



BeCre Parents and Campers,

June 10, 2022

I hope you're almost ready for camp, just a few more weeks and the digging will begin! Why digging, you may be asking? Well, this year our Middle School theme is BURIED. Each day, we're going to be exploring the ancient ruins of a civilization that once lived at Butler Springs a long time ago. We will be uncovering all the secrets and rituals of these ruins as we go, so prepare your magnifying glasses to investigate. (Don't worry, we probably won't be doing any real digging!) Each day we will also be reading scriptures with instructions of their own, examining the rituals we practice as Christians, including prayer, communion and more.

If you're a returning camper, I can't wait to create more memories this year – we have some fun new activities planned and we're bringing back some of our favorite traditions. If you're a new face to Be Creative Camp, I'm very excited to meet you – you're going to love all the fun, creative activities we have planned, from improv and role playing to escape rooms, making music and artsy challenges. If you're new, here is the best description I can give about what BeCre is this:

Be Creative camp, as the name may suggest, is all about embracing our inner creativity and distinctive gifts to serve God's kingdom. We will spend a lot of time engaging our artistic right brains, whether that be through photography, music or improv. Campers will also challenge their analytical left brain by taking a deep and critical look into the scriptures we are reading in an effort to extract their true meanings. Throughout the week, the campers will be a part of a story that unfolds, like a weeklong live action role play, and that's no different this year as we create and explore the "ruins" at Butler Springs. The basic parameters of our weeklong story are set, and from there, it is up to the campers where we go. As explained by BeCre founder Shawn Young, "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."

Ultimately, every week of BeCre is different because each week is shaped by YOUR interests and actions. It's important that you come to camp with an open mind and an open heart, and of course ready to Be Creative (see what I did there?). Here are a few things that we ask for you to do in preparation for camp. If you're a returner, this list will probably look familiar, but we want to make sure we have all our bases covered. Without further ado:

1. Head to our website (becreativecamp.com), and **fill out the 2022 Butler Springs Pre-Camp Survey**, you can find it under the "Surveys" tab, or at the link (<https://forms.gle/wfc9jB7oDKEje9ec6>). This survey has questions that will allow us to get to know our campers and plan our activities around their interests. It won't take long to fill out the survey, so please complete the form as soon as you can!
2. **Please sign and send in the Be Creative Camp Photo and Video Release Form** so we have it before camp! This form gives us permission to capture photos and videos of our week and create highlight reels, share projects from the week, and more.
3. Don't forget to view the **"What to bring to Camp"** list, which is available on Butler Springs' webpage. This list will give campers a good idea of what they should (and shouldn't) bring to BeCre. In addition to this list, we encourage campers to bring things that apply to their favorite creative activities or arts. Some examples of this are musical instruments, tap dancing shoes, or a board game. We'll provide lots of basic supplies, from thread and fabric to card games and a few 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.
4. Some people like to **prepare for our worship times** at camp. If you're one of those people, you can check out our "BeCre Worship Favorites" playlist on Spotify. (https://open.spotify.com/playlist/04BWRcu05J0vCgG4W5E57c?si=AR-HTsWnT3iZzoz5daR1_A)! At BeCre, we do worship a little differently than a typical summer camp. Rather than light shows and a live band, our worship, known as The Middle, comes from the hearts and minds of the campers. Any praise song you want to sing, we invite you to jump in and lead the song, and we all join and sing or play along together. The playlist includes songs that come up frequently at The Middle, some of our staff's favorites, and as campers fill out the pre-camp survey, we'll add songs that are your favorites, too.
5. For parents and families: You will be able to **follow along with our week** as our adventures unfold. We do our best to post updates throughout the week, whether that be pictures or podcasts, and share highlights after camp is over on our website and social media pages. You can join our Be Creative Camp Facebook group for updates there (<http://facebook.com/groups/becreativecamp>), check out our website for information on our other social media accounts.

