



Winterfest 2019 Trip Info Information

Depart: Friday, February 15, @ 8:30 AM from Clear Creek Gym*†
Return: Sunday, February 17, @ 2:30 PM to Clear Creek Gym

**Please inform Mitchell ASAP if your child will not be able to make the 8:30 departure. We usually have a few chaperones come-up later and may be able to make alternative arrangements if we know ahead of time.*

†Please drop off 30 minutes early at 8:00.

Event fee: \$120 (covers lodging, event pass, t-shirt)

Personal \$: -Approx. \$75 for meals (6 meals if student eats breakfast. Most dining options are sit-down restaurants.)
-Additional spending money is at your discretion.

Packing:

- Personal towel
- Toiletries
- Rain gear
- Warm & comfortable clothes for 3 days (remember: lots of walking)
- Sleepwear
- Bible/notebook/pen
- We DO NOT permit any illicit items (drugs, alcohol, fireworks, etc.)
- Aside from cell phones, we discourage any other electronic devices and are not responsible for anything that may be stolen or lost.

Primary Contact: Mitchell Halstead (432) 230-9308

Lodging arrangements: We are staying at River Terrace Resort. Each of our rooms will have an adult chaperone along with 2-4 students, depending on our overall numbers. Chaperones have all been background checked and undergone our church's SAFE Training course. If your child does not wish to share a bed, you may want to consider sending an air mattress or cot.

Free Time: While there are considerable amounts of "free time" – in which students can explore the shops and restaurants in Gatlinburg – 6th graders are required to be with a chaperone at all times. If the thought of your child wandering Gatlinburg unsupervised scares you, it worried me as well...until the first time I went to Winterfest. Then I understood. There are literally 12,000 other church people doing the exact same thing as us, and all of our students have to stay in groups, which reduces isolation and increases accountability. Since nearly every one of our students has a smart phone, we will use the GroupMe app to communicate en masse, and chaperones will be able to contact their groups as needed. Those without smart phones will most certainly be with someone who does.

Money Management: Once we arrive in Gatlinburg, we will coach the students on basic money management [*don't spend it all on toys, save enough for each future meal, etc.*], however, we do not require chaperones to manage students' money, and it is ultimately each student's responsibility. That said, we'll ensure no one starves if the funds run dry!