

# WONDER



CAROLINA CROSS CONNECTION 2015

HOME  
GROUP LEADER PACKET

# DEAR CCC HOME GROUP LEADERS,

Our summers in Asheville (serving through HOME) have been nothing short of radical love and miraculous unity within God's kingdom. We are thrilled to share a week serving alongside this unique community with you! To begin we would like you to know how much we appreciate you all. You, my friends, are the reason this ministry is possible. Thank you for trusting us and joining us in experiencing God's unconditional love!

First step, registration: check!

Second step, preparation:

- Read this packet!! It includes what to bring, what to know, frequently asked questions.....?, etc.
- Pre-CCC Session: This is beneficial for all youth and adults attending. In this packet you will find an outline for a pre-CCC session. We encourage you to include parents/guardians of youth attending as well!
- Adult Meeting: We encourage the leader to meet with the adults once prior to the week.

We believe reviewing these materials and sharing information with your group can be critical for a great week.

While serving in Asheville, we hope that you will experience the beauty and messiness of relational ministry. In our short seven days together we will work to redefine poverty, redefine missions, and better understand what is homelessness, the beauty of an unconditional family, and walk away with more questions than answers. We believe that through conversations we can better see one another as bearers of Christ' image and embrace the beauty of truly unconditional love.

We are praying for you and your group as we prepare to encourage one another and build one another up through service!

In Christ,

Laura Brown

P.S. In an effort to help you out a little, we've made sure to put a CCC logo on everything you need to print for students, parents, and adults!



# GROUP LEADER TIMELINE & CHECK LIST

## **DO NOW**

- Schedule a Pre-CCC Session for all youth and adults attending CCC. (Parents can be invited to!)
- Familiarize yourself with the **CCC Group Requirements**. Please call CCC if you have any questions or concerns.

## **To do in April**

- Send in **GROUP ROSTER** and **ADULT SELF-SCREENING FORM** to the CCC office by May 1. (available online at [www.carolinacrossconnection.org/homeregister](http://www.carolinacrossconnection.org/homeregister))

## **To do by May 31st**

- Host Pre-CCC Session for your entire group.** Review and print handouts for this session. Also host an Adult-Only Session. We recommend hosting it the hour before or after the session for your entire group.
- Send in FINAL PAYMENT to the CCC office

## **2 Weeks Prior to Your Camp Week...**

- Expect a call from your CCC HOME Camp Director. He/she will reconfirm your roster with you and give you important information concerning your camp week. If you will not be available at any point during the two weeks prior to your camp week, please let the CCC office know of another adult leader that we may contact.
- Collect **Activity Permission and Medical Consent Forms** from all participants. Make sure to bring **three** copies of each form with you to camp.
- Please note that you cannot substitute any adult once you submit the roster and screening forms without prior authorization from the CCC Administrative Office Team. If a substitution of adults (driving or non-driving) after May 31st is required, please call 704.721.0033.

## **SUNDAY of Your Camp Week...**

- Before you leave, remind people one last time of things they are NOT supposed to bring to CCC. If necessary, collect those items or send them back with parents.
- Bring these items with you to camp:
  - Suitable vehicle(s) for your group. (each person must have a proper seat and seat belt)
  - One adult for every five youth of your group.
  - One ice-chest cooler (unless designated otherwise by in-camp director)
  - One cylindrical water cooler (unless designated otherwise by in-camp director)
  - Triplicate copies of **Activity Permission and Medical Consent Forms** for each participant.
- Please plan to arrive in Asheville on Sunday between 2:00 and 3:00 PM (Eastern Standard Time).** If your group is traveling a long distance on Saturday, we ask that you make arrangements to stay at a local church or hotel on Saturday evening. No groups stay at the Asheville Homebase camp on Saturday before camp or Sunday following camp.
- Turn in **Activity Permission and Medical Consent Forms** for all participants. One copy goes to the adult leading a small Christian Mission Group (CMG), another copy stays in camp with CCC staff, and the third copy stays with the church youth group leader.
- Make nametags, sign up for rooms, turn in forms, get settled into your rooms.
- Attend orientation at 3:30 PM (all luggage should be unloaded and packed away).

