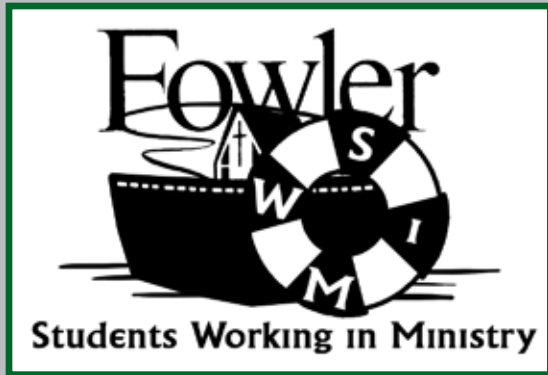


# S.W.i.M

## Students Working in Ministry



# Handbook

## S.tudents W.orking i.n M.inistry

The goal of the Students Working in Ministry Program is to train teenagers for Christian service. It is a program designed to enable sophomores through seniors in high school to experience ministry from within the camp setting. Some of the areas of training are:

1. Cabin Counseling
2. Maintenance
3. Kitchen
4. Recreation
5. Nature Awareness
6. Arts & Crafts
7. Waterfront
8. Music
9. Program Development
10. Wilderness Day Trips



Each of these unique areas of ministry helps to comprise the whole ministries at Fowler. Each requires certain skills, gifts, and interests. You may find yourself drawn to one area or another and are encouraged to focus where you feel drawn. However, it is the hope that you will experience the wide range of programming offered by Fowler and gain greater insight into what it means to be Students Working in Ministry for our Lord, Jesus Christ.



## A Leadership Training Program

The Students Working in Ministry program is continuing to evolve to meet both the needs of Fowler and those of the participants. **The goal is not to make staff out of the S.W.i.M. participants.** The goal is to broaden *each participant's* own ideas of ministry and their ability to serve as ministers both at Fowler and in your home church.

The S.W.i.M. participants are asked to make a two-week commitment to Fowler, plus attend a two-day training seminar. Each S.W.i.M. will work in both kitchen/maintenance and programming areas where needed during these two weeks. The S.W.i.M. Coordinator will periodically check with both the S.W.i.M. and staff throughout the week in order to monitor the training.

Upon acceptance to the program, S.W.i.M. participants will be notified of the weeks they have been chosen to come and work. First requests are not always able to be granted; however, they will be honored when possible.

In 2007, the S.W.i.M. program was altered to allow for a better chance for students to take on more active leadership roles. By having the same group of students on consecutive weeks, the program can intentionally build on the first week of training to allow the students an even better understanding of what goes into the ministry at Camp Fowler.

## Training

If we are to have a “Students Working in Ministry” program, we must be prepared to spend the necessary time to do specific training. This will allow those who complete the program to have a stronger and more focused vision of the ministry of Fowler, as well as the concept of ministry in general. This training will take place in a number of different areas.

### 1. Pre-Summer Readings:

These include the *Volunteer Handbook*, which outlines the purpose of the ministry at Fowler. Also, pick up a Bible and read one of the gospels. Make notes about how Jesus was a servant. Bring those notes to training.

### 2. Two-Day S.W.i.M. Orientation:

This will be held **Sunday and Monday of Memorial Day weekend** at Fowler, and **all S.W.i.M. participants** will be required to attend.

This orientation will include:

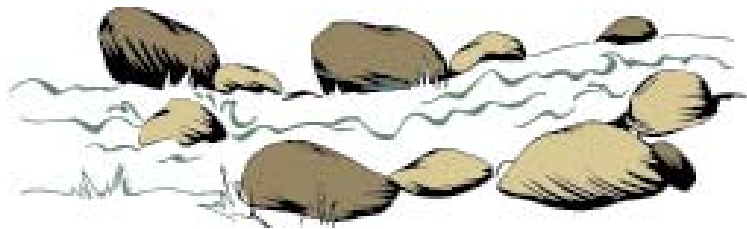
- A. An introduction to Fowler Camp & Retreat Center.
- B. Group building.
- C. An overview of the various work responsibilities you will have as a S.W.i.M.
- D. Participation in a work project.
- E. Discussion time going over assigned readings and questions about the program.

