



*Damascus Catholic Mission Campus is an environment of encounter, where world-class programs awaken, empower, and equip generations of catholics to live the adventure of their faith.*

### Three Track Damascus Programs:

Each track is 2 nights, 3 days and costs \$115.00 per students and covers the cost of 1 chaperone from the school or parish.

Faith & Science Retreat (12:00pm Wednesday-3:00pm Friday)

Leadership & Community Retreat (10:00am Wednesday-12:00pm Friday)

Confirmation Retreat (6:00pm Friday-12:30pm Sunday)

### Steps for booking a Retreat at Damascus:

1. Find an available date by emailing or calling Christie, [christie@cysc.com](mailto:christie@cysc.com) or 614-302-0339. Please be sure to communicate 3 date options, estimated total number of students for camp experience, and which track you are interested in booking.
2. Once date is agreed on and contract has been sent please return contract within 5-10 days with deposit. Deposit is a set amount based on estimated event participants.
  - 20-50 participants requires \$300.00 deposit submitted with contract
  - 50-100 participants requires \$500.00 deposit submitted with contract
  - Over 100 participants requires \$700.00 deposit submitted with contract
3. Add Camp experience to your school and parish calendar so students and families can start planning and getting excited for their experience with Damascus Catholic Mission Campus.
4. Ask your parish priest to put retreat on their calendar! This is a very important aspect of our faith-awakening programs at Damascus.
  - Faith & Science Retreat: Adoration Thursday night will require the priest, or deacon, to be at Damascus from 6:00pm-9:00pm
  - Leadership & Community Retreat: Adoration Thursday night will require the priest, or deacon, to be at Damascus from 6:00pm-9:00pm
  - \*Confirmation Retreat: Adoration Saturday night will require the priest, or deacon, to be at Damascus from 6:00pm-9:00pm. We also are in need of a priest available for Sunday mass at 11:30am with Confirmandi and parents
  - *Please communicate to Christie as soon as possible, [christie@cysc.com](mailto:christie@cysc.com), if your parish priest will be available during camp for adoration and/or mass. If not, our staff will attempt to find clergy for retreat experiences. All priest meals and lodging are included in cost of experience.*

\*\*If you are booking a Confirmation retreat, please be sure to tell families there will be a closing mass at Damascus on Sunday of the retreat
5. You're all set! 30 days before your retreat you will receive an email confirming your number of participants. You will be asked to send [christie@cysc.com](mailto:christie@cysc.com):
  - List of all boy participants, list of all girl participants
  - List of all allergy and dietary restrictions



## **Damascus Catholic Mission Campus Will Provide:**

Chaperones: Minimally, we will provide a 1:8 ratio of adults to students. Most camps will have a 1:6 ratio. All of our chaperones have gone through safe environment training and are highly trained with working with youth, facilitating small groups, and identifying red flag issues. We have a Criminal Background check on file for each chaperone. Annually, Damascus Catholic Mission Campus submits all safe environment credentials to the Diocese of Columbus for an audit. Since having started this practice, we have always past the audit.

Meals and Lodging: We provide high-quality accommodations at very reasonable rates. The lodging and meal experience at Damascus Catholic Mission Campus rises above other retreats centers, conference centers, and camp experiences.

- Faith and Science Camp: Dinner Wednesday through lunch on Friday is included in the \$115.00. Please make sure students bring a packed lunch for Wednesday.
- Leadership Camp: Dinner Wednesday through lunch on Friday is included in the \$115.00. Please make sure students bring a packed lunch for Wednesday.
- Confirmation Camp: Dinner Friday through breakfast on Sunday is included in the \$115.00.

Cabins: Each cabin has multiple bathroom stalls, sinks, and showers located in it. They also have year-round heating and cooling units. One cabin is handicap accessible. Cabins will be chaperoned by our staff who are PGC certified and have clear BCIs and follow a “two-deep” ministry model. No child will ever be left alone with one of our chaperones.

Retreat Content and Programming: We will provide all camp content and programming from the moment your students arrive on campus until the moment they leave. Our ministry content has been developed by our highly-educated full-time staff with decades of experience in youth ministry and BA and MA degrees in education, theology, and evangelization. All ministry content is validated through the Diocese and an Ecclesial Subcommittee on the Damascus Governing Board.

High Adventure Activity Supervision and Facilitation: Damascus Catholic Mission Campus has partnered with the Redwoods Group (<http://www.redwoodsgroup.com>). Specializing in providing insurance for faith-base high adventure camps, TRG analyzes, educates, prevents, and insures their camps from a partnership perspective. All activity policies and procedures at Damascus have been created in collaboration with TRG, and TRG provides an annual review and audit to ensure ongoing safety. All High Adventure Activities at Damascus have been built by a third party, Phoenix Experiential Design (PED). PED is a professional vendor for the Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) which is the world’s leading and largest American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Accredited Standards Developer focused specifically and solely on the challenge course industry. PED serves as a third party that annually provides re-certification for the high adventure activities at Damascus as well as operational training and emergency rescue training for the Damascus staff. This training is in complete compliance with the ACCT.



