

THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF SAINT HELEN

Youth Ministry Office

1600 Rahway Avenue

Westfield, NJ 07090

908-232-1214

To: All Youth in grades 9-12
From: Patti Gardner-Youth Minister
RE: **Sister Pat's Kids Camp 2024**
Sunday, July 21-Saturday, July 27, 2024

I would like to inform you of a very special opportunity that takes place during the summer. There will be an information meeting held in our Parish Center Gym on **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024, at 7:30 PM**

Only apply if you will be 16 years by 8/15/24

What is Sister Pat's Kids Camp?

Sister Pat's Kids Camp is a camp that was developed by parishioners of Saint Helen over 30 years ago for children with cancer and blood disorders. The camp takes place in Esopus, NY, about two hours from Westfield, NJ. This week at camp gives sick children the opportunity to live a normal "fun" life for the week. Some of the activities that take place at camp are cooking, swimming, paddle boating, dancing, and arts & crafts.

How do I get involved with Sister Pat's Kids Camp?

If you will be 16 years of age by 8/15/24, fill out application, get 2 letters of recommendation and **return to the Youth Ministry Office by 2/14/24.**

Application is not considered "complete" until we receive both letters of recommendation.

Applications must be filled out by applicant and not by parent/guardian!

Applications will be given out at the information night on Wednesday, January 31st. Applications will be put on our parish website after the information meeting. Those in attendance at the information meeting with a parent and submit their completed application by 2/14/24 will be considered first.

Applications are reviewed by the youth minister in the order that they are received. Applications are then given to the camp staff who will contact applicants to schedule an interview with you.

What will first year volunteers do at camp?

First year volunteers will complete their “counselor in training” year. You will be assigned to a dedicated group of campers and accompany them throughout the week. In addition to your assigned group, you'll be a part of the kitchen crew, serving meals to the camp family (no cooking required!) This helps new volunteers get familiar with camp before they move up to a full time camp counselor. No one is guaranteed a return invitation to camp. If a kitchen crew member has displayed the characteristics necessary for the counselor position, the candidate is then invited back to camp by the camp staff. The adult group leader at the conclusion of the week evaluates all youth volunteers, as well as all current staff.

What makes a “qualified” candidate?

Candidates should possess strong leadership skills, be self-motivated and want to come to camp to serve the needs of the campers. Camp should not be considered a “week off”, but rather a week of hard work with great rewards. Candidates need to understand that there are rules and regulations they must adhere to and infraction of these rules justifies removal from the program. Candidates should be actively involved in our parish community by “**Worshipping God**, **Serving Others** and **Making Disciples**” all year long.

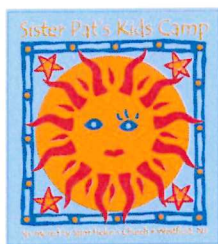
There is a zero tolerance policy regarding the use of drugs and alcohol.
There is a NO SMOKING policy at camp

Camp Location:

Marist Brother's Retreat House
Esopus, NY

All volunteers are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from camp.

*All attending camp are required to attend camp orientation on Sunday, June 9th,
followed by the 6 PM Mass to receive a special blessing.*



sisterpatskidscamp.org

sainthelen.org