



BUILDING YOUTH GROUPS

2017- 2018



Bring your Youth Groups to Camp Agapé for a fun community building experience! Spend time with other churches doing different activities like canoeing, crafts, hiking, etc. But more importantly spend time with your youth group building those relationships!

To learn more about BYGs offered by Agapé ✝ Kure Beach Ministries, continue reading this packet. If you have questions, please call the Program Director at (919) 552-9421.

AGAPÉ BYG INFORMATION PACKET

WELCOME to the exciting world of BYGs. Agapé † Kure Beach Ministries strives to provide the best quality experience around in order to help strengthen your youth group. We hope you are as excited as we are about the dynamic ministry of Agapé † Kure Beach Ministries BYG Camping.

In this packet I will find the answers to:

- What is BYG? Why is it important?
- What is Agape's mission statement and goals?
- How does BYG work?
- What about my middle-schoolers and high-schoolers?
- What are the dates and how do I sign up?
- Tell me more about Camp Agapé!



Agape † Kure Beach
Ministries
1369 Tyler Dewar Lane
Fuquay-Varina NC 27526
www.agapekurebeach.org



Ava Whitehead
Program Director
program@agapekurebeach.org
919.552.9421

WHAT IS BUILDING YOUTH GROUPS?

Building Youth Groups (more commonly referred to as “BYG”, pronounced *BIG*) is a retreat designed to build and strengthen the relationships in your youth group. The idea is to keep your youth group strong and growing by laying a foundation for its future members! Bring your elementary age kids to Camp Agapé for BYG, a fun community building experience. Caring college age counselors will work with you and your campers to facilitate relationship building experiences. Before sports, music, and other extra-curricular activities fill up their schedule get your youth group rooted early to help grow your youth group programs!

WHY IS BYG IMPORTANT?

- **Our youth are the church** – we need to use all the tools we have to support and nurture them in their faith journey
- **Our youth face more choices today than ever before.** We believe the church needs to make a stronger statement and show youth compelling reasons why our faith needs to be exciting, vital and life giving.
- We want to help congregations **build strong youth groups** before youth are bombarded with choices at the middle school level.
- We need to build a strong network of support and fun within the youth group at church so that when the choices hit – **the church and youth group is an appealing, supportive and fun choice.**
- Recent Faith Formation studies have also pointed to the value of Outdoor Ministry camp and retreat experiences in the lives of faithful people.
- We live in an uncertain, fast-paced, and sometimes frightening world. **Children need to know that they are valuable**, they are a part of a larger community, and that there is a safe place to discover more about relationships with God, others and self. Agapé ☩ Kure Beach Ministries addresses all three of these major needs.
- Children at a young age are awed by the **role-modeling and Christian witness of well-trained camp staff**, who take the time to build a relationship of trust and love with them.

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 AGAPÉ CAMP PROGRAMS

- 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!

SO HOW DOES BYG WORK?

We invite you to bring youth grades 3-5 to camp as a group. We encourage you to bring as many as you can in this age bracket to help build comfort and trust within your group. But don't just bring the kids! Come along – bring the youth leader, pastor, or parents with your kids. Agapé invites you to bring one adult free for every seven kids you bring to camp. Additional adults come at a reduced fee. We want you to be with them as they build community. Adults from home become the touchstone to continue the relationship building back home.

WHAT WILL THE ADULTS DO DURING BYG?

Come planning to spend time each day with your kids in their cabin groups. The most important part of BYG is the time you have with your youth to work on building your own group. You can have from 1 to 2 hours a day as time for your church group to work on building community. The Agapé staff will be available to assist you with your community building time. You also have the opportunity to relax, play, worship, and grow with your kids in a unique environment away from the pressures and expectations of home.

DOES IT WORK?

We believe it does. Ask those who have tried it. This program is in its eleventh year here at Agapé. We know of four other camps across the country adopting this program into their summer programs this past year. We believe this program can truly help to build a stronger youth group, and more cohesive confirmation class, and a more dynamic congregation. Over 25 congregations are now taking advantage of this program in North Carolina. Over 300 young people will participate in 12 annual weekends.

THE PROGRAM HAS GROWN BYG-ER and BYG-EST

Because of how successful the program is congregations asked us to expand BYG a couple years ago! Both programs offer new curriculum and adapt to the interests of your growing youth. We make sure to include new fun elements to make these retreats different from BYG.

BYG-ER for Middle School

Let us help you continue to grow the bonds with the 6th-8th graders in your group even BYG-er as you play in the woods of Agapé middle-school style!

BYG-EST for High School

We can't forget about the high school youth! Bring your high school youth group to Camp Agapé to help it to grow to the BYG-est it can be. Contact Christa to make a date.



I AM SOLD! WHAT ARE THE BYG OPTIONS?

Option 1: Weekend Retreats at Agapé

Cost: \$140 per camper
Dates: Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 (please see table below for exact dates)
Program Length: Friday 7:30 PM - Sunday 1:00 PM

Option 2: Summer Resident Camp Week

Cost: \$450.00 per camper – pay \$100.00 deposit
\$225 per adults for 5 nights, 15 meals and all quality staff!
*May change with 2018 summer camp fees
Dates: Early August, 2018
Program length: Sunday 3:30 PM to Friday early afternoon

WHICH OPTION SHOULD I CHOOSE?

Choose what fits your needs best. We recommend both, the more relationship building time invested the better the return. Resident summer camp focuses on taking the time to build relationships so of course it will have the stronger impact. Try a weekend and evaluate the impact.

BYG DATES

Fall 2017

October 20-22, BYG
November 17-19, BYG
December 8-10, BYG-est

Spring & Summer 2018

January 19-21, BYG-er (full)
March 2-4, BYG
March 16-18, BYG or BYG-er
March 23-25, BYG (Palm Sunday weekend)
April 13-15, BYG
April 20-22, BYG

Early August BYG Camp Week

*****Dates fill quickly. Please
contact Christa to
find out current availability*****

WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?

Contact Christa Drenkler
Program Director
Phone # (919) 552-9421 x113
email: program@agapekurebeach.org

Christa can provide you with a sample schedule, housing information, and a previous curriculum.



WHO IS AGAPÉ † KURE BEACH MINISTRIES?

WHAT IS THIS MINISTRY ALL ABOUT?

A partnership in which Agapé † Kure Beach Ministries becomes a resource that helps congregations reach their Christian Education goals by providing:

- † a setting apart from the traditional church environment where the miracles of God in nature are encountered in everyday living
- † the witness and role modeling of an intensively trained camp staff of mature Christian young men and women
- † a place and time in which students, pastors and teachers can build relationships with each other in new ways
- † a program that integrates learning, play, worship and group living

WHAT DOES CAMP DO?

- † It builds your groups into a community. (It takes 16 hours of contiguous time to begin to build a true community)
- † It builds a communal foundation for stronger youth ministry in your parish.
- † It provides an opportunity for youth of similar interests to be together in developing and strengthening Christian values.
- † It encourages individuals to explore decision-making and problem-solving skills.
- † It provides opportunities for individuals to grow in faith, experience new challenges, develop personal gifts and have fun.
- † It improves the climate for learning within your group.
- † It builds trusting relationships for the tough times back home. **IT CHANGES LIVES!!!**

Loving God and sharing that life-giving love with campers, while having fun, is our ultimate goal.