



Are you interested in applying to be a teen counselor at Camp WOW this summer? Camp WOW counselors consist of high school students, current freshmen through seniors, who are committed to serving Jesus Christ through a life of prayer, service, and by proclaiming His Gospel to JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS. The goal of Camp WOW is Catholic youth evangelism. This is done through skits, mimes, talks, games, discussions, prayer, and the daily example of a Christian lifestyle. Through word and action, counselors attempt to expose these young people to a life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ.

Prospective counselors should have a personal commitment to Christ and an openness to growing in their faith. Additionally, they should have a desire and openness to sharing their faith with junior high youth, be spiritually and emotionally healthy, and free from serious wrong doing in their life.

What can one expect while being a Camp WOW counselor? Hard work, lots of fun, the support of a Christian community, a sense of fulfillment, spiritual challenge and personal growth, and the joy of affecting others lives in a positive way are just a few of the things you'll experience when you serve as a Camp WOW counselor.

Here are some general facts about being a 2010 Camp WOW counselor:

- The camp will be Friday, June 25 through Monday, June 28.  
(Counselors will be arriving at camp on Thursday, June 24 in the late afternoon/early evening).
- This year's application process is open to current h. s. freshmen through seniors. The number of counselors from each parish WILL BE LIMITED, thus the application process (see cover letter).
- You are expected to attend all preparation and training meetings. Let your youth minister know in advance if this is a problem (Attendance may impact participation). Training dates are:

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Sun., Feb. 21st @ St. Catherine, Dundee 2:00-4:00 pm  
 Sat.-Sun., Mar. 13-14<sup>th</sup> @ Our Lady of the Wayside, Arl. Hts 3:00pm-1:00 pm  
 Sun., Apr. 25<sup>th</sup> @ St. Mary's, Sycamore 2:00-4:00 pm  
 Sun., May 16<sup>th</sup> @ St. Catherine, Dundee 2:00-4:00 pm  
 Thurs., June 17<sup>th</sup> @ St. Catherine, Dundee 7:00-9:00 pm\* if necessary

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- Prospective counselors are encouraged to support and participate in the various ministries offered at their churches to continue their spiritual development and community building opportunities.
- The deadline for applications (PART A and B) is Thurs., Jan. 7, 2010.** Once your application is turned in, you will be contacted.
- The cost for this year's camp is \$140.00 for counselors. (The cost for campers is \$235.00). No money is due now.
- Please review this application and discuss the commitment and dates with your parents.

Thank you again for your interest in being a camp counselor. If you or your parents have any questions, please call your high school youth minister.

Sara Blaser	Katie Decker	Jessica Cranston	Kevin O'Connell
St. Mary-Sycamore	St. Mary-Dekalb	St. Catherine-Dundee	Our Lady of Wayside, Arl. Hts
815-895-3726 ex t. 2	815-758-8504	847-426-2217	847-253-5353 ext. 241

# Camp WOW

Dear Counselor Applicant and Parent,

While the warmth and fun of the summer months seems light years away, it is nevertheless time for us to begin planning for the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Camp WOW!

As you know, Camp WOW is a four day junior high summer camp for students from several local area parishes including St. Mary's in Sycamore, Saint Mary's in Dekalb. St. Catherine of Sienna in Dundee and Our Lady of the Wayside in Arlington Heights. It is the joint effort of these participating parishes that makes our camp so successful! More specifically, it is the leadership and guidance provided by the high school camp counselors that makes camp both a significant social and spiritual experience for the junior high students. Therefore, it is at this time that we are beginning the volunteer camp counselor recruitment, interview, and selection process.

**Important Change:** For the past couple of years, dozens of students have applied for a limited number of counselor positions, and while it's exciting to have so much interest in the camp, we are saddened to realize that many cannot be accepted due to our limited camp capacity. We anticipate the same situation this year. Therefore, it is important to note that, **due to the extraordinary number of candidates applying for counselor positions, we will be using a TWO-PHASE application process.** During Phase One, the youth ministers from all parishes will review all student applications and determine a select number of candidates to proceed onto Phase Two of the application process: Counselor Interviews. *Therefore, it is possible that not all students who apply to be a counselor will be granted an interview. In the event a student is not asked to enter Phase Two of the applicant process, he/she will be invited to continue their participation in their youth ministry programs at their parishes and applying for a counselor position next year.*

For your information, below we have listed some of the criteria we will use as we interview, discern, and select counselors for the 2010 Camp WOW. Specifically, we will focus on:

- A student's ability to work within a group;
- A steady pattern of involvement in spiritual activities including praying, reading of scripture, attending Mass every Sunday, and participation in Reconciliation;
- Active involvement in parish youth ministry events;
- Having previous retreat and/or camp experience;
- A student's ability to connect with and minister to junior high students; and
- Age-appropriate maturity and emotional/spiritual health.

