

BeCre Parents and Campers,

Temperatures are getting warmer, and it seems like it's never going to stop raining, which can only mean one thing – it's almost summer. And with summer comes lots of good things – ice cream, days off school, summer camp, and if you're like me, lots of sunscreen.

My name is Hunter Ellis, this will be my fifth year as the Dean of Be Creative Camp at Butler Springs. I've been attending camp at Butler Springs since before I can remember, and I went to 8 weeks of BeCre as a camper. My home church is Pricetown Church of Christ, where I attend with my family. If you have any questions leading up to camp, I'd be happy to answer them! Don't hesitate to reach out to me at [hunter@saltvine.com](mailto:hunter@saltvine.com).

If this is your first time attending Be Creative Camp, we're so excited to have you join us. We think you'll love all the fun and unique activities we have planned for this summer! If you're a returning camper, we can't wait to see you again and make more memories.

You might be wondering... What is Be Creative Camp all about? Well, as the name might suggest, BeCre is all about embracing our creative side, thinking outside the box and learning to use our gifts to serve God's kingdom. We take a different approach to summer camp than you might be used to – one full of creative challenges, from improv and role playing games to escape rooms and art projects. Meanwhile, we also do a deep dive into scripture reading and analyze God's word in an effort to extract their true meanings.

BeCre is like a choose your own adventure book, where you are a part of the story that unfolds, and your decisions along the way impact the outcome. I always say that the founder of BeCre, Shawn Young, put it best: "If for some reason the floor becomes lava, it's lava for all of us—until someone else writes a story to make the lava go away." And, ultimately, the story always leads us back to a lesson about Christ. The parameters of our weeklong story are set by the week's theme, and from there, it is up to the campers where we go. So don't forget to bring your imagination!

Speaking of our themes, here's some more information about this year's themes below:

### **Be Creative 1 (6th-8th): SHOW**

Are you ready to SHOW everyone what you're made of? At SHOW, campers will be planning and performing in a series of shows, including a Puppet Show, a Magic Show, a Game Show, a Fashion Show, and a Talent Show. Whether you're creating the set and costumes or writing and rehearsing scripts, everyone will have a role to play in making each SHOW a success. Our scripture for the week will be from the book of Matthew, discussing the life of the Apostle Peter.

### **Be Creative 2 (9th-13th): CHILDISH**

I scream, you scream, we all scream for Ice Cream! At least, that's the way it used to be. When is the last time you've heard the jingle of an ice cream truck and been filled with excitement? Generally speaking, as kids, we are fascinated by the smallest things, like splashing in puddles, playing in a ball pit, or jumping on a trampoline. CHILDISH is a week all about the joys and adventures of childhood. We'll be embracing the creativity of just being kids, like enjoying lots of Ice Cream with our Imaginary Friends. We'll be reading about the story of Moses and the virtues and challenges of childhood.

Here's some other things you might want to know before you get to camp!

### 1. **Worship Times:**

- At BeCre, our worship times are a little different than at some base camps. Our nightly worship, known as "The Middle", is an acoustic, fireside worship partly led by the campers. Rather than a live band playing the songs on the stage with the words projected on a screen, our worship is spirit-led and comes from our hearts. We invite the campers to jump in and lead songs, and we all join and sing or play together.
- During our Morning Worship, we make as many instruments available as possible, so if you ever wanted to learn to play the piano, ukulele, bass, or cajon to your favorite praise songs, it's the perfect time to learn!
- If you'd like to listen to some of the songs that we sing frequently at The Middle, we've added them to a playlist over the years. The playlist includes songs that come up every year during worship, some of our staff's favorites, and songs campers have recommended, too – send me an email if there's a song you think we should add!  
Check out our "BeCre Worship Favorites" playlist on Spotify:  
[https://open.spotify.com/playlist/04BWRCu05J0vCgG4W5E57c?si=ARHTsWnT3iZzoz5daR1\\_A](https://open.spotify.com/playlist/04BWRCu05J0vCgG4W5E57c?si=ARHTsWnT3iZzoz5daR1_A)

### 2. **What to Bring/Prepare for Camp:**

- **Instruments:** If you play an instrument, we encourage you to bring it!
- **An Act for the Talent Show:** At the end of the week, there will be a Talent Show led by the BeCre 1 campers at SHOW. If you want to prepare a talent show act or bring what you need for a talent of yours (a song you wrote, tap dancing shoes, juggling materials, etc.), then be sure to bring it with you!
- **Other creative materials:** Our staff provides lots of basic supplies, from yarn, thread, and fabric for crafts to card games and our own musical instruments, but if there's something specific that you're passionate about, there will be plenty of opportunities to share your creative passions with others throughout the week, so feel free to bring it!
- **BeCre 2 Campers at CHILDISH:** You may want to bring a set of pajamas with you to wear for our "Sleepover"-themed night, be sure they are camp-appropriate!
- **Camp Packing List:** Butler Springs has compiled a complete packing list for camp, visit their website for more information: <https://www.butlersprings.com/frequently-asked-questions>

### 3. **Phones:**

- Please, do not bring your phone with you to camp! Phones can cause a big distraction during the week, and being present and invested in camp is absolutely vital to the experience.

Once again, don't hesitate to contact me at [hunter@saltvine.com](mailto:hunter@saltvine.com) with any questions!

God Bless you all, we can't wait to see you at camp!  
Hunter Ellis, Dean of Be Creative Camp