Hello,

The month of May has been flying by as school wraps up for your students, which means Safari 1 camp at Butler Springs is just around the corner. My name is Brent Smith; I am the minister at the Bowersville Church of Christ and will be leading your young person's week of camp. My wife Jaime will be joining me as will some volunteers from our church.

Safari Camp is different from "main camp" in that kids will be staying in tree huts in the forest about a ten minute hike from the camp. Some meals are prepared at our campsite. Despite this, students will get to enjoy the activities that are located at the main camp: swimming, rock wall, archery, and more. The "what to bring" list on the camp website is really important for Safari Camps. I would highlight walking/hiking shoes, a water bottle, and a Bible as well as something to carry them in, either a backpack or a drawstring bag.

Weather permitting, on Tuesday we will take a trip rafting down the Little Miami River. It is imperative that kids bring footwear that is appropriate for that trip. Water shoes, sandals with straps, and even old tennis shoes-which should be thrown away immediately after rafting- are all great options. Sandals with minimal security on the foot, which are often referred to as "slides" or "flip flops", often fall off and end up floating down the Little Miami River, headed on their own adventure without their owner. We will not allow any students to swim or wade in the river without footwear.

Church camp gives students the opportunity to look beyond themselves and give as well. Each year the camp designates a mission that campers have the opportunity to learn about and contribute to financially; this year's mission is a disaster relief organization called Helping His Hands Disaster Response, led by Scott Shipman. The organization's website is https://www.helpinghishands.com/ if you want to check it out.

If you need to contact me with any questions, you can call or text me at 937.708.1990

Brent Smith
Bowersville Church of Christ