

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IDAHO CONFERENCE
SERVING SOUTHERN IDAHO AND EASTERN OREGON

MISSION MATTERS IDAHO

www.IdahoAdventist.org



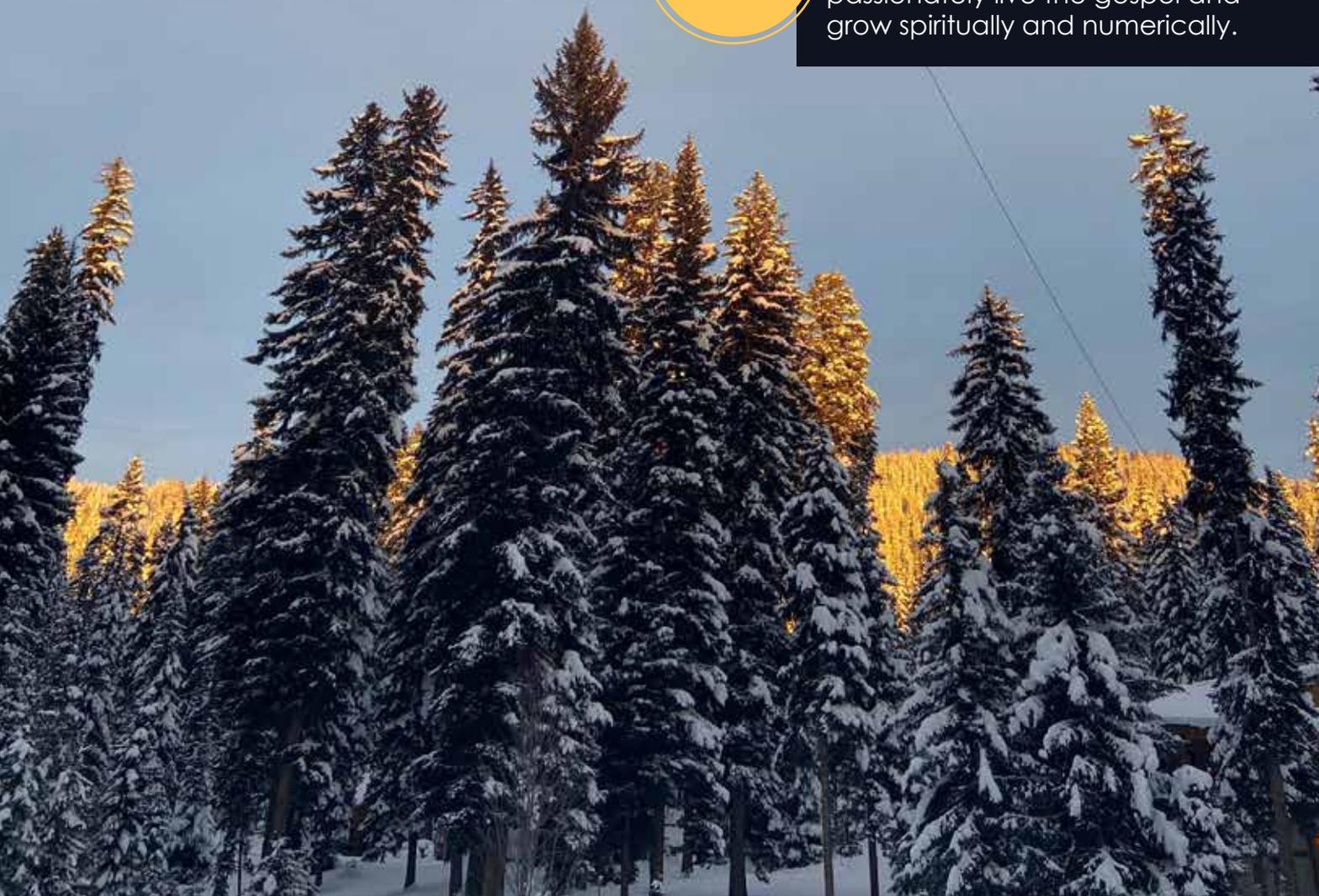
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7777 W Fairview Ave | Boise, ID 83704
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we are **CALLED**
to make disciples in our
communities **SHARING**
the distinctive, Christ-centered
Seventh-day Adventist message
of Hope and Wholeness.



to **EQUIP** and **EMPOWER**
pastor-coached, lay-driven
churches that reflect Jesus' love,
passionately live the gospel and
grow spiritually and numerically.



