 weeks prior to your program. This allows staff to review them and adequately prepare and plan for your youth.
 8. Coordinate with the Program Director whether your cluster or A+KB will be handling camper cabin assignments.
- ** Again, we ask that all volunteers involved read through this informational packet; it is our goal that everyone involved is aware of all expectations and responsibilities.**
- ** We expect all church volunteers—before working with young children—to have appropriate background checks completed by the congregation.**



AGAPÉ'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Agapé will provide all reproducible originals of registration forms to be filled out by campers.
2. We will work with you to tailor the program to meet the needs & goals of your congregation/cluster.
3. Agapé will provide all program material not related to the confirmation curriculum.
4. The camp will provide a quality, trained staff at a counselor to camper ratio of 1:8 (not including the Team Leader).
5. Agapé will provide the basic daily schedule of activities.
6. We will close each week (Friday) with a program.
7. Because the organization of Agapé ☩ Kure Beach Ministries serves children, Agapé staff are mandatory reporters (as required by the state) regarding instances of potential child abuse in all its forms.

COST:

The cost per camper is **\$395**. For every 7 campers from a church, one adult is free of charge. Each additional adult leader is **\$210**. Any further charges such as transportation fees, curriculum and materials, or any other miscellaneous fees are the responsibility of each participating congregation/cluster. **We suggest collecting a deposit from campers upon registration or soon thereafter to ensure attendance. When people have invested in an activity, they are less likely to cancel their registration.**



CAMPER ATTENDANCE:

Initial estimates are due with the contract and registration by December 1st. We will base the amount of beds and staff needed for your program off of these estimates. If your camper numbers change, it is your responsibility to communicate with the Program Director. In order for A+KB to be better stewards of our resources, it is essential for us to know camper estimates and or changes as early as possible. We will always encourage continued additions of campers into our program. Please understand that based on the estimates given additional programs will be planned and participants recruited for which will in turn limit space in the Campfirmation program. The earlier we receive additional campers, the more flexible we are able to be with camper registration. If a camper must drop out, the Executive Director and Pastor/Adult leader will discuss the circumstances and how to proceed in terms of financial obligations.

In recent years, year-round school or the “track-out” schedules have created many scheduling conflicts (bummer!). We do understand that parents might be reluctant to pull their children out of school for a whole week. However, many schools have policies that will excuse students going to enrichment programs such as a week of camp. Speak with your parents early about talking with their child’s teacher and/or administrator. We find that schools are very willing to work with you! Remind the parents of all the faith and social development that occurs at camp that doesn’t (or can’t) always happen in the typical classroom setting.

Getting Campers Interested:

You have a huge part in making sure the Campfirmation program is a success because you provide the campers! We thank you ahead of time for how much effort you'll put into talking with parents and campers making sure that they attend camp. You will have to start planting the seed early with your confirmation students. Start mentioning camp as soon as they start attending confirmation classes. If students (and parents) are familiar with the idea and simply realize that it is an expectation of your program – it will make your job much easier come Spring when registration materials are due.

We have found that one of the most helpful tools in getting confirmation students excited about coming to camp is their peers! If you have youth that had a great experience at camp invite them to come to your next confirmation class or parent meeting; this will tend to ease the nerves early on and generate enthusiasm. Finally, as the pastor or confirmation teacher you may simply need to do a lot of asking face to face. Personally calling parents or confirmation students that have questions is often helpful.

REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR CAMPFIRMATION:

One of the church's responsibilities is advanced registration of campers. Agapé ☩ Kure Beach Ministries has developed the following procedures to assist you in doing this:

Advanced Camper Registration:

Advanced registration for your Campfirmation takes three forms. These forms are included within this packet–

- **Camper Profile (by camper)** - Read by the counselor to prepare for and better serve each camper.
- **Parent Profile (by parents)** - Read by the counselor to prepare for and better serve each camper.
- **Campfirmation Health History Form** - details important information on each camper's health history and provides emergency contact information. **No camper may attend Campfirmation without this form completed and signed.**

Registration Materials: *If you have come to Campfirmation before, please make sure you have this year's registration materials, as changes may occur.*

The following forms are also included in the packet and are simply provided to be helpful tools for you:

- **Campfirmation Group Roster**
- **Campfirmation Leader Worksheet** - a form designed to assist you in keeping track of registrations, deposits, forms and camper numbers.

