

Scholar Retreat Guidelines

Scholar retreat has a long history of being a part of the scholar experience. It allows scholars in the same schools, as well as other local TJEEd based and Christ centered schools, to grow their relationships, build trust between scholars and mentors, learn scholar skills and get ready for the new year. To create continuity these guidelines need to be followed each year. These guidelines were created by participating NCS schools (FILA & LiberT) in 2023 and can be adjusted with an agreement between participating NCS leadership.

1. Scholar Retreat will be hosted by an NCS school and may be co-hosted with a non-NCS at the discretion of that year's hosting school. All local New Commonwealth Schools will always be invited. Other local schools that follow TJEEd and are Christ-centered may be invited at the discretion of FILA and LiberT.
2. Eligible Scholars: Any new scholar who turns 12 by September 30.
3. Graduating scholars. If a scholar has graduated from an NCS the previous year they are invited for their last scholar retreat.
4. If a scholar is not returning to an NCS or co-op but was a scholar for at least 1 semester the previous year, they may be invited if numbers allow and at the discretion of FILA and LiberT leadership. This is an event to bring scholars together for the new year, family camp is to help celebrate families who are leaving.
5. Scholar retreat is a privilege for scholars. Many of them have watched their older siblings attend in the past and can't wait for their turn. For this reason, no younger siblings are allowed to attend or even stay at the same campground. While we understand there are situations with childcare this is a rule that must be respected. If a scholar cannot come without younger siblings on the same property, we ask that they do not attend.
6. All attending adults will also be chaperones and should expect to help with necessary tasks. While chaperones also love this time to bond and grow, they

also need to be actively participating in Scholar Retreat as needed. To cover extra costs of chaperones there may be an additional cost of \$15 to cover food and lodging (when possible). A t-shirt would also be an additional cost. These costs may be adjusted slightly as necessary. The hosting school may waive these fees for upcoming scholar mentors if they so choose and scholar retreat budget allows. Scholar mentors are highly encouraged to attend as a chaperone. Each school must have at least 1 chaperone present for the entire duration of the retreat.

7. Many tasks may need to be delegated to other schools. Some of these tasks may include (not limited to): Food, Evening activities, stations, simulations, lodging, etc.
8. Each year scholar retreat should include these activities: team building activities, scholar skill building, a simulation, a fun evening activity, a t-shirt, opportunities for the schools to get to know each other, and more.
9. Scholar retreat should be during one of the last 2 weeks of August as reservations allow. This may have to be adjusted due to reservation limitations.
10. Scholar Retreat information should start going out to schools by the end of the previous school year. The first announcements should include the date, theme, cost, code of conduct and location. A sign up form is also extremely helpful at this time and will be available to use or reference in a shared file to reuse each year.
11. T-shirts should always be included in the price for scholars. If there are parent leaders getting shirts, having them a different color is extremely helpful.