Idaho Conference Camp Meeting 2022

David Prest Jr., President, Idaho Conference



"Prepared. Willing. Faithful." is the theme for the 2022 Idaho Conference Camp Meeting. I invite you to join us June 14 – 18, on the campus of beautiful Gem State Adventist Academy. At this point, we are planning for an in-person Camp Meeting experience. As usual, it will also be live-streamed for both the English and Spanish languages.

Dr. Darold Bigger is the Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evening speaker, and Elder Shawn Boonstra is the Friday evening, Sabbath morning and Sabbath evening speaker for the English Language Camp Meeting.

Dr. Bigger began his ministry in the Idaho Conference and he has spent the past 41 years pastoring, teaching, and doing administrative work at Walla Walla University. During his pastoral and teaching years, he was also a military reserve chaplain from which he retired as the senior chaplain of the Navy Reserve, overseeing religious ministry and programs in the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Reserve.

Elder Boonstra serves as the speaker/director of Voice of Prophecy ministry. His broadcasts and books have been a source of inspiration around the globe, and over the years, his live events have been presented on every continent except Antarctica.

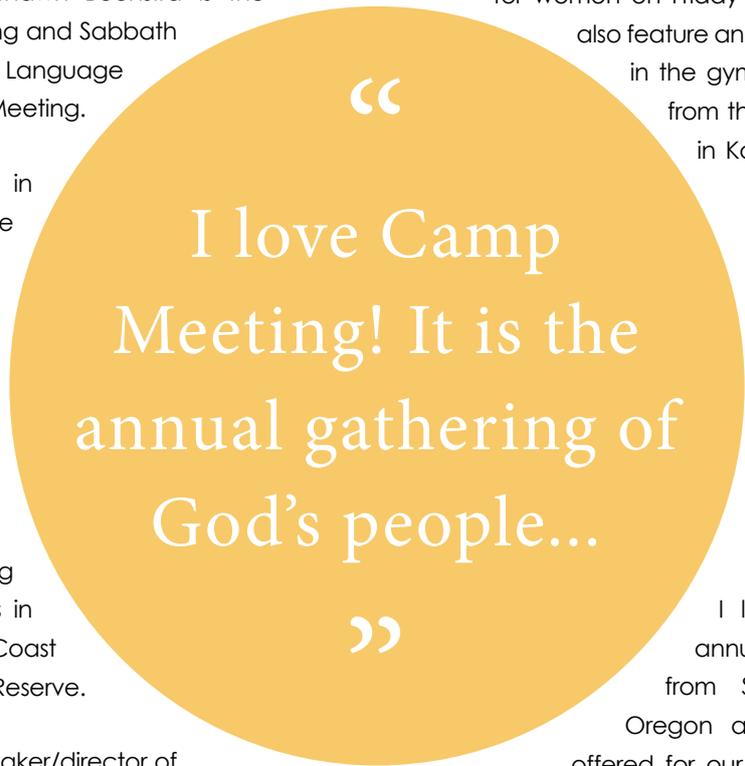
Elder Robert Costa is the speaker for the Spanish language Camp Meeting. He is from It Is Written's Spanish language ministry, Escrito Esta.

Several engaging speakers are scheduled for the daily meetings and seminars. Eric Flickinger will speak on soul winning and evangelism. Sung Kwon will present his new book, "Burst the Bubble – Finding Your Passion for Community Outreach" and Dale Galusha will be speaking on Ellen G. White's last 15 years of her life. Watch our website and social media for more information. Jody Burton, Idaho Conference Women's Ministries Leader, and her team will lead in a special gathering for women on Friday afternoon. Friday afternoon will also feature an Adventist Book Center book sale in the gymnasium. Pastor Mark Tamaleaa from the New Haven Adventist Church in Kansas City is the speaker for the Young Adults.

Evening mini-concerts will feature local musical talent, bringing us an inspiring worship experience. Our Sabbath afternoon concert will be brought to us by Victory Choir from the Oasis Seventh-day Adventist Church.

