



# PARENT CONNECT

A BRIDGE BETWEEN PARENTS AND YOUTH MINISTRY



## UPCOMING EVENTS!

**June 2015 - Exam Break**  
(No Youth)

**Youth & Young Adults Missions Trip to Columbia**  
June 29 - July 11, 2015

**Summer Kick-Off**  
July 7, 2015  
7pm

## SUMMER JOB SUCCESS

Heading into summer, many teens are scoping out the perfect summer job. As kids start making their own money and taking direction from other adults, parents have the opportunity to release the reins a bit. As your kids interview and begin working, remember these handy tips:

1. Let young workers sink or swim. Offer tips for a positive interview experience, but then let kids proceed on their own. Missteps and failures are often great teaching moments for the future.
2. Coach kids on work ethic. Summer jobs require professionalism and positive attitudes. Your young employee's reputation can follow them into the next job.
3. Set a "no quitting" timeline. Teenagers tend to glamorize their first real job—until they actually dive in and start working. Before interviews begin, negotiate a "you'll keep this job this long, no matter what" agreement.
4. Consider transportation schedules beforehand. If your teenager isn't driving yet, make sure he or she negotiates working hours that fit around parent-taxis,

carpools, or local bus routes.

5. Talk about church impact. If regular church participation is part of your family dynamic or a core value for your teenager, plan summer jobs around it. Discuss that with your kids and make decisions before jobs are finalized. That way teenagers can let a boss know they can't miss Sunday services, need time off for church camp, etc.

Summer jobs promote responsibility, entrepreneurship, financial management, and work ethic among young people. For the most success, have conversations with your kids before they interview. Then keep the lines of communication open once they start working. And celebrate gregariously with your new members of the workforce when they bring home that first real paycheck!



By Darren Sutton



## YOUTH CULTURE

### A WORD FROM THE WORD

Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah.

Acts 3:20, NLT



## MAXIMIZING SUMMER CAMPS

Close to home. Far away. International. Collegiate. Summer camps are everywhere. And they provide great opportunities to stretch and develop your teenagers. But parents stuck at home might feel “out of the loop” when campers return. Here’s how you can capitalize on your post-camp time with your kids:

- Welcome them home. Nothing opens kids up like knowing they were missed, so invest some time and effort into making their return special. Because camp is a milestone moment, letting it pass without celebration would be like missing a graduation or sweet 16.
- Recap the missed moments. When teenagers are gone for a length of time, they miss events that happen at home. Consider keeping a “while you were away” journal or blog so kids can catch up on family moments and funny things they missed.

“Well, how was it?” ask “What was the most important thing you learned this week?” “Who was one new person you met at camp, and what did you learn about him or her?” “If someone else in our family had gone to this camp, what would’ve been their favorite part?”

- Keep it going! If your teenagers attend camp to learn a particular skill, provide additional options when they return home. Enroll them in a sports league, music lessons, or an ongoing Bible study, depending on the type of camp experience you’ve invested in.

Camp matters. As parents, what you do after it’s over can help it matter even longer.

- Ask open-ended yet focused questions. Instead of

By Darren Sutton

### CHOOSING A CAMP EXPERIENCE

If your teenagers aren’t working during the summer, then they’re likely camp-hopping all over the state—or beyond. Basketball camp, drama camp, church camp, writing camp...all these experiences worm their way into a family’s vernacular, pocketbook, and calendar.

Before you commit to a camp, consider these factors:

- How will this camp affect family scheduling for vacations, business trips, back-to-school shopping, etc.?
- Will the financial investment produce results we can’t achieve another way?
- Would regularly-scheduled lessons have a greater or lesser impact than a week of camp? Are those available in our area?
- How do various camp schedules and experiences divide our family? How do they bring us together?



# IN THEIR WORLD

## THEIR DIGITAL PRESENCE

Tony Myles, a pastor, father, and blogger at LifeTreeFamily.com put together this month's "In Their World."

After reading his research about the YouNow app, you might appreciate these digital-safety tips. Teenagers often don't realize how far-reaching their digital presence extends. Remind them of these truths about their online decisions, which are more important than they may think:

- Even after something's been deleted from the Internet, it probably still exists and can be located—by a significant other, tech-savvy parents, and future employers.
- Think before you type. Emotions are better expressed in person. If you can't or won't say something to someone's face, don't put it online.
- A person's private life is private for a reason. If you wouldn't broadcast something at the mall, don't share it digitally. Ever.



## YOUNOW APP

Even after you master your kids' favorite technology or communication methods, it's important to stay aware of what they might be into tomorrow.

The latest app and website young people are flocking toward is YouNow. Through video streaming, users put their lives on display around the clock. People of any age allow others (of any age) to watch them do whatever they're doing...in their bedrooms, bathrooms, cars, and more. And yes, anyone can watch—around the world.

One-third of YouNow users are between 13 and 18, and another 40 percent are in their 20s. Broadcasters can chat with viewers, who comment on what they want to see. Viewers can even "tip" the on-camera person with points that are purchased with real money.

It's as if YouTube and Skype had a scary baby together. This sounds like a parent's worst nightmare,

so make sure your kids steer clear.

Other sites and apps can be equally dangerous, though. Be sure to engage in regular conversations with your kids about what they share in text messages, how they use camera phones, what they and their friends record and post, and more.

Begin these important dialogues with questions such as:

- How do you feel about the kind of privacy you have or need in our house?
- What things that your peers make public should probably be kept private, and why?
- What are the pros and cons of technology that puts private aspects of our lives on display—from pictures you're tagged in to websites where people watch one another?
- What are some appropriate boundaries for you and our family in these areas?

# JUNE 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2 Exam Break No Youth	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Exam Break No Youth	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Exam Break No Youth	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Exam Break No Youth	24	25	26	27
28	29 Youth & Young Adults Missions Trip to Columbia Leaving today	30 Exam Break No Youth	1	2	3	4
5	6	7 The Edge Youth Ministry Summer Kick- off 7-9pm (Grades 7-12)	8	9	10	11 Youth & Young Adults Missions Trip to Columbia coming back today



Dear Parents,

Summer has arrived in all its sunshiny glory. Kids are embracing the absence of alarm clocks and pop quizzes. You're making a chore list, hoping your kids won't completely ignore it while you're at work.

Although summers can get busy, we hope you experience plenty of down time with your family in the months ahead. Thanks for letting us be part of your summer solace!

Whether your kids participate in summer Bible studies and fellowship activities or simply maintain the Sunday morning routine, we appreciate your role in making that happen. You're the greatest spiritual influence your teenagers will ever have. And we love playing a small part in that journey, as

you lead them toward a life-changing faith in Jesus.

Know that you're loved, valued, and treasured—and we're honored to serve you and your teenagers as you pursue Christ.

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