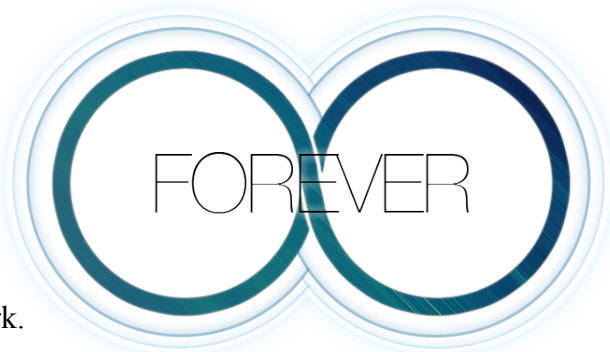


**July 25, 2011**

**Dear Youth Ministers and Blessed Youth Ministry Volunteers:**

Greetings! My name is Tom Fry, and I work with the teenagers of the Indianola Heights Evangelical Free Church on the south side of Des Moines. I am so thankful for the ministry you do with the teenagers in your area. You will be blessed tremendously both in this life and the life to come for your tireless and joyful work.



All of us love to minister to teenagers. We would probably say with Paul, “We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.” (1 Thessalonians 2:8) We at the Reach Students Central District of the EFCA want to come alongside you as you undergo the task of developing spiritual leaders in your high school youth group. I’ve been doing ministry for some time, and I find that leadership development is difficult. We have students who want to go beyond what they learn in youth group, but oftentimes we are not sure exactly what to offer them. That’s where the **ELEVATE** conference can help. For two days in September, we are going to offer a retreat that is specifically designed to challenge high school students who want to go to the next level. You may have a formal student leadership team, or like me you may just have a few students who have potential. Whatever your situation, we encourage you to bring your students and take advantage of this great opportunity. **ELEVATE** combines traditional large-group worship and teaching sessions with small-group electives, all within the beautiful nature environment of Hidden Acres Christian Center. If you’ve never brought a group to **ELEVATE** before, why not give it a try this fall? Here are some important details...

**ELEVATE Conference:**

**Dates: Saturday, September 17 – Sunday, September 18, 2011**

**Location: Hidden Acres Christian Center in Dayton, Iowa ([hacamps.org](http://hacamps.org))**

**Target: Ministry-Level High School Students Looking to Take the Next Step in Their Faith Journey with Jesus Christ**

**Cost: \$50/person if postmarked by Tuesday, September 6 (after this \$60/person)**

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

**What can you tell me about the schedule?**

We know your time is valuable, so we pack full the 24-hour schedule. However, if you want to modify the schedule to fit your group’s needs for planning, having fun, or team-building, please feel free to do so. We offer quality sessions and electives, but if your group needs to skip some scheduled activities, that’s fine. It’s your weekend! Below is the planned schedule:

**Saturday, September 17**

3:00 Registration Opens at the Welcome Center  
3:45 Adult Leaders Meeting  
4:00 Main Session #1/Break Out Groups  
5:30 Supper  
7:00 Main Session #2/Break Out Groups  
8:30 Free Time/Coffee Bar Open  
10:30 Worship/Prayer Experience  
12:30 In Rooms/Quiet Please

**Sunday, September 18**

9:00 Continental Breakfast  
10:00 Elective Session A  
11:00 Elective Session B  
12:00 Lunch  
1:00 Main Session #3/Break Out Groups  
3:00 Pack/Depart

**(Please turn over for more information.)**

## What can you tell me about Hidden Acres Christian Center?

### Here's how to get there:

#### Directions from I-35: (from the south)

Exit onto highway 30 west. Follow to the Ogden exit and take P70 north (right). Head north just over 14 miles and start looking for green road signs that say "Hidden Acres Christian Center." Follow the arrows.

#### Directions from I-35: (from the north)

Exit onto highway 175 west. Follow about 30 miles, cross river, then take P70 south (left). Look for the green road signs that say "Hidden Acres Christian Center." Follow the arrows.

For more information, go to [hacamps.org](http://hacamps.org). If you would like to come early or stay late to enjoy some recreational activities offered by Hidden Acres such as paintball, climbing tower, ropes course, horseback riding, etc., please call DeeDee Taylor at 515.547.2751 as soon as you can to get pricing information. A minimum of 10-15 people is needed to schedule some activities, so feel free to join together with another group if necessary. Call me at 515.244.4462 if you would like the contact info for other groups attending.

### I'm interested, so what do I do now?

Make copies of the enclosed brochure and mail them out to your high school students and their parents as soon as possible. You can either photocopy the brochure, or you can go to [reachstudentscd.com](http://reachstudentscd.com) and print off as many color copies as you want. Talk about **ELEVATE** at youth group activities, Sunday school, and church. Personally encourage individual students to attend.

### How do I register my group?

After collecting money from your students, simply follow the instructions in the brochure. Mail in your completed registration/housing form along with one check payable to "RSCD" by Tuesday, September 6, to receive the \$50/person early bird rate. The mailing address can be found in the brochure and on the housing/registration form. After September 6, the cost is \$60/person. If you are registering your group late, please also call me at 515.244.4462 so we can be sure to make room for you.

### Do adult leaders attending ELEVATE need to pay?

To keep our costs down, adult leaders attending **ELEVATE** must also pay the \$50/person early bird rate (\$60/person if registered after September 6).

### What do we do when we arrive at Hidden Acres on Saturday, September 17?

Go to the Welcome Center to register your group. The Welcome Center is the first building on the left side of the road as you approach Hidden Acres. We'll tell you what to do from there. It's just that easy!

### What should we bring?

Be sure each person in your group brings a sleeping bag and pillow. Hidden Acres does have an indoor pool, so your group may want to bring swimwear. Other than that, just bring the usual camp stuff (Bible, notebook, pen, warm casual clothes, toiletries, towel, snacks, games, etc.)

### Can I get this information electronically?

Absolutely! Go to [reachstudentscd.com](http://reachstudentscd.com) and follow the **ELEVATE** link. If you download the brochure from our website, you will be able to easily edit the cost shown on the brochure for your students (in case you charge a little more or less) and the turn-in deadline for students.

If you have any other questions, please call me at 515.244.4462 or email me at [tomfryguy@hotmail.com](mailto:tomfryguy@hotmail.com). I would love to chat with you about this opportunity for your youth group.



**Tom Fry**  
Director of ELEVATE 2011