### **School/Parish Coordinator Will Provide:**

Minimum Chaperone Requirement: Damascus Catholic Mission Campus requires that at least one chaperone should be present at all times with your group. It is ideal if the School/Parish Coordinator is this person, however that is not required.

Electronics: For the sake of the camp experience, electronic devices of any type are strictly forbidden. They detract from the experience of a retreat at Damascus Catholic Mission Campus. We ask that you make sure you let students know that they should not bring cell phones or handheld video games with them on retreat. We also recommend reminding parents of this a drop off and collect any cell phones kids may have prior to coming.

Medications: Please note that Damascus Catholic Mission Campus is not responsible for collection or distribution of student medication, this is your responsibility. A good idea is to have a sign in table at your parish/school and collect medication before departure in a ziplock baggie with the students name on it. There is a nurse's station at our lodge that you will have access to in order to store student medication.

Transportation: Transportation is the responsibility of the parish. Please remember that in regards to transportation your camper will have a duffel bag or suitcase, a sleeping bag, and pillow (potentially a backpack as well). Take this into consideration as you will need space in your buses, cars, or whatever mode of transportation you are taking for people as well as their personal belongings. If you are scheduling buses and loading luggage onto the buses, you will need extra space. Some parishes/schools rent Cargo Vans from Uhaul.

Dietary Needs/Restrictions: Please make sure that you notify us of any dietary needs or restrictions campers have prior to arriving for your retreat no less than 8 days prior to the event. We are more than happy to fix meals to accommodate their needs we just need to aware of their specific needs. Also, if campers have previously attended Catholic Youth Summer Camp at Damascus Catholic Mission Campus, they may assume we are already have their dietary information on file and accounted for, this is NOT the case.

Youth Minister/Catechists/Teachers: Bring your team along with you! This is a great opportunity to get to know your youth and spend time investing in them. We would also love your help serving meals and transitioning rooms for different retreat aspects, or heck, you can just enjoy a quiet weekend hiking through the woods! Let us know if you are bringing any of your team so that we can house them appropriately. Standard rates apply for all adults as well. You are responsible as a parish for ensuring that these volunteers have completed safe environment requirements of the Diocese you are from. You are also responsible for ensuring these volunteers understand that at no time are they allowed to be one-on-one with a child.

Children with Special Needs: Damascus Catholic Mission Campus is ADA Accessible. Children with special needs will be able to utilize all the buildings at Damascus and depending on their special need, many should be able to utilize a variety of activities. If there is a child with a special need who would require an onsite aid, that will become the responsibility of the parish to provide (which of course, the parish can ask the family to provide an aid).



### **Packing List**

*PLEASE BE SURE ALL ARTICLES ARE MARKED WITH YOUR NAME*

- Sleeping bag or bed linens and blankets
  - A twin sized bed with mattress (bunks) will be provided.
  - Cabins do have A/C and heat.
- Pillow
- Clothing: Casual, comfortable, clothes (shorts, t-shirts, jeans etc.). Make sure clothes are Weather Appropriate. For retreats in late Fall and Early Spring, weather can be unpredictably cold and we spend a lot of time outside on our retreats, so make sure you pack gloves, hats, and warm socks if needed! Coats, jackets and sweatshirts if needed.
- 1 lightweight rain jacket or poncho
- 2 pair of shoes
  - Closed-toed footwear is needed for high adventure activities (rock climbing, high ropes, etc)
  - Flip-flops are discouraged because of impracticality and safety concerns.
- Appropriate sleepwear
- Personal hygiene items: soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, etc
- Bath towel and washcloth: There are showers and restrooms located in each cabin
- Insect repellent, and perhaps a small tube of anti-itch cream or topical Benadryl for bug bites
- Money for the Gift Shop and Snack Shack. Suggestion: \$25
- Water bottle
- A small notebook / journal and pen
- Bible & Rosary
- Camera (if desired)
- **NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES.** (Yes, that includes cell phones)
- Medications: With the exception of asthma inhalers and EpiPens, no minor (under age 18) may possess any drugs (prescription or non-prescription) on their person or in their baggage at any time

### **Modesty Policy**

*Clothing is to be modest, dignified, and appropriately suited to retreat activities.* Shirts are to be worn by men at all times except when appropriate for activity participation (paint/mud/water). Spaghetti straps, short shorts, midriff, revealing shirts, and open back tops are not permitted. Shorts should have a minimum of a 5 inch inseam. Shirts that are considered undergarments are not permitted when worn as an outer layer. Leggings/Yoga pants can only be worn if the hips and butt are *fully* covered by a longer top or an appropriate skirt. If sleeveless shirts are worn, they must not reveal the chest or bra. It may be appropriate to wear compression shorts under loose fitting shorts to avoid awkward moments (climbing harnesses/ impromptu headstands/zipline inversions/living the adventure). Articles of clothing that display profanity, products or slogans that promote alcohol, drugs, sexuality, or indecency are not permitted.