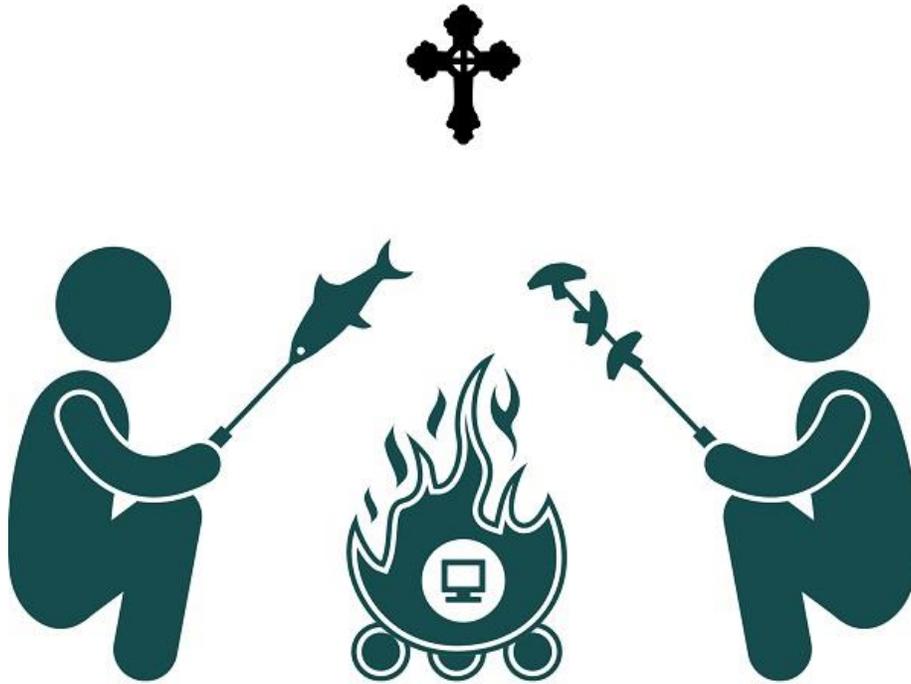


OXROSE

RENDEZVOUS #6



*A Guide for
Adventurers 2026*

Colossians 2:7

Dear Noble League of Oxrosian Rendezvousers!

This packet is meant to inform, prepare, and excite the rendezvousers (new and returning), who soon will set out for the fields and forests of Kansas. Fear not intrepid travelers! All (or, at least, a large bit) that you need to know is found herein! Please read this, in its entirety, attentively.

The Point and Purpose

As you know, having our kids in Oxrose online is a great blessing. They have access to wonderful teachers, a deep, catholic, wisdom-and-Christ-focused curriculum, and a joyous batch of fellow students with whom to share their time. However, we are all aware that being online comes with limits, especially in two areas: first, group school activities that can't be engaged in online (drama, music, dance, sport) and second, full and complete community experience with their friends (the chance for convivium – living with each other in prayer, laughter, conflict, and joy). The purpose of camp is for the kids, and we parents also, to gather together and do just those things. Camp is not an extra bit of frivolous fun—it is a culmination of the real bonds that the kids, teachers, and parents have developed virtually. So, we come to the woods in order to love one another as Christians and live for a time together with God. *Gaudio sicut gladiis, semper in altum!*

(Quite) A Bit of Information . . .

Dates & Times:

START: We may arrive at camp any time after NOON on Sunday, July 19th. Check-in will begin at 3 PM at the main lodge you'll see as you enter camp.

END: We will close camp with early mass, cleanup, and farewells on the morning of Saturday, July 25th, leaving camp no later than 11 AM (our usual time has been around 9 AM). This allows us to get on the road at the beginning of the weekend for our long drives home.

Location, Airport, & Facilities:

We will be camping at Camp Jayhawk, near Oskaloosa, KS. Here is the link for Google maps.

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Falley+Scout+Reservat+on/@39.2017222,-95.4040652,15z/data=!4m6!3m5!1s0x87bfa0058aca9927:0x2d3d94a7588ac7b!8m2!3d39.2017222!4d-95.4040652!16s%2F12642tlyj?entry=ttu>

Jayhawk is just over an hour's drive from KCI airport. If you are flying in, reach out during the planning period to arrange a ride for pickup and drop off.

Jayhawk is a Boy Scout camp with full facilities, which we are able to rent and use without staff present other than a single on-site ranger who keeps up oversight and has all the keys to things.