I love Camp Meeting! It is the annual gathering of God's people from Southern Idaho and Eastern Oregon and beyond. Meetings will be offered for our children and young people of every age group.

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming Idaho Conference Camp Meeting, June 14 – 18, 2022, on the campus of Gem State Adventist Academy. Visit the Camp Meeting Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/idahocampmeeting/> or our website at www.IdahoAdventist.org.



Prepared. Willing. Faithful.



Is it Time for DeTECHification of Your Kids?

Patrick Frey, Superintendent of Schools, Idaho Conference

There is no doubt about it, parenting children in today's technology and media saturated world is challenging. "About 96% of Americans have a TV and 94% of children ages 3 to 18 access the Internet either through a computer or smartphone. According to a national survey done by Common Sense Media in 2019, 53% of children have a smartphone by the time they turn 11." It is imperative for parents to understand the effects of technology on their children. Following is a short overview to the research in this area.

Technology can have both negative and positive impacts on children. The question each parent must ask is, "What am I comfortable with?"

Let's look at the **NEGATIVE CONCERNS** first.

1. The amount of time children (and even adults) are spending on technology is skyrocketing. "The average 8 to 10-year-olds spend almost 8 hours a day with a variety of media and teenagers spend around 11 hours day with media."² Some are online as late as 2 AM. This has caused a drop in grades because students are tired, not doing homework and struggling with math and reading.

2. Social skills are not being developed, causing social awkwardness, withdrawal from others and shyness. Children and teens are losing the ability to engage with other humans. They prefer their virtual reality.¹ This is causing difficulties for some children in forming relationships with other humans. What will happen to our society? Will computer-generated AI (artificial intelligence) characters become our loved ones?

3. Our children's physical and mental health is also at stake. Today we in the USA are experiencing a rise in child obesity. "For children and adolescents aged 2-19 years in 2017-2018, the prevalence of obesity was 19.3% and affected about 14.4 million children and adolescents."³ This is causing an epidemic of Type 2 diabetes in this age group. There is a fear that many of today's children will not out live their parents. All this is largely due to sitting in front of screen eating for hours instead of playing outside.

4. Because of social media, teens are becoming depressed because their lives seem boring compared to the "exciting" lives of other teens. Unfortunately, many of the posts they are looking at are carefully curated and some are just made up.²

5. Another problem is cyber bullying. From the safety of screen anonymity, a child can attack those they don't like and get their friends to do the same. The pressure of this kind of attack has caused children and teens to become depressed and, in some cases, to commit suicide.²

6. The danger of unregulated web browsing is possibly exposing children to sites that could recruit them to radical organizations, violent games and porn sites. There is also the danger of interactions with strangers that lure children into dangerous adult relationship or into human trafficking.

POSITIVE ASPECTS OF TECHNOLOGY

1. Technology has provided alternate ways to learn. These include apps or sites that help with math, reading and spelling. Also, there are apps for phones that have helped in science and math.

2. Technology teaches development of research skills and life skills and provides options for visual learners.

3. Students get to experience other cultures through virtual sister schools from other countries.

4. Children are prepared for future careers in technology or information technology.

5. Children can learn to improve problem solving and decision making through apps and games which require the child to think versus mindless play.

continued on next page

WHAT TO DO

1. One of the most important things to do is regulate the amount of time your children are on technology for non-education use. One hour a day for young children and two hours a day for teens.
2. Resist the urge to use technology as a babysitter. Provide other avenues of activity such as sports teams, play dates with other children without tech involved.
3. Match screen time hour for hour of fresh air and sunshine. Take your children to forests, parks, mountains, meadows, or beaches. Many children are losing opportunities to experience "God's second book" – nature. Nature has a soothing and mental well-being effect on everyone.
4. Read real books together and have family worship at night.
5. Don't let your guard down on holidays and binge on movies and video games as a "family activity" together. Limit them and go outside and play games, have a scavenger hunt, plant something together.
6. Remember, social media can be as addicting as any drug. If you are a parent of young children, remember you are a role model. Do you need to reign in your technology and reengage with your family?

