

PCD UUA
Middle School Camp
A Middle School Unitarian Universalist Weeklong Camp
Date: Sunday, June 30, 5 pm - Friday, July 5, 2013, 11 am
Location: Mendocino Woodlands, Camp 3, Mendocino, CA

Are you a 6-9th grader? Would you enjoy meeting other amazing UU middle school youth? Do you wish that there was a summer camp for Middle School UUs?

If so, you're in luck! This summer you can join us for the PCD UUA MiSC! That stands for Pacific Central District Unitarian Universalist Association (Northern California, Northern Nevada, and Hawaii) Middle School Camp.

Much like at a MUUGS Retreat, you'll be able to meet other youth in small group meetings for play, fun and just talking. Of course, there will be regular meals, snacks, youth worship, and large group activities. The leaders at the retreat will be youth, young adults, and adults who particularly enjoy working with middle school youth.

* MUUGs programming is designed for Unitarian Universalist middle-school youth and most consistent with the needs of 7th and 8th graders. Also welcome are youth in 6th grade, and those in 9th grade who have not bridged to YRUU from MUUGs.

Cost: There will be a sliding scale depending on when youth register. Registration costs include food, lodging, a camp shirt and all activities for the week.

For those who register before

May 16th, \$200

June 9th, \$230

Final Registration Deadline, June 21th, \$250

Scholarships available upon request. Space is limited, so register early!

The Deans for MiSC are Odessa MacLean, Deborah Mason and Noah Kingdon

What is MUUGs?

MUUGs stands for Middle-school Unitarian Universalist Gatherings and it is a district-wide program created to help congregations meet the needs of their middle school youth. This additional connection with a larger group of UU youth can help to reinforce many of the values we hope our youth adopt as part of their world view: social responsibility, good decision-making, a life-long search for truth and meaning, self-acceptance, embracing of diversity, as well as a sense of our mutual interconnectedness and interdependence.

In the middle-school years, the most critical role models are often peers and older youth. The MUUG program is designed to capitalize on this by having young adults serve as positive role models, and by encouraging younger youth to take ownership of the program. Working with the guidance of young adults, the middle school youth learn leadership skills and are provided with opportunities to put them into action by helping clean and plan meals, co-leading small groups, sharing their unique talents in workshops, helping to lead worship, and co-leading the very retreats that they are attending.

Electronics and Personal Items

Youth are encouraged to leave electronic devices such as cell phones, iPods, or computers at home. These items can distract from building community and possibly be lost or misplaced. If they are brought to MiSC they should remain in a pocket, suitcase, or other personal container. The Pacific Central District and MUUGS planning team cannot be held responsible for loss or damage to personal items. There is no cell phone coverage at the Mendocino Woodlands. There is a pay phone, which accepts quarters.

What types of things will happen at MiSC?

Touch Groups: In many ways, touch groups are the most important part of the MUUGs Program, and thus of MiSC. A touch group is a smaller group, led by a team of an adult and a youth, which meets regularly throughout the week, usually after meals. These groups are designed from the start to build community. It should be emphasized that the name "touch groups" has absolutely nothing to do with physical touching. Touch groups aren't about touching bodies, they're about keeping in touch with each other's experience.

Workshops: Workshops are organized by any attendees or staff throughout the week. They can be on any topic including activities such as playing or learning music, discussing a topic, learning something physical like a dance or yoga, or playing a game. There will be ongoing workshops, which meet several times during the week, and “one shot” workshops, which occur only once. They are typically 60-90 minutes long and any and all people are encouraged to put one on.

Worship: Worship occurs daily and is led by one or two adults with the support of youth. This is a spiritual activity, often organized circularly, with the chalice in the middle; focused on a communal exploration of shared spiritual experience. Worship will usually include singing, readings, and self-reflection, and may be centered on such themes as facing fear, accepting change, or working towards a goal.

All Camp Activities: There will be at least one activity a day in which the entire community will participate at the same time, in the form of a game, a social action event, or other activity.

The UnNamed Event: This is the name we give to a no winner talent show which will happen one night of the camp. This gives youth a chance to show off some talent, be it amusing, beautiful or interesting, in front of a group of loving peers. Unlike many talent shows, however, there are no judges! This opportunity to share of oneself with a non-critical audience is important for this age range.

Meals: At every meal there will be a vegetarian/vegan option, and once a day there will be at least one meat dish served. Meal will be prepared by our adult cooks with youth assistance.

Where will youth sleep?