Some parents ask about whether or not their student has a better chance at being selected as a counselor if a) he/she attended camp in the past or b) he/she has already been a camp counselor. In response, while having students with previous camp experience returning as counselors is a tremendous benefit to the program, our overall desire is to grow disciples of Christ through camp participation. Therefore, previous camper and/or counselor experience does not guarantee anyone of a counselor position. As we discern camp counselors, we aim to have a balance of introverts and extroverts, as well as counselors from different grade levels with different experiences. Students applying should also be aware that turning in their completed application on time and their attendance at the counselor training sessions will be considered in our selection process. **Be assured that every student who applies to be a Camp WOW counselor will be given full consideration as we value each and every one of them! They have been a blessing to our parishes and youth ministry programs!**

If you have any questions about this process or Camp WOW, please contact your parish youth minister.

On behalf of all the parishes involved in Camp WOW, we thank you for your support of our program. May God bless you and your family always!

Sincerely,

Sara Blaser  
St. Mary- Sycamore

Katie Decker  
St. Mary-Dekalb

Jessica Cranston  
St. Catherine-Dundee

Kevin O'Connell  
Our Lady of the Wayside  
Arlington Heights

**CAMP WOW 14 – PART A  
COUNSELOR APPLICATION  
DEADLINE: THURS, JAN. 7, 2010**

(Please print or type)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt size \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been a counselor or camper at Camp WOW in the past? When?

\_\_\_\_\_

Please state why you would like to be a counselor at this camp? What leadership qualities do you have?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How does your faith impact your everyday life?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe your prayer life.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are there any activities that would affect your ability to participate in the planning meetings or the camp (jobs, sports, plays, clubs, vacations, etc.)? If so, how?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How do your parents feel about your participation as a Camp WOW counselor? Are they supportive?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Cell :** \_\_\_\_\_ **Parent Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN A CAMP WOW COUNSELOR, OTHERWISE CONTINUE TO PART B:

What parts of the training helped you feel most prepared for camp? What can we improve on?

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When, at camp, were you at your best? What parts could you improve on?

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What advice would you give a new counselor?

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CONTINUE TO PART B ON NEXT PAGE

## CAMP WOW 14 –PART B (Due Thursday, January 7, 2010)

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By signing below, I understand:

The commitment of time and energy my student is making by applying to be a Camp WOW counselor;

The selection criteria outlined in the application cover letter to be used by the youth ministers who will be reviewing applications, interviewing applicants, and selecting camp counselors;

The parishes involved in Camp WOW anticipate many teens applying for camp counselor positions, thus not every teen that applies may be given an interview; and

All who apply will be called by their youth minister concerning their application.

Consequently, I fully support my student's participation in this program and commit to helping him/her meet the counselor responsibilities as required. This includes, but is not limited to providing transportation to and from counselor training sessions and the camp itself, supporting their active participation in training sessions, and attending the camp in its entirety.

Parent Name

Parent Signature

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***This form must be completed and returned with the student's application in order for their application to be complete.***

### **INTERVIEWING SCHEDULE**

Below we have listed the available interview days and times for **OLW's** youth applicants. **As part of the application process, students must rank in order of preference the following interview time slots** Once your application is reviewed, if an interview is needed (Phase 2) we will schedule it on a first come, first served basis using the ranking order you provide. Failure to make any preferences will default in an assigned interview time. **(IMPORTANT: Students will be notified via email of their interview day and time. Therefore, each applicant is responsible for checking his/her email and attending their interview as assigned (first come, first served). If email notification is not an option, please provide a phone number with voice mail in which we can leave a message.)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday, January 21 from 5:00-5:20 PM  
\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday, January 21 from 5:20-5:40 PM  
\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday, January 21 from 5:40-6:00 PM  
\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday, January 21 from 6:00-6:20 PM  
\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday, January 21 from 6:20-6:40 PM  
\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday, January 21 from 6:40-7:00 PM  
\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday, January 21 from 7:00-7:20 PM  
\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday, January 21 from 7:20-7:40 PM  
\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday, January 21 from 7:40-8:00 PM  
\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday, January 21 from 8:00-8:20 PM  
\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday, January 21 from 8:20-8:40 PM

\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, January 26 from 5:00-5:20 PM  
\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, January 26 from 5:20-5:40 PM  
\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, January 26 from 5:40-6:00 PM  
\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, January 26 from 6:00-6:20 PM  
\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, January 26 from 6:20-6:40 PM  
\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, January 26 from 6:40-7:00 PM  
\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, January 26 from 7:00-7:20 PM  
\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, January 26 from 7:20-7:40 PM  
\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, January 26 from 7:40-8:00 PM  
\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, January 26 from 8:00-8:20 PM  
\_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, January 26 from 8:20-8:40 PM

**If you absolutely cannot make an interview time slot, please write "N/A" on the line next to time.**