

Hey Valley Church middle school ministry volunteers, this is Jackson here with your leader announcements for Wednesday, September 30th.

As of the time of you watching this video or listening to this video, we have 111 people signed up for Fall Retreat. So, we're so excited for that. It's going to be an amazing weekend, October 2nd through 4th. If any students come to you and ask to sign up still, there is a waitlist. So, if they want to sign up, make sure they add themselves to the waitlist, and if we have someone that gets sick or if we find numbers work out, we'll add them in. But there is a waitlist, so if someone asks you, that exists.

If you are going on Fall Retreat, we are so excited! Later this week, you'll be reached out to with your color teams for the Fall Retreat games. That way, if you want to wear special colors to match your team with all the events going on throughout the weekend, that will be available. We will have bandanas for every single person for one of the four teams: the red team, blue team, purple team, and—new for this year—the green team. Felt like we needed a little more space on the teams to allow for more participation on the teams, and four teams is a lot easier to plan events for than three is. So, be on the lookout for that!

With Fall Retreat over, once we get through this week, there is another big thing just around the corner. November 13th is Blitz—Blitz all-nighter, the middle school event of the year! So, even 6th graders who have never been to a middle school special event know what Blitz is from their friends or from older siblings. Blitz is our all-nighter where we go to all sorts of fun places, starting with an opening rally at the auditorium at the church, and then we'll go to fun places all night like Sky Zone, skating at RecPlex, roller skating and ice skating, arcade games, bowling, all sorts of fun things. So, if you can't make it to Fall Retreat, sign up for Blitz!

Another thing to be on the lookout for is the Great Pumpkin Party coming up in October. So, be on the lookout for different serving opportunities for that. That is a way that Valley Church loves our community through three nights, with one special needs night in addition, to have all sorts of fun fall activities, pumpkin-based activities, Halloween games, candy, all the good stuff. So, be on the lookout for sign-ups for that if you want to come help and serve. We also will have opportunities for middle school students to sign up to serve at that, too. So if they ask, that will exist and that will be on the Student Ministries events page.

Your leader tip for this week is: if you're going on Fall Retreat and it's your first time or your 10th time, it's going to be a lot. It always is, but it is so rewarding and so much fun. You'll be tired and want to sleep all of Sunday and probably Monday, but don't let that stop you from having a blast on the retreat. Just because you're an adult doesn't mean you won't have fun on the retreat hanging out with your students, building those connections, and watching those relationships grow. So, if you're going on Fall Retreat, soak it in, be there, be present, all that.

If you're not going on Fall Retreat, don't look at that as, "Oh, now I'm not going to be able to connect with my kids as well." Just use that as a way to:

1. Get motivation to connect with them more on Wednesday nights.
2. Ask them about Fall Retreat! Just because you weren't there doesn't mean you can't ask like, "Hey, how was Fall Retreat? Tell me about it. What did you learn? How is that going to change your life?"

Thank you guys so much for serving, and we'll see you this Wednesday night!