¹ The Impact of Technology on Children, Life Advantages, https://www.ceritos.edu/hr/_includes/docs/August_2021_The_Impact_of_Technology_on_Children_ua.pdf

² Impact of Technology on Kids Today and Tomorrow, Western Governors University, <https://www.wgu.edu/blog/impact-technology-kids-today-tomorrow1910.html>

³ Childhood Obesity Facts | Overweight & Obesity | CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/childhood.html>

⁴ Joan Amorós, <https://www.qustodio.com/en/2021/07/01/screen-time-fresh-air/>

⁵ Megan Proops, How to put parental controls on YouTube <https://www.qustodio.com/de/2021/10/27/wie-man-eine-kindersicherung-auf-youtube-einrichtet>



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Mark Tamaleaa

Camp Meeting Guest Speaker — Young Adults



Pastor Mark Tamaleaa currently swerves as the Youth Pastor in Kansas City at the New Haven Church. In the last 24 years, he has served as the conference youth and young adult director, young adult pastor, teacher and principal.

Pastor Mark and Mindy have been married for 25 years. They have four children. They have a heart for counseling young couples and leading young people to Jesus.



Meet The Speakers

Shawn Boonstra

Camp Meeting Guest Speaker — *Weekend Speaker*

Pastor Shawn Boonstra is speaker/director for the Voice of Prophecy ministry. His broadcasts and books have been a source of inspiration around the globe, and over the years, his live events have been presented on every continent except Antarctica.

Prior to coming to the Voice of Prophecy in 2013, Shawn served as an associate ministerial director at the North American Division, where his role was to inspire, train, and equip pastors and churches for evangelism.

Before this assignment, he served for seven years as speaker/director for It Is Written International Television. In his early pastoral career, he served as speaker/director for It Is Written Canada and pastored a number of churches in British Columbia.

He currently lives in Loveland, Colorado, and enjoys any activity that gets him out of doors and into the mountains, especially when his wife and two daughters join him.



Darold Bigger

Camp Meeting Guest Speaker — *Weekday Evening Speaker*

Darold and his wife Barbara began their ministry in the Idaho Conference working with the evangelist and pastoring. Since then they have been to the seminary in Michigan, graduate school and pastoring in California, and for the past 41 years Darold has pastored, taught, and done administrative work at Walla Walla University.

During his pastoral and teaching years, Darold was also a military reserve chaplain from which he retired as the senior chaplain of the Navy Reserve, overseeing religious ministry and programs in the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Reserve.



The Victory Choir

Camp Meeting Sabbath Afternoon Concert

On Sabbath afternoon at 3:30 pm in the Main Auditorium, The Victory Choir from the Oasis Adventist Church will bring their harmony and praise to us. You won't want to

miss this! The Victory Choir is a youth choir of Adventist refugees from Rwanda who have settled in Boise.



Robert Costa

Camp Meeting Guest Speaker — *Spanish Speaker*

A native of Uruguay, Pastor Robert Costa is the speaker/director of Escrito Está, the Spanish television program of It Is Written. Escrito Está is broadcast weekly via satellite, cable, and over 11,000 local channels and radio stations, reaching more than 138 countries.

Pastor Costa earned his college degrees in Argentina and the United States and has served as pastor since 1980 in South America and North America. His passion to share the good news of God's Word has led him to conduct more than 300 evangelistic series around the world in the last 15 years. Presently, Robert and his wife Nancy live in Maryland where they actively serve the Lord together.

He will be sharing on our theme, Fulfilling God's Final Mission.

Nativo de Uruguay, el pastor Robert Costa es el locutor/director de Escrito Está, el programa de televisión en español de Escrito Está. Escrito Está se transmite semanalmente vía satélite, cable y más de 11.000 canales locales y estaciones de radio, llegando a más de 138 países.

El pastor Costa obtuvo sus títulos universitarios en Argentina y los Estados Unidos y se ha desempeñado como pastor desde 1980 en América del Sur y América del Norte. Su pasión por compartir las buenas nuevas de la Palabra de Dios lo ha llevado a realizar más de 300 series de evangelización alrededor del mundo en los últimos 15 años. Actualmente, Robert y su esposa Nancy viven en Maryland, donde sirven activamente al Señor juntos.

Estará compartiendo sobre nuestro tema, Cumpliendo la Misión final de Dios.