The **S.W.i.M.** program will be under the guidance of the **Director**. He will be responsible for decisions made concerning:

1. Entrance and continuation in the program.
2. Weeks assigned.
3. Requests.
4. Unforeseen issues.

The **Summer S.W.i.M. Coordinator** will be responsible for:

1. Checking daily with the S.W.i.M. in order to provide support.
2. Providing support and activities for SWiMs during their down times.
3. Weekly and final evaluations.
4. Insuring proper communications between the S.W.i.M. and assigned areas of responsibility.
5. Filling out an evaluation upon completion of the S.W.i.M. summer program.
6. Reporting to the director any concerns he/she may have regarding the S.W.i.M.



In both areas of work, S.W.i.M.s will be working alongside of summer staff and **assisting them**. They will be supervised and supported by the staff.

## Working in Kitchen/Maintenance

Some of the goals we have for S.W.i.M.s are:

- learning how to work as a team caring for the needs of others.
- seeing how food is prepared in safe and healthy ways.
- working on cleaning and care for kitchen items.
- learning some basics of camp maintenance including cleaning of cabins and showerhouses.
- working on projects that improve Camp Fowler.



## Working in Program

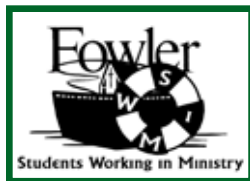
- planning in the different program areas.
- working alongside summer staff to implement programs.
- learning to develop activities that are age appropriate.
- gaining experience working with children.
- reflecting on the "hows" and "whys" of programs.

Each week, S.W.i.M.s stay in cabins and learn from the volunteer counselors how to better care for campers, even as they themselves give to the campers.

# Rules and Regulations

As a S.W.i.M. you have a unique role among those at Fowler. You are neither a camper nor staff. Because of this there are certain procedures you must abide by and follow:

1. All policies concerning volunteer staff also affect S.W.i.M. All participants are expected to know the policies contained in the *Volunteer Handbook*.
2. During the week the S.W.i.M. must be with his/her cabin of campers from evening vespers until breakfast the next day (kitchen SWiMs will have to leave their cabin before breakfast.)
3. S.W.i.Ms may only spend the weekend at camp if they are in the middle of their two week SWiM program. It will be expected that SWiMs will go home after finishing their program.
4. No S.W.i.M. will be allowed to have friends stay with them while working or camping at Fowler.
5. No S.W.i.M. will be allowed in Chi Rho, Pine Lodge, Troost Lodge, Nelson, Snyder or other summer staff living areas.
6. No S.W.i.M. will be allowed to leave Fowler without prior approval of the S.W.i.M. Coordinator. They must also be accompanied by a summer employee or other adult when leaving camp.



**The Director reserves the right to terminate any student involved in the S.W.i.M. program for failure to comply with any of the above regulations.**

## Make Space For God

Often volunteers leave Fowler “burned out” (or at least a bit singed). Don’t let it happen to you. Put God first and everything else will fall into place. Find a prayer partner, have a fifteen minute morning or evening quiet time, and/or journal. You have come as Students Working in Ministry. If you stop listening to God, how can you serve God?

### When It Rains, Let It

Fowler is a “rustic” camp. We have a few accommodations for inclement weather. However, much of our programming can continue even if the weather is not what we may wish. We concentrate on the kids at camp. Therefore, when it rains, don’t worry about it. Let’s keep our focus on the children and think of rain as the gift that it is.

### Don’t Talk About People, Talk To Them

One thing that will destroy community faster than anything is gossip. Camp can be a stressful time for summer and volunteer staff, so rumors and gossip can be especially damaging. If you are having a problem with another person, follow the advice given in Matthew 18:15-17. First talk to the person one on one. If you cannot find resolution, ask your supervisor to come along with you. This is the only appropriate way of handling community conflicts. So, don’t talk about people, talk to them.

### You Are Never So Late That You Have To Speed

Slow down! If there is one thing that camp can do, it can make you get on a treadmill and drive faster and faster. Better to be late once and figure out how not to be late again than to try and do things too quickly hurting yourself and someone else.

### Make “I’ve Never Done It That Way Before” Your Personal Motto

Too often those words are used negatively. Make them positive! Be creative! Help us develop a new twist on an evening program; walk a different way to the dining hall; think of a new game or song that we can teach! We may not be able to implement all the good ideas that come our way, but we have to continue to “dream dreams” about how God can use Fowler to minister to all people. If you have an idea, share it.