The Mendocino Woodlands has cabins, which hold 2-6 youth, and are clustered in groups. Each group of cabins will have an advisor cabin and youth cabins. Youth will be expected to exercise self-care, including observing a lights-out time after the last event of the day.

Rules:

We want MiSC to be a safe place for growth, self-understanding, community, and fun. In order to create such an environment, we will follow the covenant created at the Spring MUUGs Retreat.

Covenant

We, the attendees of the Middle School Unitarian Universalist Gatherings, do covenant to:

Encourage and practice a Culture of Consent by supporting each other as we create a safe space.

Respect each other's feelings, boundaries, confidentiality, property, and respect ourselves.

Be mindful of what we do; our actions have effects beyond what we might expect.

Create an inclusive, supportive, affirming space where everyone feels comfortable and equal.

Be with new people as well as old friends; work to be a part of the whole community.

Use electronics respectfully and inclusively.

Take responsibility for our actions, words, and things.

Step Up/Step Back. Listen. Be open to new ideas. Be open to new experiences.

Empower people to voice their needs.

Act as an ally; defend those who need defending.

Balance time for work and time for play.

In MUUGs, our goal is to create a place where we can trust each other, be honest, and maintain peace.

Resolving Conflict:

Anyone in a conflict may call for a peer council to resolve it through consensus. Peer councils consist of those involved, one dean, one youth leader, two uninvolved youth, one chaplain, and one adult.

This is a living document that can be changed as needed.

Campers will receive a letter in June with additional information, including a packing list.

Additional Questions?

Questions about the camp and registration go to Odessa MacLean ormaclean@gmail.com You may also contact Deborah Mason at debmasonUU@gmail.com

Pacific Central District UUA Middle School Camp Registration Form

Please mail this form with your check payable to PCD UUA
to: Marlene Abel, 133 Maria Drive, Petaluma, CA 94954

Registration Fees: Completed registration forms postmarked prior to:

May 16th: \$200 --- June 9th: \$230 --- June 21st: \$250 *Final Registration Deadline*

NOTE: Do NOT mail registrations after June 14th. Instead, contact Marlene Abel, our registrar at marlenea@sonic.net or (707) 763-0443

NAME: _____

Congregation: _____

Youth Leadership!

If you want to be a leader during this week (as anything from Cook, to Worship Leader to Touch Group Leader), please note below and a way to get in contact with you. If you don't put down a viable way to contact you, you will not have a leadership position. Please also include why you are interested in this specific position, and if you are flexible about having this position. One of the deans will contact you to discuss your application.

If you are interested in leading a workshop throughout the weekend, please describe it below and note whether it would be a one-shot or weeklong. Please bring your talents and loves to share!

Contact Information:

Name (First, Last): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Grade: _____ Birthdate ____/____/____ Gender: _____

T-Shirt Size – XS S, M, L, XL (Adult sizes)

Parent/Guardian or other emergency contacts:

Name _____

Relationship _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Name _____

Relationship _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Food Needs: (Vegetarian, vegan, omnivore, allergies) _____

Medical Information:

Health concerns: _____

Medication: _____

Physician name _____ Phone _____

Health Plan _____

Health Plan ID # _____

Liability Release:

I give my consent for my child/ward, _____, to participate in the PCD UUA Middle School Camp, June 30- July 5, 2013.. I agree and hereby do release and hold harmless PCD UUA, Mendocino Woodlands, and all adult supervisors from and for any and all liability that may arise for damages, loss or injuries, either to person or property, which my child may sustain while at the retreat. I give my consent and authority for paid or volunteer staff of the program to take any reasonable action to help ensure the safety, health and welfare of my child/ward. I give permission for any emergency medical care deemed immediately necessary or advisable to safeguard my child/ward's health, when I cannot be contacted. I also agree to pay and be responsible for all medical, hospital or other expenses which PCD UUA and/or any and all adult supervisors may incur as a result of securing such treatment. I understand that if my child/ward violates the rules of the retreat, I may be required to retrieve them. Severe infractions may result in barring my youth/ward from future MUUG events.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

I have read the rules for PCD UUA Middle School Camp, and agree to follow the rules explained in the MUUGS Covenant and those of the Mendocino Woodlands. I understand that violating the rules of the camp may result in my being sent home early, and may result in my being unable to attend future MUUGs events. I understand that the MUUGs community created these rules in order to support a healthy community during our events.

Youth Signature: _____ Date: _____

[] I DO NOT consent to allowing my photo to appear on the PCD website, MUUGs Programming materials or publications, or PCD Currents (PCD weekly electronic newsletter).