

Middle School
Winter Retreat at Great Wolf Lodge
February 24 - 26

Parents and students,

I am excited for winter retreat this year at Great Wolf Lodge. If you are not familiar with Great Wolf Lodge, it is a full functioning hotel with indoor water park, lots of cool activities, and themed shops and restaurants for students and families. We rent out a ballroom to have all of our sessions and meals and enjoy the water park during our free time. It's going to be a fantastic weekend!

Packing list for winter retreat.

Bring:

- Clothes for three days
- Warm clothes, pants and sweatshirt or jacket, for an outside event
- Pajamas or something comfortable to sleep in
- Swimsuit (one piece or tankini that covers entire midriff and running or sports-type shorts over the bottom for girls, no speedos for boys)
- All necessary toiletries for two nights
- Bible and pen
- Day-pack or small backpack to carry around things when you can't go back to the room
- All necessary medications for the weekend

Do not bring:

- PSP, Nintendo DS, tablets, or other handheld electronics
- Dangerous or illegal items (including knives, alcohol, fireworks, drugs)

Cell Phone policy:

- Students are permitted to bring their cell phone on this trip with the understanding that Northview is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged phones. Remember that we are going to a water park, water plus electronics do not great things.
- Cell phones will be confiscated from students if leaders see students using them at the wrong time (during group sessions, small group time, or breakout sessions)
- For the sake of the spiritual impact of the retreat if your child does bring a cell phone, please encourage him or her to limit texting and communication to friends outside of the event. We want students to make memories and be as present as possible during this weekend.

Details about trip

- February 24th – 26th at Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound WA, about an hour south of Seattle.
- **Check-in** at Northview Church at 12:30 on Friday February 24th.
- **Return to** Northview Church at 3:00 on Sunday February 26th.
- *We're leaving Northview Church at 1:30 on Friday, which means that parents need to get students out of school early.*

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- The first chance students will have to eat is 4:30 on Friday, please make sure they have lunch before we leave.
- We are leaving Great Wolf Lodge at 1:00 on Sunday and plan to be back at Northview at 3:00
- *Northview is not providing or arranging alternative transportation.* You can either bring your student down at a separate time or arrange your own carpool with other parents.
- Students will be riding in cars with adult leaders from Northview. All drivers will be registered with Northview.
- Everything (water park, food, lodging, transportation) is included on the retreat. You don't need to send your child with any extra money for food or any other activity. However there is a gift store and Starbucks and other fun snack shops at Great Wolf Lodge where your student can buy souvenirs or other treats if they wish.

Sleeping arrangements

- There will be five students and one adult leader (21yrs and older) in a room and all rooms will be divided by grade and gender.
- Students will be asked to share a queen-sized bed with another student. If students are uncomfortable sharing a bed, they can bring a sleeping bag and sleep on the floor in the hotel room, but there is no reduction in cost.
- Because there are 6 people in a room (5 students and one adult leader) and three queen sized beds, the leader will sleep on the floor and not share a bed with any students.
- Students won't have a key to their room, the adult leader will have the room key.
- To the best of our ability, the rooms will be grouped together so that all the students will be in rooms on the same floor.

Medications

- If your child takes medications he or she will be responsible for carrying the medications throughout the weekend.
- Indicate on your registration form or with Rob and Brookes about your child's medications and his or her leader will make sure that your child takes the meds at the proper time. For legal reasons leaders cannot hold or distribute the medications.

FAQs about the winter retreat

If my student can't get out of school early on Friday, can he/she still go on the retreat?

- Yes of course! You'll have to arrange your own transportation though.

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Why Great Wolf Lodge?

- We're going to Great Wolf Lodge because we get a great deal for an entire weekend of fun in the water park and the hotel provides a large banquet hall where we can have worship sessions and hear a great message preached.

Will it just be Northview at Great Wolf Lodge for the weekend?

- No. Northview will attend this event with other churches from our denomination, Converge. There will be over 200 other students at Great Wolf Lodge with us this weekend.

Where else are you going besides Great Wolf Lodge?

- We have dinner Friday evening on the way down to Centralia and then check into Great Wolf Lodge. On Saturday we have breakout sessions at a local church near Great Wolf Lodge.

Brookes and other leaders will have their cell phones with them on the trip, if you need to get a hold of your child, the easiest way will be to contact Brookes or another leader. Leaders cell numbers will be given upon request. Feel free to ask. Please do not call the hotel asking for your child.

Brookes August contact info:

Email: brookesa@nview.org

Cell: 206-450-2052