It is a camp: there will be woodland animals, many mosquitoes, many-many ticks, poison ivy, deer, the occasional bobcat or coyote, etc. It is hot, though the average temps are 91 as the high

and 69 as the overnight low, as I check them now. That would be cool compared to the Ozarks. We had a high of 102 the first day of the first camp.

There are several large shower houses and a number of private showers and toilets. There are laundry facilities available (bring quarters).

There is an enclosed swimming area in the lake (which we will use daily, it will be staffed by lifeguards during open times) as well as fishing areas, and the larger lake area for kayaks, canoes, row boats, and sail boats (all available). Fishing gear is available. There is a large lodge/cafe/tertia, with a full kitchen attached-- meals, and most of the large full camp activities will be here. It is enclosed with windows to be opened and large fans (no AC! The rumors were false, alas). There is a second dining facility that is open air and more shaded. There is an outdoor theatre space. There is a parade ground where we raise the flag each day. There is a quartermaster facility that has gaga ball and other games. The staff are working on finding us boards for our corn hole tourney. There are lots of trails and trees.

There are shooting ranges of various kinds (archery, bb guns, rifle, shotgun, sling shots, and what is called a "cowboy action range"). Quite wonderfully, the camp is providing volunteer staff for any of the shooting activities we choose to participate in. We will be circulating sign up lists for things soon. There are throwing knives and tomahawks.

There is a C.O.P.E. course and a climbing tower on site, which are neither of them open for use this year. There are plans to open them up in years to come.

Sleeping Arrangements:

The camp has an array of different cabins or rooms within cabins (all with AC) available, as well as tent camping in cabin style tents. All families will be assigned to sleeping arrangements based on family size and special needs (e.g. newborn babies). Bringing fans to increase comfort in these spaces is encouraged. This camp has spaces for 23 families, so it is unlikely that anyone will need to consider sleeping in a non-air conditioned space. As of this writing, everyone who has signed up has a cabin (about 130 campers).

There are beds (horizontal spring cots) with twin mattresses enough to accommodate all of our number this year, but individual families may opt to bring air mattresses in order to accommodate extra sleepers in their spaces, especially you larger families.

The cabins are fairly clean, but they are rough around the edges and have been used for the last two months by hordes of dirty-toed boy scouts. Mentally prepare yourselves!

Everyone should bring sheets, blankets, and pillows.

Schedule:

The basic schedule for each day throughout the week involves morning mass, followed by scheduled activities with different age groups assigned to different set locations and actions at the water front or doing English dance workshops, Great Books Hikes, some arts and crafts, etc.

After lunch, there are some repeating activities including music and theatre practices, and then "open campus" time (nothing scheduled but a number of things are "open"—the waterfront, quartermaster's shed for equipment check out, etc. and the kids may roam a bit).

Supper is followed by a large, camp-wide activity, usually at the main lodge (ice cream social, pub night, etc.) Thursday is a special day, our annual high feast day, with a eucharistic procession, feast (put on by the students for the families), and dancing into the night. We sleep

in a bit on Friday morning and have a somewhat less heavy schedule. Saturday we are up early for mass (if possible with Father's schedule), camp clean up, and departures.

There will be a number of ongoing tournaments (last year included corn hole, bocci ball, and arm wrestling, among others) throughout the week.

Since we have access to more of the camp activities (particularly the shooting ranges), some adjustment to this schedule overview is likely.

Staffing & Liability:

It is important to note that there is NO formal staff for running our event at the camp, either provided by the camp itself or by Oxrose. The camp is providing volunteers for a variety of specific activities, but they do not assume independent oversight of our kids at any time. Each family maintains legal and moral responsibility for and oversight of its own kids. As you noticed, there is a liability waiver to sign to this effect as part of sign up for the camp. As parents, the main idea is that we are each assuming full responsibility for our own families, while at camp.

All of the activities that we undertake will be planned and run by volunteer participants of equal status working cooperatively within this paradigm. Please do exercise your best judgement for your kids about any activities that present any element of risk, particularly water activities. If you don't think an activity meets your safety requirements, do act accordingly and pull your kids out.

What we ask is that everyone look out for everyone else. If you see a child wondering alone, check in on him. If you see a risky behavior, say something. If you have a concern, bring it forward. For the week, we will seek to live together in Christian charity.

An Ethos of Participation & Volunteerism:

The unofficial motto each year is "That's a great idea, YOU should do that." Meaning that both the idea is welcome and good, and that we need someone to take up the task so why not you! When this attitude is embraced, it gives the whole thing a wonderful spirit; something akin to a large family reunion, we hope. For most activities, it is all hands-on deck. The best times had in the past, by many of us, were those when we were just able to be around others and visit, which often happens when washing dishes.

