

Kalahari Retreat Frequently Asked Questions

Charter Oak Church Student Ministry

What time do we need to meet at the church?

4pm on Friday, January 3rd. We need to be packed up and ready to go by 415pm. This church-sponsored trip qualifies for early dismissal from school if needed. We will have a boxed dinner for the bus ride to Kalahari for every student.

When will we get back on Sunday?

Around 6pm on Sunday, January 5th. We will update our Facebook page with our expected arrival time.

How will students be transported?

Students will be transported by coach bus to and from the retreat.

What happens if there is an emergency?

All parents will be given an emergency contact number. Parents will be notified immediately through a phone call, text message, and/or social media in case of an emergency. Our adult leaders and the Kalahari Retreat staff will be well prepared to handle any emergency situations. We bring an extra car with us to the retreat to be able to respond to any emergencies, as well as three medical/security team members.

How are the adult leaders chosen?

Adult leaders are either current small group leaders or parents. All adult leaders have been subject to interviews and background checks. They are all on board with the mission and vision of Charter Oak Church Student Ministry. These leaders will each be assigned a room of students, whom they will be responsible for during the weekend. There is a 5:1 student to adult ratio.

Will there be small groups?

Students will be meeting with their roommates and group leader in small groups after each session to discuss what they learned.

How are room assignments made?

Students have the opportunity to request up to four roommates. All roommate assignments are final and will be made by Pastor Andrew based off of roommate requests, age, grade, and campus. We try very hard to honor the roommates students have requested, but they are not guaranteed.

Where are we staying?

We are staying at the Kalahari Resort in Sandusky, OH.

What are the sleeping conditions like?

We are staying in Villas, which are 12-person suites at Kalahari. Each suite has a full kitchen and three bedrooms. Because 12 people will be sharing a suite, Safe Sanctuaries policies allow for this retreat to be considered a cabin-style arrangement, which means there will be 2 adult leaders and 10 students in every suite. The leaders will be in one of the bedrooms. Each bedroom has its own bathroom. There will be no students of the opposite gender permitted in the room at any time (no purpling!).

What food will be provided?

Each of our suites will come fully-stocked with all the food we will need for the weekend. Each suite will be responsible for preparing the meals during mealtimes (don't worry, they're simple meals). The retreat is not able to accommodate special dietary restrictions. Students with dietary restrictions are asked to speak with Pastor Andrew ahead of time to make the necessary arrangements. We will have a boxed dinner for the bus ride to Kalahari for every student. Please feel free to bring snacks for the weekend.

Does my child need spending money?

There will be merchandise and refreshments for sale while at the retreat.

What should I pack?

Bring clothes and toiletries for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Bring a Bible, journal, and pen. Bring your phone and phone charger. Bring snacks. Bring money for dinner to and from the retreat. Bring a modest swimsuit. Towels are provided by the Resorts. Do not bring too much stuff, only what you can carry. Sleeping bags are not necessary, but you can bring a pillow for the bus ride.

Do NOT pack tobacco (including all types of e-cigarettes), alcohol, or weapons.

Will there be a dress code?

Students are asked to wear appropriate clothing at all times. Please consult the "Swimwear Guide" to find appropriate swimwear for both ladies and gentlemen, found on the Student Ministry Website in the Kalahari page. Student will be asked to wear clothes over their swimsuits if they are not appropriate.

What is the discipline policy?

We have a three strikes system. Students will be given a strike when they misbehave, such as if they are found in the room of someone of the opposite gender, if they are disrespectful to leaders, retreat staff, property, or each other, and other incidents. Some behaviors will be considered as more serious than others. After three strikes, we will notify the individual's parents and ask them to come pick up their student at their expense.