One last thing. At the end of this letter is a "Meet the Staff" page if you'd like to get to know the counselors and volunteers that will be helping with BeCre this year. We have welcomed several new faces to our staff this year and we are super excited for what each of them brings!

If you have any questions about BeCre in general, the middle school week, or logistics, feel free to reach out to me! My email is listed below.

God Bless,

Hunter Ellis, Dean of Be Creative Camp – hunter@saltvine.com

Meet Our Staff

Hunter Ellis

Hey Everyone! This is my third year as the Dean of Be Creative at Butler Springs, and my fourth week as a staff member. You'll see a lot of me, as I'll be spending time with both Be Creative 1 and 2. I love camp, I've attended Butler Springs every year I could growing up. Both the impact of Jesus and the fun memories and friends I've made along the way keep me coming back every year. My time at camp includes attending 8 weeks as a camper at BeCre. Some of my favorite themes/weeks include SURPRISE, HORNS, and CAPITALIZE. At home, I attend Pricetown Church of Christ and have served as a volunteer in many different capacities there. I'm also finishing up classes and graduating this summer from Xavier University, and I just recently returned from a school trip to France (my picture shows me beside the Canal Saint-Martin in Paris). Can't wait to see you all soon!



Tracey Barnett

Hi! My name is Tracey Barnett. I have enjoyed coming to church camp for as long as I can remember. This is my 2nd year working as a counselor at BeCre, I'll be working more closely with Be Creative 1 (a.k.a. high school or TRIAL). My family and I attend Pricetown Church of Christ. I can't wait for everything God has in store for all of us this year at camp. I look forward to meeting all of you. God Bless!

Preston Grooms

My name is Preston Grooms! I will be volunteering mostly with Be Creative 1 (a.k.a. high school or TRIAL). I have attended three years of BeCre myself (HORNS, BLOOD, and ZEITGEIST). I am from West Union, Ohio and graduated from North Adams High School in 2021 and am entering my second year as a meteorology student at Florida State University. I am a member of Russellville Church of Christ in Russellville, Ohio. I am excited to meet everyone and serve God at this week of camp!



Rachel Stadler

Hi, I'm Rachel Stadler, I'll be working mostly with Be Creative 2 (aka middle school or BURIED)! I'm known as the textiles expert around here. Whether you want to crochet, knit, weave, sew or embroider, I've got your back (and your supplies). I also enjoy building sculptures out of paper and cardboard, playing and composing music, drawing and painting and making video games (plus more – my day job is teaching Pre-K, so I'm as well versed in macaroni art as C#.) This will be my 14th week of Be Creative Camp and my 16th year at Butler Springs. I'm looking forward to meeting you! I can't wait to find out what you find exciting, and share with you a fabulous week of creating, inventing, and exploring!

Micah Herrick

My name is Micah Herrick. This is my first year on the BeCre staff, I'll be working mostly with Be Creative 2 (aka middle school or BURIED). I graduated from Cincinnati Christian University, earning a B.M. in Music and Worship with a focus in Vocal Performance. I am currently serving at Hillsboro Church of Christ as Worship Minister, as well as leading our Evangelism team and coordinating our online presence. In the past, I've served in both Youth Ministry and Worship Ministry in Indiana before coming back to Ohio. My wife Rebecca and I have been married since 2012 and have four beautiful children: Rowan, Luci, Kennedy, and Finn. We love to sing and play music as a family.



Hannah Troutman

My name is Hannah Troutman. This is my first year as a staff member for Be Creative camp, I'll be working more closely with Be Creative 2 (a.k.a. middle school or BURIED). I am an alum of BeCre and attended several weeks of camp. As a camper I enjoyed the numerous opportunities to create art projects, videos and photo challenges. I have a lot of hobbies that I enjoy like crocheting, knitting, sewing, scrapbooking and playing a variety of musical instruments. I am a co-owner of Sardinia Perk coffee shop located in Sardinia, Ohio. Along with the coffee shop we also run an escape room business and have helped plan escape rooms for Be Creative camp.