



Welcome Youth Leader!

*Meaningful service begins with training the heart. - Robert Schnase*

Each year I sit down to write this letter and wonder how many people read it. With all that we have to do both in our day-to-day lives and in all of our activities with youth, it becomes harder and harder to follow our good intentions. So, thank you for taking the time to read this letter and begin the process of preparing your group for their experience at Mountain T.O.P. We know that this is a huge task, and we appreciate your efforts. Your group will be joining others from all over the country in the unique experience of bringing hope to the people of the Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee.

Here at MTOP, we are passionate about providing you with resources for your group to be prepared to come to camp. There are a lot of things unique to a MTOP camp, which allow us to focus on service in a Christian community. However, I am convinced that the most important thing you can do to prepare for your trip is to prepare your hearts: through things like meaningful worships, prayer time, reading scripture together, practicing fellowship, and studying the example of Jesus. With that said, here are a few notes to get you started:

**Changes to the preparation materials** - We are no longer requiring you to bring Community Tools, though we can always use donations of these tools. Also, make sure you are familiar with our payments and deadlines, which have changed from last year.

**The Core Guide** – You *must* thoroughly read through this section, for it contains information on what you will need to know each year you bring a group. This includes a time-line checklist, medical forms, tool requirements, etc.

**The New Group Guide** – This document is helpful if your group is new to MTOP or if it has been a few years since the church's last participation.

**Other Available Resources** – Here you will find such things as hints for seeking support from the congregation, parent packets, regional maps, suggested retreat formats, etc. Make sure you check out all of the resources we provide!

I am blessed to work with you, truly blessed. My job is to do what I can to help you. I only have two expectations of you: that you communicate well with me as the spring progresses and that you put quality time into preparing your group. Please do not hesitate to contact me with anything you may need; I am available through email or by phone.

peace,  
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