Eric Flickinger

Camp Meeting Guest Speaker — *Soul Winning & Evangelism*

Eric Flickinger is currently serving as the associate speaker for It Is Written. He is the host of the weekly Sabbath School program and co-host of the programs Line Upon Line and SALT 365. The son of an Army officer, he traveled extensively throughout the United States and Europe as a child, developing an appreciation and love for the many and varied cultures of the world. He finally settled in Florida where his study of the Bible during his years at the University of Florida finally inspired him to attend an evangelism training

school for lay members. Eric is now a veteran of over 90 evangelistic campaigns across the United States, Canada, Asia, Europe, and Australia, and has served as an evangelist and evangelism school administrator for 19 years. A popular author and television speaker, Eric is often described as having a gift for making even difficult biblical topics easy to understand. He currently lives near Chattanooga, Tennessee and is joined in ministry by his wife, Hildelisa, and their two children, Noelani and Justin.

Prepared.



Sung Kwon Camp Meeting Guest Speaker — *Community & Outreach*

Sung Kwon, PhD, DMin, has served as the North American Division Adventist Community Services (ACS) executive director from 2001- 2021. He is an ordained minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He is currently an associate professor at Andrews University and program director of the MA in Leadership in Social Innovation. Though he grew up in a family with Buddhist and Catholic beliefs, he became a baptized member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1991.

After becoming an Adventist, he served as the Executive Director of the Good Neighbor House, an ACS agency in Dayton, Ohio, for eight years. He was also the vice president and, later, president of the North American Association of Community Services Directors (NAACSD).

Dr. Kwon serves as a Chaplain (Major) for Civil Air Patrol, US Air Force Auxiliary. He has served on the boards of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (NVOAD), National Interfaith Coalition on Aging (NICA), and National Mass Care Council.



Dale Galusha Camp Meeting Guest Speaker — *Ellen White's Last 15 Years*

At a very young age, Dale Galusha felt God's call and has spent his life in various aspects of ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. During his academy and college days, Dale spent summers working at youth camps in Northern California. After graduating from Pacific Union College, he became a youth pastor in the Northern California Conference before attending the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews University. Upon completing the seminary, he returned to Northern California where he pastored and was conference evangelist. He has conducted evangelistic meetings and field schools of evangelism in a number of countries around the world.

Since 1995 Dale has ministered in different capacities at Pacific Press Publishing Association. He has served as president of PPPA since 2005.

Dale will be looking at the last 15 years of Ellen White's life, when she was in her home at Elmshaven. The seminar asks: What would it have been like to have been Ellen White's neighbor at this time? What memories and impressions would they have taken away from their association with her? How does this impact how we view Ellen White today?

Willing. Faithful.

Guidelines to a Safe & Happy Camp Meeting

Safety:

Speed limit for all parking areas and roads on campus is 5 mph.

Your children should be under the supervision of a responsible adult at all times while on the academy campus or in the buildings.

Bicycles, skateboards, scooters, roller blades, etc. are not allowed on the campus.

Trees: please do not climb the trees.

No firearms or fireworks are allowed on campus.

Please contact the Information Office in the event of an injury or medical emergency. If the emergency is life-threatening, please call 911, then notify the Information Office.

All motor homes, trailers, campers, and tents are restricted to RV and tent sites.

Park in designated spaces only; please keep all fire lanes clear; handicap designation must be on display.

Academy and conference personnel will be on campus doing safety checks. If you see something that isn't right, please contact the Information office or the designated host of your area.

Cafeteria Hours & Prices

The Cafeteria will be open for meals beginning Tuesday evening at 5:15 pm through Sabbath (Saturday) evening supper. Meal tickets are available for purchase at each meal, except Sabbath. Tickets for Sabbath meals must be purchased in advance. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Hours:

Breakfast Wed – Fri:	7:00 – 7:45 am
Lunch Wed – Fri:	12:00 – 1:00 pm
Supper Tue – Fri:	5:15 – 6:15 pm

Sabbath Hours:

Breakfast:	7:30 – 8:15 am
Lunch:	12:30 – 1:15 pm
Supper:	5:15 – 6:15 pm

Meals for age 5 and over: \$8.25

Meals for ages 4 and under:
No Charge (accompanied by paying adult)

Meal tickets are not refundable.

