

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Office of Youth Ministry
9 Hillgate Irvine, CA 92612
949-854-1000 x226**

Web: www.seasirvine.org Email: youthministry@seasirvine.org

For Parents Eyes Only: Emergency Information for High School Retreat

Timing: *Arrival 5pm February 17, 2012 Departure 2pm February 19, 2012*

Location: *Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center 2 Irvine Park Road, Orange, CA 92869
Camp Entrance is through the gate to the Irvine Regional Park
24 hour Emergency Contact: 714-478-9682 **Entry Gate Code #0202***

Dear Parent,

Mandatory Parent Information Meeting Tuesday, February 7, 2012 from 7-8:30pm parish hall

- *Attendance is mandatory for ALL parents as you will be responsible for transportation TO and FROM the site and there are details the center requires us to communicate directly with you.*
- *Meeting will discuss parental concerns, introduce team and allow room sign-ups for your son or daughter with their friends. You must be present to request a room assignment for your son or daughter. Those not present will be assigned rooms by the staff.*

Completed application and BALANCE of student's account must be paid in full by

- *7pm Tuesday, February 7, 2012. You may drop off payment at the parish office.*
- *No student will be allowed to stay without full payment (or scholarship) AND a valid completed signed permission form.*
- *Retreat cost of \$150.00 is payable to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Youth Ministry.*

Arrival time at the Outdoor Education Center is at 5pm Friday, February 17, 2012.

- *Student housing opens at 5pm for dorm check-in and students will have to carry their luggage to the dorms. Dinner served promptly at 6pm.*
- *Park Gates close and are barred shut at 6pm. Therefore you must get IN and OUT before 6pm. Please don't be late.*
- *Parents must personally check-in son or daughter by 5:15pm AT THE LATEST to insure all fees are paid, a valid permission slip is on file and, if necessary, all medicines are logged by our doctor.*

Directions from SEAS to Center: (TOLL ROAD) Take the 261 toll road. Exit Santiago Canyon Road. Turn Left at exit toward Jamboree. Turn right onto Jamboree. Follow road till it ends at Irvine Regional Park. (NON-TOLL ROAD) Take Jamboree Road the entire way.) Advise gate you are dropping off at the Outdoor Education Center. Turn Left after gate and go past one stop sign. The sign for the Outdoor Education Center is on the left after the third speed bump. Follow the road 200 yards up the hill to the first major building. Stop in front of the main building to drop off and sign in your son or daughter.

Packing Instructions: Read Packing List then give to student.

- *Pay special attention to **What To Bring and What To Leave at Home.***
- *Prepare your student for days warming to 60 and nights as cold as 40 degrees.*
- *Rainstorms likely, pack accordingly. Be sure they have proper walking/hiking shoes that stay dry.*
- *Retreats encourage interaction, items on the **Leave at Home** list inhibit communication or create safety risks. If you, as parent notice some new technology missing from the list that would inhibit open communications, exercise your parental judgment and make sure it is left at home.*
- *Retreat center does not allow food or drink in the dorms. Please insure none is packed in luggage.*
- *Students will have to carry their own luggage 200 yards uphill to the dorms. Pack accordingly.*

URGENT WARNING: Many suitcases and sleeping bags look alike confusing students. To avoid confusion place their name in LARGE PRINT on the OUTSIDE of their luggage. Place their sleeping bag and pillow in a plastic bag, tie it shut and place a piece of tape on the OUTSIDE with their name in LARGE PRINT.

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At the parent meeting we will sign you up to bring one of the following snack items

- Package of at least 50 small bags of prepackaged chips
- Package of at least 30 small bags of prepackaged cookies
- One 2.5 gallon jug of water and a package of at least 100 8oz or 9oz cups

Youth Ministry Rules: We maintain ONE understanding with you and your student.

- "If for any reason a student chooses to break the ground rules of the retreat, you will be given a call and your son or daughter **will be sent home immediately.**"
- It is our fervent prayer we will not need to make a call but we will not hesitate if circumstances warrant it.

Departure Preparations and Celebrations:

- **Departure** is Sunday, February 19, 2012, immediately following mass.
- **NOON SUNDAY MASS** Fr. Michael Pontirelli, OSM will celebrate mass to close the retreat
- ALL parents and families are invited to join us for this liturgy by arriving at **11:30am** so you can be escorted to the mass site and seated **BEFORE** liturgy begins. As all the students and adults will be involved in this liturgy we will **NOT** be able to accommodate anyone arriving after **11:30am**. Please arrive early to be escorted in a timely manner to the mass site.
- We would like your presence at mass to be a **SURPRISE** so please do not tell your student.

Special Note to Parents

- Your son or daughter feels most welcome when **YOU ARE THERE to pick them up**
- Consider bringing a small gift such as a flower or card expressing your love and prayers.
- During the weekend set aside time to say a prayer for God to touch your student in a special way.
- We encourage you to hide a **Note of Encouragement** in your son or daughter's luggage. You need only say you are praying for them and you love them. These words mean a great deal.

On behalf of the entire Retreat Team I wish to thank you for this opportunity to share the joy of your son or daughter. Please pray for us and know you are in our prayers.

In Christ's Love,

James R. Abowd

James R. Abowd, director of Youth Ministries and The Entire Retreat Team