The activities are those one would associate with summer camp, but infused (even more so each year, I hope) with a bit of a classical academic polish. Part of the goal is to bring all of us together (who share much intellectually) into rich experiences of real things that we can appreciate in light of the shared culture we possess. Dante and stars; poetry and dance; rhetoric and feasting; etc. We do have in mind that we have a chance to here include many of the cultural elements we would have as a school, but can't because of our virtual platform. Here we feast, we dance, we sing, we pray, we do theatre, etc.

Participation in the planned activities, generally speaking, is mandatory. Parents can, of course, excuse kids from things, but we have found that it is important that the understanding be that we are all pitching in both in the work and in the fun. If we don't, it is hard to keep things running, hard to be sure that there are enough hands to help with everything, and the fun is limited by the fact that everyone is a bit embarrassed and shy. Please come ready to jump in and try things (parents, too) and with a spirit of volunteerism (teens, too).

All kids twelve and up will be rostered as members of work crews which will be captained by an older student and be responsible for meal prep, clean up, and activity set up and take down.

Parents will be asked to take on a specific jobs: kitchen management, food purchase and transport, activities (including the tournaments, workshops, theatre and music groups, hosts for specific evening events, oversight for areas that are open during open campus, etc.). There will be a planned schedule for each age group of kids, during activity times. Families with young children should plan to have one parent dedicated to working with the “daycare” – the parents working together to manage the littlest campers. The older kids will be asked at specific times to take over management of the younger in order for all the parents to be free for a few parent focused workshops and events. The parent dance workshop was a personal highlight for me from last year!

Conceptual Theme:

Each year we have chosen a theme, an idea to keep in mind as we were planning and carrying out the camp. Year one was “the richness of real things” Year two was “tradition.” 2023’s theme was taken from the school’s motto: “With joy like swords.” 2024, perhaps inspired by the Eucharistic pilgrimage, was “Christ centered.” And for 2025, inspired by a desire for fortitude, “Hold On” Deuteronomy 13:4. We enter 2026 with a spirit of desired growth in our community and in ourselves with gratitude. *“Have your roots in him. Build yourselves up in him. Grow strong in what you believe, just as you were taught. Be more thankful than ever before.”* Colossians 2:7

I challenge everyone to reflect on this school year. How have we grown as a community of believers? How has each of us grown personally? Are we sincerely thankful for the progress God has allowed? How can we thrust our roots deeper into His Word and His Love?

Prayer and Liturgy:

Father Michael Marascalco and his esteemed brother John Robert are returning as our chaplain’s corp again this year. Most of the liturgies will be novus ordo, ad orientem with Latin for the commons. We are excited to explore some opportunities for incorporating the traditional Latin liturgy this year. I’ll have more information on that soon; I hope. Our schedule brings back the night-time adoration preceding the procession to and exposition at the outdoor chapel preceding the feast. Confession is available and we hope to incorporate more elements of prayer. There will be a choir and altar boys will be wanted, as last year. We will have our nightly rosary once again.

For our high feast day, all are asked to dress up (see the packing list). Masses on other days will be first thing in the morning. It will be possible to dress up for these, as well, but it is understood that these are “work day” masses, at which dress in our daily clothes is the custom. As elsewhere, this is not to close off debate around this question, but this is the policy. All are asked to exercise reverence around the chapel (probably will be set up in the basement below the mess hall) at all times and to stop in often as you wonder by.

Modesty:

In order to ensure that we are embracing the highest standard of virtue and also that we are making sure that everyone, regardless of the individual norms of each family, is able to participate we have already taken the first step of reserving a private camp space—we will be the only ones on site and the only ones using the waterfront and pool areas.

The second step, with which I need your help, is to establish the dress code. Here is what I am asking of those who attend: Please plan to only allow swimwear of the shorts and t-shirts variety for everybody (gentlemen and ladies, all ages). No midriffs making appearances, nothing too tight, no suggestively transparent materials, etc. You get the idea. And now . . . visuals!

Please do understand that I am not asking because of a wish to impose a vision for modesty on anyone's family. In this circumstance that is not the point. What I most want to do now is make sure that everyone can come and that we are above reproach with each other. Let us, simply, make it NOT an issue (to the extent possible in a fallen world), so that we can focus on having a joy-filled week!