The cafeteria serves vegetarian meals and is able to accommodate vegan and gluten-free dietary needs **when you alert them to your needs**. Also note that menus may change in order to provide the freshest food.

You may go back for seconds. Consider how much you would spend for a vegetarian meal, including beverage, at a local restaurant. The price of \$8.25 helps keep the academy's costs in line, and you are not expected to tip the staff!

Courtesy:

NEW: No animals except service dogs are allowed on campus (which includes the RV Park). A service dog is individually trained to perform a specific task for a disability. (www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm)

Sales: all books, other printed materials, audio and video disks will be sold through the Adventist Book Center, or by those specifically cleared by Idaho Conference administration.

Please do not distribute literature without receiving approval of Idaho Conference administration.

A ministry, education, or other booth/display must be approved by Idaho Conference administration prior to camp meeting.

The use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs of abuse, vaping, e-cigarettes are prohibited in or near any building on campus. We acknowledge that some who are not members may use tobacco products or vape; please contact the Information Office for a designated area. While we discourage their use, we need to treat those who do in a kind, Christ-like manner.

Please honor the Sabbath hours by not moving in or out of a dormitory, or RV area, from sunset Friday evening through sunset Sabbath evening (Saturday).

Camp Meeting 2022 Adult Schedule

Time	Tue Jun 14	Wed Jun 15	Thur Jun 16	Fri Jun 17	Sab Jun 18
7 - 7:45 am	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast 7:30 - 8:15 pre-purchase meal tkts
8 - 9 am		Sung Kwon - Academy Church			
9 - 9:15 am		Break	Break	Break	9:30 Sabbath School: Main Auditorium
9:15 - 10:45 am		Galusha - Acad Ch/Flickinger - Main Aud/Kwon - Library			Young Adults - TBD
10:45 - 11 am		Break	Break	Break	10:45 am Shawn Boonstra: Main Auditorium
11 am - 12 pm		Dale Galusha - Academy Church			11:00 am Spanish: Robert Costa: Academy Church
12 - 1 pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch 12:30 - 1:15: pre-purchase meal
1:30 - 3:00 pm		Galusha - Acad Ch/Flickinger - Main Aud/Kwon - Library		Health - Academy Church	
3:00 - 3:15 pm		Break	Break	Break	
3:15 - 4:45 pm		Health - Academy Church		ABC Auditorium Sale	3:30 - 5 pm The Victory Choir - In concert: Main Auditorium
5:15 - 6:15 pm	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner - pre-purchase meal tickets
6:30 - 7 pm	TBD - Academy Church	TBD - Academy Church	TBD - Academy Church	TBD - Academy Church	
7:15 - 9 pm	Darold Bigger: Main Auditorium - Tuesday through evening			Shawn Boonstra: Main Auditorium	
Spanish Camp Meeting 7:30 pm	Robert Costa: Academy Church				5:30 pm: Robert Costa: Academy Church
Young Adults 7:15 pm	Attend evening meetings through Thursday: Main Auditorium			Mark Tamaleaa: Tent	

Camp Meeting 2022 Children & Youth Schedule

Class	Location	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sabbath
Beginner birth to age 3	Choir Room		9:30 am – 12 noon (9:30 – 11 structured program)			Beginner & Kindergarten
Kindergarten ages 4 – 6 only	Band Room		3 – 5 pm (3:30 – 5 structured program)			9:30 – 11 am 3:30 – 5 pm
Primary Grades 1-4 Ages 7-10	Tent Behind South Dorm	7 – 9 pm	9:30 a.m. – 12 noon 3 – 5 p.m. 7 – 9 p.m.			9:30 am – 12:30 pm 3 – 5 pm 7 – 9:30 pm
Juniors Grades 5-6	South Dorm Chapel	7 – 9 pm	9:30 a.m. – 12 noon 3 – 5 pm 7 – 9 pm			
Earliteens Grades 7-8	Bible Room	7 – 9 pm	9:30 a.m. – 12 noon 3 – 5 pm 7 – 9 pm			
Youth High School	Student Residence Chapel	7 – 9 pm 9 – 10 pm social	9:30 am - noon 3 – 5 pm 7 – 9 pm 9 – 10 social	9:30 am - noon 3 – 5 pm 7 – 9 pm 9 – 10 social	9:30 am - noon 3 – 5 pm 7 – 9 pm 9 – 10 social	9:30 am - noon 3 – 5 pm 7 – 9 pm 9 – 10 social

PARENTS! All divisions, Beginner through Youth, have the same basic schedule. Only changes may be when groups go off-campus.

