

March 2, 2009

Dear Future Resource Staff,

We're looking forward to another fun and renewing summer at Ascension School, and we'd like to invite you to be a part of it!

The theme for our youth program this summer will be "Handle with Care." Campers and staff will consider the Biblical mandate to be stewards of creation, taking time to explore our beautiful surroundings and reflect on our many connections to our environment and to each other. In the process, we hope to get campers more involved in the camp garden; to incorporate more "earth-friendly" arts and crafts; and to take at least one trip off campus each session to enjoy the mountains nearby.

As a volunteer Resource Staff member, you would be asked to share your time and talents at camp in a number of different ways:

- Leading a "family" group of 6 to 10 campers with the help of another Resource or Resident Staff person (flexible curriculum provided)
- Offering interest blocks based on your own hobbies and skills (candle making, painting, baking, hiking, kickball, you name it...)
- Participating in and helping supervise large group activities, from campfire, to skit night, to worship services
- Providing another caring, responsible adult presence at camp

Skill areas we would especially love to tap into at camp this year:

- Experience teaching "green" arts and craft activities that use recycled or reclaimed materials
- Ability to lead simple sewing and woodworking projects (we'll have at least one sewing machine at camp, if not more)
- Experience in environmental education
- Interest in gardening (and teaching kids to garden)
- Musical abilities (singing, songwriting, guitar playing)

Resource Staff members typically volunteer for one full camp session (3 – 10 days, depending on the camp). You would stay in your own private room in Barton House or Kimsey Commons (no requirement to stay up late with the kids!), and have several hours each day to relax, visit with fellow staff members, and/or simply enjoy some time to yourself.

Dates for each camp session are listed on the enclosed camp brochure. If you are interested in volunteering or would like to know more, please

call Patty at (541) 568-4514 or send an email to patty@coveascensionschool.com. Please note that it is Ascension School policy to require that all volunteers pass a criminal background check.

As long-time campers and counselors ourselves, we deeply appreciate the difference that Resource Staff members make. We would be thrilled to have you join us at camp.

Sincerely,

Patty Olson-Lindsey, Interim Director
Cori Brewster, Program Director

Wild Geese

You do not have to be good.

You do not have to walk on your knees

for a hundred miles through the desert, repenting.

You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.

Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.

Meanwhile the world goes on.

Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.

Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.

Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting--
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.

Mary Oliver