

Hello Youth!

The school year is coming to an end and summer is right around the corner. As you are making preparations for your summer, I hope you will consider attending **SPECTACULAR 2017!** For many, it is the most amazing and life changing camping experience. The youth often want to return every year and even after they are no longer eligible. Make plans **now** to attend **SPEC 2017** from **July 21-29**. We guarantee you will be glad you decided to go!

SPECTACULAR is a week of sports, arts, music and activities on the campus of Graceland University (GU) in Lamoni, Iowa. SPEC is sponsored by the Community of Christ, and is offered for youth who have just completed their freshman, sophomore, junior or senior year of high school. Our delegation (**Midwest Crossroads**) includes Community of Christ's four mission centers – Brush Creek, Chicago, Gateway and Kentucky/Indiana. For a video of SPEC 2016 and further information, please view the website: www.cofchrist.org/spec. You may see people you know!

Our group will be traveling via a charter bus to Lamoni, Iowa, on Friday, July 21st and we will be spending the night at the Bloomington Community of Christ Church. We meet a day early because it gives us the opportunity to get acquainted, know your expectations, receive t-shirts and uniforms, get our sports teams set in advance as well as other pertinent details.

We will move onto the GU campus in the early afternoon on Saturday, July 22 and get settled into the dorms. The boys will be housed in Gunsolley or Graybill Hall and the girls will be housed in Tess Morgan. There will be staff members with our delegation living in the dorms with you. You will choose your roommates in the dorms. Some of the rooms have two, three or four occupants and more if numbers dictate.

The sports at SPEC are available at four different levels - all the way from, "I'm really good and I want college scouts to see me" to "I've never played soccer before, but I'd really like to try it". There is something for everyone. So when you sign up for the sports on your delegation registration form, please be sure to mark your ability level so we can get you on the appropriate team. You can change your choices when we meet on Friday night, so don't worry if you change your mind after you submit your form.

REGISTRATION

There are two registration forms enclosed. One form is the official SPEC registration form. The other is our Midwest Crossroads delegation registration form containing the sports and activity sign-up. Both forms need to be completed and signed by both the camper and a parent or guardian. **THREE PAGES and a copy of your health insurance card need to be returned to us no later than June 15, 2017.** The sports sign up is just to give us an idea of the sports that you are interested in. You don't have to decide for sure on the sports you'll participate in until Friday night before SPEC.

SPEC COSTS

The total cost of SPECTACULAR is \$400 for the first child in a family. This cost is a combination of the **delegation fee of \$70** and the **Spectacular tuition of \$330**. If you miss the June 15th deadline, those costs increase to **\$500 and \$450**. Staff fee is **\$295**. Please send all forms and a check for your total fees to: Suzette Ryder, 517 Van Horn Rd., Holts Summit, MO

65043. The forms and check made payable to **SPECTACULAR FUND** must be postmarked on or before **June 15, 2017**.

FIRST-TIME FRIEND DISCOUNT

When campers invite a new friend to come to SPEC, the friend can get a \$50 discount on their registration fee. Since all campers who have completed grade 9 are first-time participants, they are **not** eligible for this discount.

Friends who have completed grades 10, 11, and 12 who have not previously attended SPECTACULAR are eligible for the “first-time friend” discount. We hope this can be a great outreach tool that can help you invite friends from school, sports teams, or wherever!

Would you like to have half of your SPEC costs paid for? In order to encourage EARLY BIRD registrations, a random drawing from the first 25 registered campers will be done and two lucky youth will have half of their SPEC expenses paid for.

TRAVEL

Each Mission Center will handle its own transportation. An email will be sent to you in July in regards to our itinerary. Contact the following person in your mission center for more information:

Chicago – Teppy Demmitt - (847) 814-5550 or stephdimmitt@att.net
Gateway – Laurie Decker - (816) 210-0178 or lhendrydecker@yahoo.com
KY/IN – Kate Maymon - (502) 889-7663 or katemaymon@gmail.com
Brush Creek – Tyler Mink – (618) 843-1638 or stmink@eiu.edu

I will be your leader of the Midwest Crossroads delegation. Midwest Crossroads has a longstanding, great reputation at SPEC. Because of this, we will be very strict about behavior and following rules. Our delegation is fortunate because our mission centers are so supportive of each of you experiencing SPEC. So let’s represent those mission centers with dignity, integrity, character and especially good sportsmanship.

I know that each of you will help us to uphold the high standards set by those who’ve attended before us and continue the tradition of Midwest Crossroads on into the future. Please prepare for SPEC prayerfully. You’ll be amazed at the effect that will have on every aspect of your SPEC experience.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!

Be one of the first 25 EARLY REGISTRANTS for a drawing!

Registration forms and tuition must be postmarked no later than **June 15, 2017**.

Please take ample time to fill out the enclosed registration forms **completely** and include a copy of your insurance card. Make sure you have included ALL the information - shirt sizes, sign up for sports and arts, etc. You are encouraged to ask friends to join you at SPEC - feel free to copy the form if you need to or I can e-mail them. **BE SURE TO SUBMIT THREE PAGES AND HAVE YOUR PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGN FORMS AND INCLUDE YOUR INSURANCE CARD!**

If you have more questions, feel free to call or text us: Suzette (573) 690-5048 or Rob (573) 690-9198 or e-mail at suzyq82@mchsi.com. We would love to share more information about SPEC with you!

Don't miss these great opportunities - they will be lifelong memories!!
I CAN'T WAIT TO SHARE THIS EXPERIENCE WITH ALL OF YOU!!!!!!

Suzette Ryder

Midwest Crossroads Delegation Leader

P.S. Please join us "Midwest Crossroads" on Facebook to keep informed!