All of these forms should be kept by the pastor or adult leaders. The leaders should send **the roster, the completed Profile Forms (2) and the Health History Forms** to Camp Agape so that they are received at least 3 weeks prior to your Campfirmation week. The Agapé staff must hold onto the Health Forms during the week in case of an emergency. At the end of the week camper profiles may be returned to Pastor/Adult Leader (if requested) but **the Health History forms will be collected for Agapé ☩ Kure Beach Ministries' records.**

All registration materials are found towards the end of this packet and are also downloadable on our website: www.agapekurebeach.org. We can also mail forms (originals, not copies) to you upon request. They are in reproducible format. We ask that you make copies as you find it necessary.

REVIEW and TIME LINE of REGISTRATION PROCESS and PAYMENTS

- Beginning in the fall, reserve a week for Campfirmation. If part of a cluster – meet to confirm your date and start the planning and recruitment process. If you would like to increase the size of your cluster NOW is the time to contact other churches. Send to camp your completed registration form along with your completed contract and **\$100.00 holding deposit**. This is applied to your total balance due. This holding deposit is due no later than December 1, 2009.
- We will confirm your Campfirmation week and verify your estimated number of campers (including male/female breakdown).
- After your registration is complete, download the following forms from our website www.agapekurebeach.org or request that we send them to you:
 - ◆ Camper Profile Form
 - ◆ Parent Profile Form
 - ◆ Coordinator's Registration Record Sheet
 - ◆ Camper Health History Form
 - ◆ Group Roster
- A non-refundable payment of **\$100.00 per camper** is due on or before **February 1st**. If you haven't sent in a \$100 holding deposit, then an additional **\$100.00** is also due.

Upon signing your contract, after **February 1st**, your deposits are considered non-refundable; **however, you may transfer funds to another camper of the same sex.**

- If you are a first time Campfirmation congregation at Agapé we will set up a date to meet with your coordinator upon request. You are also invited to come and tour our facilities. If you are a returning Campfirmation congregation, we will review your program in a phone conversation.
- Your final non-refundable payment of **\$295** per camper is due on or before **May 1st**.
After this payment, your total amount paid to camp should simply be the fee for additional campers. There is a \$25 additional late fee for each camper's material which is not received at least 3 weeks prior to your Campfirmation date.
- A week** or two prior to your Campfirmation program we will call you to confirm:
 - Final number of your congregation's registered campers
 - Special camper concerns or dietary needs or allergies
 - Final details of your Campfirmation week...i.e. an schedule or facility questions, etc.

Remember, Agapé staff will be keeping the camper's Health Forms for Agapé's records.

If you should have any questions about Campfirmation throughout the registration and preparation time, please call or e-mail Katie at (919) 552-9421 program@agapekurebeach.org ☺

2012 SUMMER CAMPFIRMATION CONTRACT

This contract is entered into by A+KB Ministries and the below named congregation and leader.

Congregation / town _____

Cluster name and cluster date _____

Estimated campers (from your congregation): M ____ F ____

Estimated adults (from your congregation): M ____ F ____

Cost for 2012: \$395.00 per camper \$25.00 is added per camper if forms (see below) are not received at Agapé at least 3 weeks prior to your group's arrival. (total = \$420 per camper with late fee)
\$210.00* per leader *Leaders are free at a ratio of one free adult for every seven campers per congregation.