So, please operate on the presumption that this is the rule for the level of modesty to embrace for all water activities and for camp generally. I am more than happy to discuss this further with anyone, just send me a note.



Remote Working:

There is office space and decent internet available in several places at camp, making it possible to work remotely during the week. If that is a necessity for you in order to attend, we can accommodate you.

Camp T-Shirts:

T-shirts will be handed out at camp on Wednesday or Thursday for group picture day! Returning campers should definitely wear their old shirts with pride throughout the week.

Pub Night & Family Talent Show

Among the events scheduled for camp will be a talent show. Families are invited and strongly encouraged to prepare something to share (a story, a poem, a song, a skit, – accompaniment is available). Prizes will be awarded! Much fun will be had.

Rules:

1. Each family should prepare ONE act
2. Your act must involve as many members of the family as possible.
3. Each act should be 2 to 4 minutes in length
4. The act must be submitted to the Rendezvous Registration table at check-in for approval.
5. Those families with no act will be flogged with soggy noodles and accosted with badly pronounced adjectives suitable to old food (e.g. “You smell like moldy onions and rancid celery!” or “Your skin has the pallor of overwatered root crops!”)

If this is not something you usually “do” as a family—please treat it as a challenge to take it on. You have all summer to prepare and as Chesterton said “If a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing badly.” Leap into the fray! The point of this is far less the competition element as the fun element. What we love best is seeing a family altogether having a wonderful time doing

What’s Next?

Planning. Shortly, you will begin to receive planning emails asking for your input on all manner of things. Menus, job assignments, travel arrangements, and so forth. Please be attentive to these and respond in a timely way. The more planning we complete beforehand the easier things are on the ground at camp. Again, please take to heart the fact that we have no staff and are reliant on each other for success. Please leap in and give some part of it your all. Please support those who take on management of a task with your cooperation and responsiveness. Christ-centered!

Fundraising. One of the important email messages that will be forthcoming concerns fundraising. The cost for last year’s camp was around \$10,000 all in. \$6500 for facilities and insurance and \$3500 for materials and food. Wonderfully, we were able to cover all of the costs for the camp so that no family was required to pay more than the registration fees through the generosity of donors.

This year should have a very similar price tag and we are hoping to cover the costs in the same manner as last year. Having a low cost is a necessity for many of our families. Though it only costs about \$150 per person for everything (based on last year’s numbers), when you have a family of ten and need to pay for travel, the cost adds up quickly. We have already gathered the family registration fees and the school contributes between one and two thousand each year. In addition, we have heard from one donor already who has committed \$1000 to the cause. We are actively seeking donations to cover the remaining \$6500.

It should be noted that no funds for the camp profit Oxrose Academy. All funds go directly to costs for camp and no funds are collected in excess of what is needed.

Please consider whether your family could donate \$500 or \$1000 to the camp experience for all the Oxrose kids. If you are unsure about its value, let me go on the record as saying it has been nothing less than revolutionary in the life of our school community.

Packing List:**For each family member:**

1. clothes (*remember: hot and in the woods, something long legged and long sleeved is a good idea for night activities and bugger times*)
2. toiletries
3. medicines or special dietary needs.
4. walking shoes: *count on a lot of walking, between buildings, hikes in the woods, etc.—need to be durable - nothing is paved.*
5. swimwear
6. floaties for younger ones (*lake swimming*)
7. shower shoes or flip flops
8. towel
9. dress clothes *for the Thursday Mass, eucharistic procession and feast:*
 gents—*a dress shirt and slacks minimum;*
 ladies—*a long dress, fit for mass and dancing, lots of flowered things in years past*
10. twin sheets, blanket, pillow
11. refillable water bottle (*with name on it*)
12. rain jacket
13. camp t-shirt (*returning campers, these are worn for the all camp photo*)
14. sun hat
15. Oxrose Yearbook (*for signing and such*)
16. Camp Music Book (*this will be provided digitally soon so you can print it and practice up!*)

For the family:

17. board games / yard games / camp games
During the “open campus” times or during the extended evenings, it is great to have games of many kinds around. There are some things at camp, but feel free to bring your favorites—clearly labelled!
18. fishing gear - *You are welcome to bring yours, but there is gear on site.*
19. sunscreen
20. bug spray (*heavy duty, for ticks*)
21. quarters (*for laundry*)
22. spending money (*for Scout concession stand*)
23. musical instruments (*for Pub Night and campfires—some instruments will be present and all may use them, check with Mr. Rolling about bringing anything, we need musicians!*)
24. music—*anything you want to bring for the pub night or campfires*