## **MONDAY-FRIDAY of Your Camp Week...** Worship, Serve, Play & Pray!

## **SATURDAY of Your Camp Week...** Eat breakfast, fill out evaluations, have closing prayer, and depart at around 10:00 AM

# HOME GROUP REQUIREMENTS

*These are the conditions your group agreed to upon submitting an application and deposit, explained in more detail.*

## Vehicles

Your group is responsible for bringing vehicles that will be used during your week at CCC. It is vitally important that your group brings the correct type of vehicles for use at CCC. **The vehicles that your group and other groups bring are the same vehicles that will be used during the week for transporting groups to various service opportunities during the week.** CCC has no means to provide vehicles for our attending groups; church groups are solely responsible for providing vehicles for the camp week. **Your group is responsible for all your vehicles' expenses, including gas.**

## Vehicles must...

...be large enough to transport a team of people and a cooler. Twelve passenger vans, Minivans, station wagons, and SUV's are great! Parking in Asheville is a little tricky, so mini-buses are not ideal.

...have a restraint system for ALL passengers. North Carolina law requires that all passengers have a seatbelt. CCC does not permit passengers to ride in the back of a pick-up truck or in a vehicle that does not have restraints for passengers (e.g. cargo vans).

## Drivers

**Adult drivers must be 25 years of age or older.** Your group must provide at least one adult driver for every 12 non-driving members (youth and non-driving adults) of your group. Adult drivers will be the designated drivers for the week.

## Adults

CCC requires that all adults 25 years of age or older, both drivers and non-drivers, have undergone, or will undergo prior to the summer, a screening process, such as criminal background checks, sex offender checks, etc. The group leader must sign off that all their adults would be suitable to work with youth in a church activity setting, and therefore, at CCC as well. Adult screening forms are included and should be returned with group roster by May 1st.

## Permission/Medical Forms

Every participant must provide a completed **Activity Permission and Medical Consent**. Youth must have a parent or guardian sign their form and provide the necessary insurance information. **Adults must also complete a form;** in the event of an accident we would need their necessary insurance information. A parent's signature is not necessary on adult forms. The group leader should collect all forms before attending camp and make triplicate copies of them, to ensure that a copy is always close at hand. We can't stress enough how important it is that you bring 3 signed copies of each persons Permission/Medical Forms.

## Coolers

Your group is REQUIRED to bring one ice-chest/cooler and one water cooler to CCC HOME. We will use this to help transport lunches and water to our various service adventure during each day.

# HOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Who can come?

Carolina Cross Connection is an interdenominational Christian mission. **The only requirements for coming to CCC are that you MUST be at least a rising 7th grader (or 12 years old), and that you are willing and ready to serve God in a very special way.**

## What does it cost?

If all deadlines are met, the fee for a person to attend is \$325. This fee is all-inclusive, covering food and lodging for a week. All meals are covered from Sunday dinner to Saturday breakfast. We recommend bringing some extra spending money for snacks and CCC merchandise. There are opportunities to get ice cream and snacks throughout the city almost every day. Canteen snacks (candy bars and soda) are also provided in camp almost each evening. We DO NOT recommend students bring extra money specifically to "hand out" to people that they meet during the week. Students are guided in a discussion regarding money and homelessness in Sunday's orientation.

## What are the facilities like?

CCC will operate HOME from Central UMC in Asheville. We will call that **HOMEBASE**. Males and females will be divided into separate sleeping facilities and will have separate bathrooms. THERE WILL BE NO SHOWERS! No beds or bedding will be provided. Campers will provide their own bedding, sleeping bags, cots, air mattresses, etc. Twin size air mattresses are recommended.

**Can I leave camp early, arrive late, or leave and then return during the week?** We require ALL participants, youth and adults, to remain at CCC HOME for the entire week! The CCC experience is based on a tightly-knit community that serves, plays, and worships together. Arriving late, leaving early, and going to and fro are major disruptions to this community and can rob people of valuable experiences. If a person cannot commit to the a full CCC week, then they are not quite ready for the CCC experience and should wait until a time when they are able to commit to the timeframe required.

## How are we divided into work teams?

Some days you may be divided into smaller teams, other days you may be working with the entire group. In any group, there will be at least 1-2 adults. If and when smaller work teams are formed, we will do so with the intention of mixing up ages, gender, churches, and experience. We want you to have the chance to get to know folks from the other churches, so you may be meeting and working with such folks.

