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## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

25 January 2010

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We are really glad your teenager will be with us at Eastercamp 2010. Thank you for supporting them – it's going to be a great weekend.

**ABOUT THE ORGANISERS** Eastercamp 2010 is run by Canterbury Youth Services, a registered charitable trust based in Christchurch. Youth groups from all over the South Island attend - last year we had over 4,000 campers at our Spencer Park venue. This is a large event, possibly the largest of its kind in New Zealand, and as a result we work hard to have systems in place that will ensure everyone involved has a safe and enjoyable weekend.

**WHO WILL LOOK AFTER MY TEENAGER?** Every camper comes to Eastercamp with a youth group. The group brings its own leaders, at least one leader for every 10 campers. Your teenager is registered as part of the youth group named below.

<b>Youth Group:</b>	
<b>Youth Leader:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	

As well as youth leaders, there is a large, almost entirely volunteer, workforce. Our Safety Team is on the gate and securing the site day and night, and there is a team of doctors and nurses on hand at all times to handle any medical emergencies and accidents.

**FOOD, PROGRAMME AND ACTIVITIES** Meals from Friday breakfast to Monday lunch are provided, but a Thursday evening meal and snacks during camp can be purchased from cafes on site. Afternoon activities are mainly free of charge, but some have a small fee to cover costs, e.g. petrol. Eftpos (including a limited cash-out facility) is available when the merchandise store is open (afternoons). The morning programme is a mixture of youth group based challenges and activities, main marquee sessions with our resident band and a speaker, an afternoon mix of sport, fun, optional seminars, open stage for bands, and our nightlife. The programme is designed with highschool aged young people in mind.

**REGISTERING FOR EASTERCAMP** Campers must be aged at least 13, or in Year 9 in at the beginning of camp to attend. They can register online at [www.eastercamp.org.nz](http://www.eastercamp.org.nz) (credit cards and internet banking transfers accepted), or by mailing in the registration form that your youth leader can give you. The form can be downloaded from the website if you prefer. Full payment is sent with the registration. A family discount may apply in some cases. Check the registration form, ask your youth leader, or check the website for details. Family discount not available for online registrations.

**REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION A** confirmation email is sent to each camper when their registration is processed. Your youth leader has access to an updated list of registered campers if you want to check that your teenager has registered and didn't get the email.

**SLEEPING AND GEAR** All campers sleep in tents at Eastercamp. Please ask your youth leader if you are not sure what arrangements are being made for your teenager. Being autumn, it can get very cold at night. For the past few years we have had some very wet spells at Easter, so waterproof outerwear

and shoes are a must, as are waterproof bags for all bedding. Please check the gear list thoroughly. Chilled, wet campers don't enjoy the weekend nearly as much as those who come prepared for anything!

<b>GEAR LIST</b>	Bedroll, lilo or stretcher	Togs, towel	Musical instruments	A place in a tent
	Warm sleeping bag, pillow	Soap, deodorant, insect repellent, sunblock	Warm and waterproof clothes, spare footwear, polypros	Extra blanket
	Plates, cup, bag, cutlery, teatowel	Essential medications	Torch	<b>Optional:</b> \$\$\$ for cafes, some activities, t-shirt & CD purchases

**DROP OFF AND PICK UP** The gates open for registered campers only from 2pm on Thursday 1st April. As this is a school day, most campers will arrive in the late afternoon or early evening. The programme starts officially at 7.30pm. Ask your child's youth leader for alternative set-up times where you may assist them.

For reasons of safety and congestion, on the Thursday of camp you will not be able to drive a vehicle to your youth group site. Keep that in mind when packing so there is not too much gear for your teenager to carry. We encourage you to utilise one of the special Eastercamp busses instead of driving. This helps reduce traffic congestion and makes life easier for you, us and the locals!

**Please Note: If you are dropping your young person off at camp, it's essential that they come prepared for cold or wet weather and bring a good torch.**

Camp finishes on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April with lunch. If you are collecting campers, please don't arrive before 1pm. With the size of the event, traffic jams build up very quickly and can take a long time to disperse. Anyone collecting campers should know which youth group they have come with. No one will be allowed to leave camp before 1pm. Be patient, be happy!

**CELLPHONES** There is almost no cellphone coverage at Spencer Park so you will not be able to contact your young person this way. In an emergency, please call the CYS office number (03 354 2181) and leave a message. We clear the messages several times a day. Please be sure you leave your name and number clearly. And please be aware that it may take some time to locate the camper and have them return your call, depending on what they are involved in at the time.

**LEAVE PASSES** The best way for campers to get the most out of the Easter Camp experience is to arrange a weekend off sport and work. If that is impossible, a leave pass needs to be arranged. This is best done through the CYS office well before camp. If your teenager needs a pass, please ask your youth leader how to get one organised or check details on the website. **Please note:** Campers under 18 must have a signed note from a parent/caregiver before we will allow them to leave the site.

**CAMP TIME** We go on 'camp time' during the weekend to make the most of daylight hours. On Thursday evening we put our watches forward an hour, and at lunchtime Monday put them back again. If you have to pick someone up from camp during the weekend for any reason, please be sure you get the correct time sorted between you.

**VISITORS** are **not** allowed on site at Eastercamp. This is a large event, and we take the security of the young people in our care very seriously. Therefore we cannot allow any person who has not pre-registered and paid for camp onto the site. If you drive up to the gate looking for a camper, our Safety Team will ask you to park outside while they pass a message to the office. We will get the camper or a leader from their group to the gate as soon as we reasonably can.

**WEBSITE** There is a lot more information about Eastercamp on our website. If you have any questions that are not answered there, please ask your youth leader. They are very willing to help you and also have an Eastercamp Leaders' Guide to refer to. If they don't know, it is best if they contact CYS directly with your question so they can help other campers. Failing that, please email us from the website, or use the contact details given at the top of this letter.

Kind Regards,

**Adrian Palmer, Mike Dodge and the Eastercamp 2010 team at CYS ☺**