

## Hello Middlers families!

My name is Lauren Acton and I am the Middlers Session Director for ECC. I am so excited to welcome you to camp for 2017 as we explore what it means to be "Molded by the Father". I can't wait to see where this week takes us as we better understand *who* we are and *whose* we are.

Camp this year will be July 2nd-July 8th. We're asking for Middlers campers to arrive for **check-in at the Maples campground between 1pm and 2:30pm on July 2nd**. As we check in your camper, we will ask them to **leave behind their electronic devices** (video games, cell phones, iPods, etc.) This allows your camper to fully engage in all of our activities throughout the week. After check-in, we will have a **commissioning service with families at 3:30pm**. Please plan to stick around for that service.

The week will be full of fishing, swimming, boating, archery, games, cabin bonding, and lots of laughs. If you want to see what the Middlers are up to each day, **visit our blog at [eccillinois.org](http://eccillinois.org)** throughout the week. We will be sharing photos, videos, and stories about their days so that you can see all of the fun as it's happening.

Even though we are sure your camper will be having a blast while at camp, they'll still find themselves wanting to hear from home during the week. We invite-- and encourage!-- you to **send your camper letters during the week**. You can send a letter or package (please do not include food or money) to:

Camper Name  
ECC/ Maples Camp  
24248 Ron Smith Memorial Highway  
Hudson, IL 61748

It's important that each camper arrives to Middlers fully prepared for the week. Here are some helpful hints for **things to send with your camper**:

- Bible
- Any needed medicines with directions
- Optional: Money for the Gift Shop (*This will be checked in when you arrive so it is not misplaced. We recommend \$10-20.*)
- 2 pairs of close-toed shoes (tennis shoes preferred)
- Jacket/Sweatshirt
- 6 or more outfits
- 1-piece swimsuit, beach towel, flip-flops
- 2 pairs of long pants/jeans
- Pajamas
- Socks
- Raincoat or poncho
- Shower shoes
- White t-shirt to tie-dye
- Sleeping bag, sheets, pillows
- 3 or more towels
- A small fan for their bunk
- Toothbrush & toothpaste, shampoo, soap
- Water bottle to refill throughout the week
- Flashlight
- Laundry bag
- Envelopes, stamps, paper, pens
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen
- A Great Attitude!

We will conclude our week with a Closing Mass at **9:30am on Saturday, July 8th** in the Middlers session. Please feel free to attend this service before picking up your camper(s). While we recognize that many of you will have a long drive home after camp, **we ask that you try to stay for the entire Closing Mass.** During Closing, we will be sharing about plans for the following summer, upcoming retreats and classes for your campers, camp reunion events, and other fun opportunities. This is information you, and your camper, will not want to miss! When it is time to check out, we will have tables set up at the end of the driveway for you to sign out your camper. **Please make sure that you check out your camper at those tables prior to removing your camper from the Middlers area.**

I am so excited to have you at ECC! This will be a great week your camper will never forget! If you have any questions leading up to camp, please email me at [laurenmacton@gmail.com](mailto:laurenmacton@gmail.com). I look forward to seeing you soon!

In God's Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lauren Acton". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "In God's Love,".

Lauren M. Acton, Middlers Session Director