Beginners Leaders: TBD

Kindergarten Leaders: TBD

Primary Leaders: Michael Gee, David Ballard, Michael Mirra

Junior Leaders: Chris Evenson, Monte Wood, Lynn Bryson

Earliteen Leaders: Jason Williams, Steve Echelmeier

Youth Leaders: Tomm Lemon II, Ever Perez

Watch the website, www.IdahoAdventist.org and the Camp Meeting Facebook, www.facebook.com/idahocampmeeting for updated information.

Ways to help your child have the best experience at camp meeting programs:

1. The programs are designed for specific age ranges. Your child may be frustrated or bored if he/she attends a program out of his/her age group. (See schedule for ranges.)
2. If you want to visit with other parents, please go outside to limit the distraction to the children.
3. To avoid distractions for the children, please limit entering/exiting the room when a meeting is in session.
4. For Beginners, children need to have a parent or adult guardian with them at all times. It would be ideal to have one adult for every child.

Idaho Conference Camp Meeting Registration Form

June 14 - 18, 2022

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone # _____
(Not at Camp Meeting with you)

Vehicle License Plate # _____ State _____

Email _____ I need help with my luggage

Mail to:

Idaho Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.
Camp Meeting
7777 W Fairview Ave
Boise ID 83704

\$20.00 deposit required to reserve room or space.
Deposit is nonrefundable after May 23, 2022.

We accept only cash and checks. Make checks payable to Idaho Conference.

Balance is due at check-in.
A \$5 refundable deposit per key is payable at check-in.

New "No Pet Policy"

No animals except service dogs are allowed on campus.
Service dogs must be trained to perform a specific task for a disability.

For more information contact:
Leanne Strickland
Idaho Conference
208-375-7524 Ext. 114
Leanne.strickland@idconf.org

Please reserve the days I have checked:

- Full Camp Meeting (Tuesday, June 14 - Sabbath, June 18)
- Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Sabbath

Lodging (Check one):

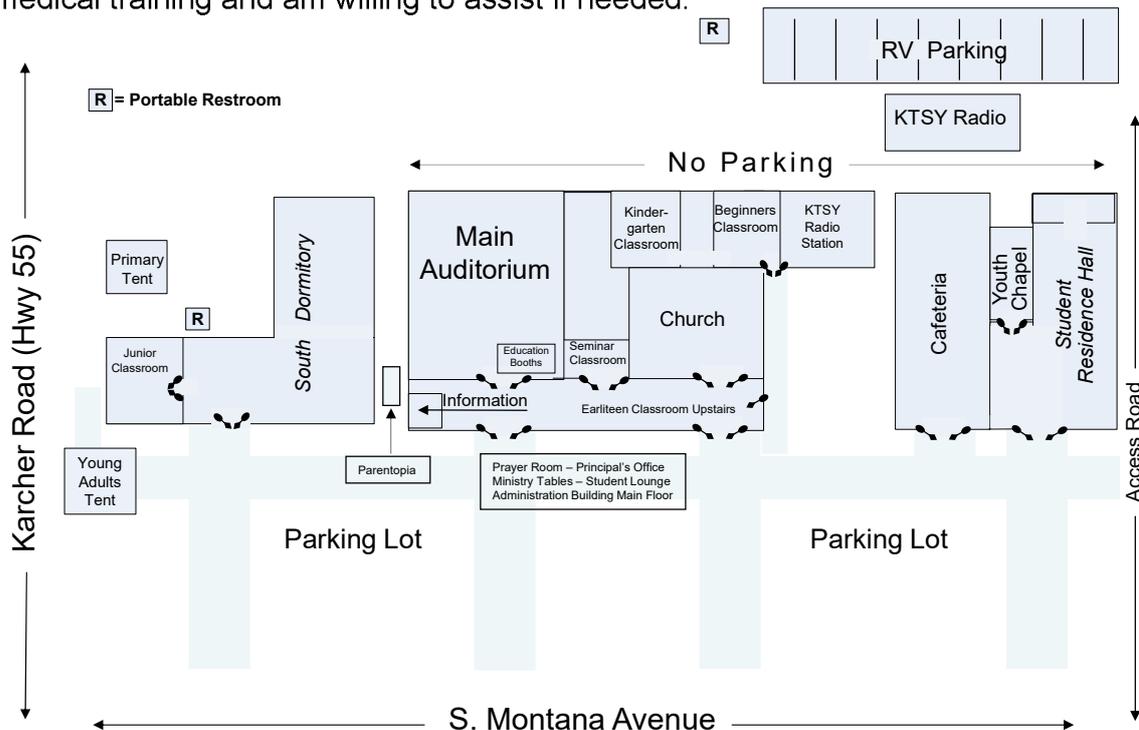
	<u>Per Night</u>	<u>Full Time</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Residence	\$31	\$92	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> South Dorm	\$29	\$85	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> RV-Water/Elec(10 amp)/Sewer*	\$29	\$85	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> RV-Water/Elec(10 amp)*	\$23	\$64	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Tent Site (no utilities)	\$7	\$21	\$ _____
	Total Fees		\$ _____
	Deposit Paid		\$ _____
	Balance Due		\$ _____

