

Catherine Anderson

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Date: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 5:18 PM
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Subject: SJ Bus Captain Updates

Hey Bus Captains!

It's been far too long since I've touched base with you – my apologies! I know you've been hard at work checking in with your groups...it's been fun to hear updates here and there! So most of all let me start by saying thank you for all you are doing! Even if you feel like you aren't doing anything (at this point as a Bus Captain there isn't much) – you still are...because you're thinking about it, you've said yes, and I know you get questions from leaders often before leaders ask me. You rock.

So in the spirit of helping you out with some questions...and perhaps some of your wonderings...let me share some updates with you along with a couple questions I have!

Bus Meeting Dates and Resources

The worship team is still working on the resources for bus meetings. Our priority is to get the Story Kit resources out, so I would anticipate these being shared with you sometime in February. Hopefully by now (or soon) you will have scheduled your two bus meetings so they are on people's calendars. **Once you have your dates scheduled, please email those to me so we can be sure to have the bus resources available for you before your meetings.** Know that these resources will be minimal – meaning we're not giving you lots of extra things to do! It may be that you choose to do your own thing instead, or use the Story Kit resources so this becomes a larger monthly meeting and takes something off your plate rather than adds to it.

Site Visit

David Anderson and I had a wonderful site visit to Galveston after Thanksgiving. We won't know any specifics until April on what service projects we will be doing. But our three primary partners – Lindsey White from the United Way, Pastor Richard Rhoades from First Lutheran in Galveston, and Josh Dorrell from Galveston Urban Ministries – are starting the time consuming work of contacting organizations to see what needs we could meet and share what we will be doing. Please keep them in your prayers as they do this!

Wednesday Activity Choices

One of the goals for the December site visit is to explore activities for your bus group to do on Wednesday, June 27 before we arrive in Houston. This will be your only opportunity to explore Galveston or Houston on your own. By early February I will share with you details on making that choice. Details will include:

- **How to choose the activity.** We will be asking this to be a group decision that includes all the adult leaders, and preferably input from the youth. Know that your entire bus group will need to do the same activity.
- **Time frame.** I will have more information in January on what time we need to be in Houston, which will impact your schedule for that day.
- **Cost.** Once I have our hotel assignment in Houston, I can finalize our budget. My hope is be able to offer some financial assistance to groups for the activity you choose. (Please hold that loosely...at this point it's a hope!)
- **Activity options and costs.** I'll have a list for you of activities we checked out, costs, and how to book those. Costs will range from free to \$40. I'll also list a few we looked at that we wouldn't recommend. You are also free to make a choice not on the list. Activities will also have a wide range of interests. Just to give you an idea what I mean by activities, so far we have looked at NASA tours, Schlitterbahn waterpark in Galveston, an extra day at the beach, and the Houston Aquarium.

Synod Journey Resources

Due to the reality of ministry, the worship team is a bit behind in getting some of the promised resources posted. The Story Kit Resources will be posted monthly (I expect the Story 3 to be ready in the next week). If you hear

leaders frustrated about not having resources posted, please let me know.

That's all the updates for now! As always, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask!

Blessings to each of you these remaining Advent days!
Smiles,
Catherine =)

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