## Will students be safe?

Every place we go and every project scheduled will be overseen by our trained staff people ahead of time and during the week. All of our volunteers are taught basic safety precautions and first aid and mental

health first aid on the first day. All groups will have at least one, if not multiple adult leaders. No youth will ever be out of sight of adults and staff members. There will be a "buddy system" in which each youth will be paired with another. We will make sure that participants are comfortable and confident.

## What will we do during the week?

The most important thing we will do is build relationships. This week is primarily about getting to know people and their stories. The staff may plan a variety of service projects to help campers build relationships with the homeless – these could involve serving meals, organizing clothing, gardening, planning worship services, serving ice cream in the park, hiking, or playing games. This is not a complete list, only possibilities – the staff will plan the specifics, and they could vary week to week. Be open to many different ways of serving.

## Will we be doing construction or painting?

It's possible that these needs may arise at the Haywood Street Church. However, you don't need any prior experience. Our staff does a good job of drawing up plans, teaching people how to do projects, and ensuring projects are going well.

## How demanding is the physical aspect?

The most demanding physical aspect is walking. Campers will often travel on-foot around the city. Part of the HOME experience is to see the city as a homeless person might – walking miles to see the places the homeless must go simply to survive (up to 4 miles). Therefore, some days (not every day) will involve long periods of walking on hilly terrain. In the past, people of many ages and physical abilities have managed just fine, but be aware walking is a BIG part of the week.

## What is the week like emotionally?

Seeing homelessness up close is emotionally intense. Processing these emotions back at HOMEBASE is one of the focuses of the week. Encourage your group to be open and ready to learn / ask questions to help process the experience.

## Who is in charge of CCC?

CCC is a non-profit organization that is led by a Board of Directors and a full-time administrative staff. During the summer, HOME is operated by a summer staff of fun, energetic, young adults who love God and love people! They are looking forward to leading you and serving alongside you!

## I have a question that hasn't been answered...

Feel free to contact the CCC office if you have further questions or concerns. Call us at 704-721-0033.

# CCC RULES



## Items NOT to Bring

**Personal Electronics:** We do NOT permit media players, portable game systems, or any similar personal electronics in camp. These items are disruptive to the camp community that we are striving to build. We will provide audio devices for use during worship, in-camp activities, and free time.

**Weapons or other dangerous items:** We do NOT permit blades (e.g. knives, pocket knives, Leathermans), firearms, paint guns, air rifles, air pistols, BB guns, replicas of firearms, fireworks, water balloons, or water guns in camp. Help us keep our camps as safe and non-threatening as possible. Do not bring these dangerous items!

**Tobacco products:** We strongly prefer that no tobacco products be brought or used during the camp week. Smoking is allowed only in a designated "smoking area" and is prohibited in all other areas of camp. Cigarette butts and spit cups should be disposed of properly. North Carolina law states that a person under the age of 18 cannot purchase tobacco products. Anyone under the age of 18 should also not be using these products. We expect full compliance with this law, and our logical extension of it: all individuals under the age of 18 are prohibited to use tobacco products at CCC. **CCC PROHIBITS ALL PARTICIPANTS USING TOBACCO PRODUCTS ON OUR WORKSITES, OR EN ROUTE TO AND FROM WORKSITES, INCLUDING PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE 18 OR OLDER.**

**Alcohol or drugs:** **POSSESSION OR USE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL AT CCC IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. ANYONE WHO VIOLATES THIS RULE WILL BE SENT HOME IMMEDIATELY, NO QUESTIONS ASKED!**

**Snacks:** Food in sleeping quarters may attract pests and insects. The staff will provide plenty of snacks. So don't bring your own.

**Negative attitudes:** Closed-minds that are unwilling to experience, grow, and change.

## Camp Rules

**Camp Boundaries:** Each camp location has boundaries that participants are expected to stay in during the week. Camp directors explain these on Sunday.

**The Buddy System:** Participants (both adults and students) should always be in pairs or with the group at all times when out in the community serving or at Haywood Street. **ALWAYS!** If ever in doubt as to where you are to be and with whom, ASK A STAFF MEMBER OR ADULT immediately. Wandering off will not be tolerated. **Anyone violating this rule will be sent back home at your parents' expense.**

**Visitors:** We ask that visitation be limited, as it can interfere with the Christian community that is forming. Unannounced visitors can also disrupt an evening's activities and the amount of food served at dinner. If someone from home wants to visit, you MUST first inform the Camp Director to seek their opinion and approval in advance. The Camp Director has the final say about whether or not to allow visitors. Mail is always a welcomed way for families and friends.