* Length of RV _____

* # of Slide Outs _____

* RV License Plate # _____ State _____

I have medical training and am willing to assist if needed.





Soul Fitness

Eve Rusk, Director for Communications

To Whom Do You Owe Allegiance?

Growing up, we said the Pledge of Allegiance every morning in school – public and Adventist elementary. It was the thing to do. We were all Americans, right? This is way before I realized anything about politics, political parties and how our government worked.

In my senior year of academy, I learned more of how our government worked because we had a class called “Government.” Even then, I didn’t realize the importance of it and didn’t really understand the impact it had on my life.

I learned more as I became old enough to vote. I don’t think that I had to register with a particular party the first time I voted, but my memory may be faulty (it’s been a few years since that first vote). I do remember registering as an independent in the first state my new husband and I lived in. And I recall hearing (not really researching it for myself) that the Democratic Party was the “tax and spend” party and that the Republican Party was the party of values and morals.

Through the years, I have always tried to vote my conscience. Or at least the “least of two evils.” Sometimes that meant not voting for a specific position like senate seat or even president. In case you haven’t noticed, politics has become, shall we say, much more polarized. What saddens me is the number of Christians, and yes, Adventist Christians, who have brought that polarization into the church. And who share the views of the polarized over the love that Jesus has for us. (Oops, I think I stepped on a few toes – and believe me, I am not guiltless in this, but I am allowing God to work on my compassion, on my love for others.)

Back to the original question. To whom do you owe allegiance? I invite you to look at the back of a baptismal certificate for the Seventh-day Adventist church. On the current ones we have in the conference office, there are 13 commitments to

which a baptism candidate agrees. The first one is there is one God comprised of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The seventh one states “I look forward to the soon coming of Jesus . . . I will witness to His loving salvation, and by life and word help others to be ready for His glorious appearing.”

The last one is the most striking to me during this time, especially the last half of the first sentence: “that people of every nation, race, and language are invited and accepted into its fellowship.” As a baptized Seventh-day Adventist Christian, I agreed that I believed in all of these commitments.

I think of several verses from Scripture that tell me how to live with others. In Romans 12:18 ESV, Paul gives us this instruction: “If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”

In the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37, in verses 36 and 37, Jesus asked the lawyer who was shown to be a neighbor to the man who was accosted and beaten by robbers. We all know the ending – it was the Samaritan, the one who showed him mercy.

In John 13:34-35 ESV, after Judas had left the last supper, Jesus gave this to the remaining disciples: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

If you would, ask yourself who has your allegiance. For me, I choose to prioritize my allegiance as follows: I am first a child of God. Next, I am part of an earthly family – husband, children, grandchildren, siblings, parents, etc. Third, I am an American who votes my conscience. What defines me, though, is I am a child of God. As God’s child, I must show myself to be His disciple, by loving others, just as God loves me.