

What To Pack

An overall rule to follow when packing for Encounter is to remember that it's 5 days, not five weeks.

Sites: Many sites involve elderly or disabled individuals who can become upset by inappropriate clothing – please be respectful, and pack clothes that would not offend. Additionally, some sites require messy activities. Do not pack clothing that could be ruined. Closed shoes are required at all sites.

- Fan if additional air needed-**AC is available in dorms**
- Water Bottle – to refill and use daily for personal water - **ESSENTIAL**
- t-shirts (No strappy tank tops or bra straps showing. No low-cut or very tight shirts. Please choose plain or faith messaged designs/no profane or team logos please)
- shorts (no short shorts please; men's shorts must sit at the waist, not below)
- jeans/khaki's/capri's – many sites require this bring at least one pair
- sweat shirt
- appropriate pajamas
- appropriate bathing suit (no bikinis) (occasionally a site may go to a pool)
- towels
- underwear
- rain gear
- shower shoes
- tennis shoes (**ALL SITES REQUIRE CLOSED TOE/HEEL SHOES – no flip flops/clogs/Crocs**)
ESSENTIAL
- flip flops (can be worn at UMD after sites)
- socks
- Toiletries including: soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant (PLEASE!),
- medications (you are responsible for your own meds, but must inform chaperones)
- sunscreen
- hat
- pillow
- **sleeping bag or sheets/blankets - ESSENTIAL**
- Snacks to share (large bags/boxes encouraged!)
- Camera
- money - \$50-60 (Metro, snacks)

Please do not bring:

- Drugs, alcohol, smoking items of any kind, weapons (knives etc.)
- Boomboxes, TVs, Game stations, electronic devices that are distracting (Ipods for sleeping are okay, cell phones are encouraged, but cannot be used except for emergency)
- Anything of value that you would not want to lose

Rules of Encounter

We have always believed that with an understanding of **RESPECT for oneself, others and our environment** that a long list of rules was not necessary. Mutual understanding and evaluation of situations may be the guide for most issues that may need addressing. However, we do have some rules that are Non-Negotiable and do need to be stated.

- **Parish Group leaders are responsible in full for the behavior of their youth, young adults, and adults at all times.** Encounter expects the parish leader to respect the rules of the program and encourage their participants to do the same
- **NO COED mingling in dorms at ANY times**
- NOISE LEVELS must be reasonable
- **LIGHTS OUT – 11 PM (for ALL participants – adults, young adults, and youth)** Staff will see to the nighttime rotations – expecting all to be in rooms at 11 PM – **including all adult participants, including parish leaders.**
- **NO LATE NIGHT FOOD ORDERS** – snacks may be available in common rooms
- **NO Alcohol, illegal substances, smoking, profanity, inappropriate sexual/social behavior, violent/aggressive behavior**
 - **SAFETY** - Any activity that is deemed unsafe to oneself or to others may result in removal from the camp – this includes but is not limited to the use of illegal and/or substance abuse type products; violent threats or actions; destruction of property; pranks that can involve injury or harm to others.
- **Nametags with pertinent safety information MUST be worn at all times** (these will be issued on the first day)
- Youth **MUST** be within visual contact of adult leaders at all times
- **Cell phones:** NOT to be used for texting/phoning friends during Encounter; NOT to be used to disengage from site service/activity/community); temporary loss of phone may result.
- **NO SWITCHING OF MEAL CARDS OR KEYS** (loss of key results in a fine of no less than \$100 charged to the parish; meal card loss/switches will result in fines as well)
- **NO ROOMMATE CHANGES or ROOM CHANGES** – all roommate issues need to be handled by Encounter Staff – we will consult the parish leader.

Safety and Security

We strive to adhere to the highest standard of safety practices available to us as a large youth camp. We begin with our staff and leaders – all whom have been involved in youth ministry and the implementation of this particular camp, some for more than 14 years. Thus while some of our rules and expectations may seem more restrictive than other camps, we take our role of protecting our youth seriously. We have no fear of problems, nor have we encountered any over the years, but we respect the needs of our families who want to know their youth are safe.

Adult to youth ratio 1:6.

-We have a higher ratio than most camps – with more adults on hand to assist and monitor young people. We also have Young adults, 18 – 20 years of age, who can also assist with the implementation of safe practices. (Most camps are 1:15)

-Adults and Young Adults are required to have completed the Child Protection Safety programs of the diocese in which they reside. Adults and Young Adults are NOT to be alone with a youth – they must be in the presence of other people at all times.

-Youth cannot walk alone, or without adult supervision anywhere on UMD campus, or at sites. They are required to abide by this rule and we do repeatedly remind them.

-Transportation is by adult driven vehicles, private bus, or Metro transit. Again, all measures of safety are taken when moving from one location to another. Walking is also the main form of transportation, and once again **YOUTH CANNOT WALK ALONE OR UNSUPERVISED.**

-Encounter is equipped with basic medical care needs (basic first aid, illness prevention and detection); Director and other staff are CPR and First Aid trained – often other adult volunteers have medical training, or backgrounds adding to assistance medically on hand.

-UMD campus is a typical large college campus, and has security, medical, fire, and emergency personnel on duty 24/7. Urgent medical care is located directly opposite our meeting space building, and takes medical insurance or individual payment as needed. Similar to Emergency Room in a hospital, they will triage a person, and can do certain medical intervention procedures as needed.

- Food is provided by the UMD dining services and catering department – those with food allergies are encouraged to visit the UMD site for food options. Both the dining hall and catering offer vegetarian options.

-Lunches are provided by parishes donating mostly pre-packaged prepared foods such as chips, snacks, crackers, fruit, canned tuna/meat, as well as sandwiches prepared freshly for each days lunch.

-Again, those with dietary issues or restrictions can check the UMD site, inform the Encounter staff of the issue, and also bring food that meets their dietary needs. Please note that the dorms do not have refrigeration.

For more information about the University of Maryland Campus, including maps see www.umd.edu .