**Gender-Related Rules:** Males are not permitted in the females' sleeping area nor vice versa. CCC also does not tolerate sexual harassment or abuse in any form. Offenders are sent home immediately and possibly reported to authorities based on the offense.

**Violence:** Participants are prohibited to threaten, fight with, or intentionally harm others – physically, emotionally, or mentally. Intentionally harming of oneself is prohibited.

**Pit-stops:** Groups are not allowed to stop at restaurants, malls, stores, and other such establishments. Such stops leave the door open for shoplifting, distract from the focus of the week, and put money into corporations rather than into the community. If there is a bit of extra free time during a day, groups are encouraged to stop briefly at local establishments only, such as a local ice cream parlor.

**Pranks:** CCC does not tolerate or encourage pranks from youth or adults. There are plenty of opportunities to build community and have fun together in positive and healthy ways. Pranking can get you sent home.

**Lights Out:** All participants will go to bed between 10:30 and 11:30 in a time called "Lights Out," no exceptions. You will be working long hours, and we want everyone to have energy to work well and safely during the day. So when the lights go out, EVERYONE must go to bed.

# WHAT TO EXPECT AT CCC HOME

*Thank you for committing to a week of service with Carolina Cross Connection in Asheville, NC! Get ready for a life-changing, spiritually-charged experience in which you will face new challenges, grow in faith, & serve folks in need.*

## **Christian Community**

You and your group will gather with others from across the U.S. for a week in downtown Asheville. You will arrive on Sunday afternoon between 2:00pm and 3:00pm. You will get to know other campers and the CCC HOME summer staff, a group of young adults who are extremely enthusiastic and love the Lord! After orientation and lunch, you will begin forming what we often refer to as "a Christian community." You will make friends with many new people and strengthen the relationships you already have with the members of your own group. Throughout Sunday afternoon, you will participate in games, singing, and teamwork activities. Later on, you will experience a time of orientation on working with the homeless and servanthood. You may also break into smaller group that will do specific things together during the week.

Each day, you will arise at 7:00 AM to get ready for breakfast, served at 7:30 AM. Afterwards, you will enjoy a period of time called "Morning Watch," an opportunity for you to go off alone to spend time with God, reading the Bible and a devotional given out by the staff. Then, you will meet with the staff for a short devotion given by one of the staff members. The staff will then reveal opportunities for the day. Groups (sometimes one large group and other times smaller work teams) will then head out to serve – sometimes by van, sometimes by foot!

## **Service to Others**

You will work with a variety of people through the week. Diversity in Asheville is multidimensional. As significant as racial and ethnic diversity is, there is a stark contrast between wealth and poverty that exists in the downtown community. The Haywood Street Congregation, our partner ministry for the week, seeks to be a place of welcome to all. It doesn't matter where you come from, whether you have a home or not, or whether you are rich or poor. At Haywood Street, people eat together, work together, worship together. They are family. During your weeklong experience, each person will participate in the life-changing ministry happening every day within this diverse, merciful, and compassionate downtown congregation. In all of our ministry environments, Carolina Cross Connection places a big emphasis on doing more than physical labor, but rather on spending time talking with, listening to, praying with, and sharing the love of Jesus with people. Throughout the week you will have the opportunity to love and be loved by this unique community. Our prayer is we will all see each other as a child of God. This is the heart of what CCC is all about and seeks to find among the Kingdom of God.

## **Life-Changing Experiences**

In the evenings, participants return to our HomeBase at Central UMC to enjoy activities designed and led by the CCC staff, such as worship, sharing, and games. These activities are just as important as the service and learning done throughout the day, as you learn more about Christ and grow closer to him. The week culminates on Friday evening, when campers will enjoy skits, an extended time of sharing, and a commitment service. This is a powerful time in which youth and adults often make commitments to follow Christ and serve as Fishers of Men. On Saturday morning, you will clean up, pack up, and pray together one more time. Often tears are shed as people realize the beauty of the community that has formed, but excited to take the Spirit of that community back to their hometowns. Groups usually depart on Saturday morning around 10:00 AM.