Agapé + Kure Beach Ministries will provide:

- A quality trained staff of Counselors and Team Leader.
- Pre-program planning meetings as requested by the congregation/clusters.
- A copy of all required registration and release forms to be reproduced as needed.
- Site/Facilities for hosting the Campfirmation week.
- Housing and meals for Campfirmation campers and church leaders as determined by clusters/churches.
- Programmed activities for Campfirmation campers when campers are not in sessions with leaders.
- Six days (Sun. afternoon-Fri. afternoon) of quality, relationship-based programming for Campfirmation campers.

Each participating congregations will provide:

- A registration and contract including an estimate of the number of campers expected to participate from their own congregation in the Campfirmation program – due on or before **December 1, 2011**. These estimates are vital to summer staff recruitment and camper registrations for other programs.
- Continued responsibility to maintain the estimate of campers given upon registration, and will update with A+KB staff if their estimated campers changes throughout the year.
- Completed group roster (indicating campers' names, grades, and gender), completed camper health forms, and camper/parent profile forms given to Agapé at least 3 weeks prior to your group's arrival. A late fee of \$25 will be attached to each camper whose forms do not meet this deadline.
- Adherence to the American Camp Association (ACA) and Agapé policies for health and safety.
- Agree to follow all A+KB Ministries policies pertaining to guests or user groups.
- **FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS** –
 - A non-refundable deposit of **\$100.00** per congregation upon the signing of this contract – due on or before **December 1st**. This deposit ensures your congregation's participation and will be applied to your final balance.
 - A non-refundable deposit of **\$100.00 per camper** upon the signing of this contract--due on or before **February 1st**. After **February 1st** the deposit amount increases to **\$150.00** per camper. If a camper is no longer able to attend, you may recruit a new camper to fill this spot; however, the deposit is **non-refundable**. Each congregation's minimum deposit is **\$395.00**.
- NOTE:** We encourage you to obtain the deposit from the parents to promote their commitment.
- Final balance payment to be received by A+KB Ministries no later than **May 1st, 2012**.
- Additional campers may be added after May 1st; however, an additional **\$25.00** will be added.
- Additional fee of **\$25.00** for an incomplete set of forms (including: health forms, camper profiles, parent profiles, or rosters) that are not returned to Camp Agapé at least 3 weeks before your group's arrival.

Initial _____

Failure of Agapé to meet their responsibilities can result in withholding the payment due.
Failure of the congregation to meet their responsibilities can result in the termination of the Campfirmation Week and/or further financial obligations.

Agapé ☩ Kure Beach Ministries Representative

Date

☩ I understand the responsibilities of Agapé ☩ Kure Beach Ministries pertaining to the Campfirmation program. I also understand the responsibilities of my congregational group--prior to and during the Campfirmation week. I agree to abide by the guidelines set forth in mutual commitment to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all people.

Congregational / Campfirmation Representative

Date

Please return this contract to camp and keep a copy of this contract for your records.

Agapé ☩ Kure Beach Ministries – ATTN: Campfirmation - 1369 Tyler Dewar Ln. – Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

2012 AGAPÉ CAMPFIRMATION CONTACT INFORMATION

Name of church(es) participating: _____

Estimate numbers of participants: Male _____ Female _____ Leaders _____

Church Address: _____

Campfirmation Leader(s): _____

Home address: _____

Church phone: _____

Daytime phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Evening phone: _____

Pastor: _____

e-mail: _____

Mail info to church

Mail info to my home

Reminder: As part of our continuing efforts to conserve the resources of God's creation, we are posting all Campfirmation information on our website: www.agapekurebeach.org and will predominately be using e-mail. The forms and fliers are available for you to print and reproduce as you need. If you would rather receive paper copies in the mail, we can also do that. Please check a box to make your choice:

Please mail me the forms/papers.

I will use the website to obtain papers/forms.

Agapé ☩ Kure Beach Ministries looks forward to the opportunity to serve your congregation and community in this exciting Campfirmation program!