



## CIT & Staff Winter Training Weekend

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)

Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Primate

### FACT SHEET

#### Who can attend?

The Diocesan Camp Leadership is thrilled to invite our Hye Camp and St. Vartan Camp leaders to a special CIT & Staff Winter Training Weekend! CITs (16-17 by the start of your session) and Staff (18+ by the start of your session).

#### What to expect?

We know that being physically separated from each other for the past two years has been hard on every member of our camp family. We are especially mindful of the fact that our CITs and Staff have missed two years of healthy fellowship, building leadership skills, employing conflict resolution tactics, and fostering friendships that play a big role in camp teamwork. This unique weekend will allow us to get a jump start on strengthening our camp leadership in preparation for welcoming our campers back to their beloved camp homes next summer!

#### Where is it?

There will be two winter training weekends taking place simultaneously: one for St. Vartan Camp will take place at Camp Washington (190 Kenyon Road, Lakeside, CT 06758), and one for Hye Camp will take place at Camp Hickory (26202 W Nippersink Road, Ingleside, IL 60041).

#### When is it?

The weekend-long training will begin Friday, January 14 at 7:00 PM and conclude on Sunday, January 16 at 2:30 PM. Please plan on being present for the entire weekend; *we strongly discourage you from arriving late or leaving before the close of the training.*

#### What is the cost?

There is no cost to attend the Winter Training Weekend, but participants are responsible for covering their travel expenses to and from the event. Please be mindful that this weekend will NOT replace the Staff Training program that takes place directly before the start of camp. We must submit our final numbers to the retreat center 14 days in advance for billing purposes. The Diocese is still responsible for paying for the final number of participants submitted in advance, regardless if they attend or not. Therefore, we ask that you promptly inform us if your plans change and you are unable to attend due to serious illness or unforeseen circumstances. ***Any no-shows on the day of the event will be billed and responsible for fully reimbursing the Diocese for the participant's fee expense.***

### **What are the accommodations like?**

We will be housed in Cabins, which provide communal-style accommodations. This means large cabins with bunk beds, and males and females will be housed in separate cabins. At Camp Washington, the cabins are heated and include bathroom and shower facilities. At Camp Hickory, the cabins are heated, and there is a nearby bathhouse with bathrooms and shower facilities. We will be walking outdoors to and from the chapel, dining hall, and meeting rooms, so please pack appropriate footwear and winter clothing.

### **What do I need to pack?**

Must Haves: Reusable water bottle, bedding (sheets, blanket or sleeping bag, pillow) and towels

Toiletries: Soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.

Clothing: Casual, comfortable clothes are recommended. The weather can be quite chilly, so be sure to pack some warm clothing, especially for outdoor activities on Saturday. Pack an outfit for Divine Liturgy. You may choose to bring a bathrobe, flip-flops, or other items for the shared bathrooms.

Optional: snacks, puzzles, cards, board games etc.

### **What do I need to know regarding COVID and the mask policy?**

All local, state, and CDC guidelines at the time of the training weekend will be observed. Masks may be required when indoors, regardless of vaccination status. Participants will be e-mailed confirmation of the relevant guidelines prior to the weekend.

### **How do I get to the Winter Training Weekend?**

Participants are responsible for covering their travel expenses to and from the event. We encourage everyone to carpool as much as they can!

If you are traveling by plane or train to Camp Washington in Lakeside, CT, we will be offering complimentary pick-ups from Bradley International Airport (BDL) or Hartford Union Station (Amtrak). This is the closest airport to the retreat center, and a little more than an hour away. If you would like for us to coordinate a ride for you to the retreat center, then plan on arriving on Friday, January 14 before 4:00 PM and schedule your return flight after 6:00 PM on Sunday, January 16.

If you are traveling by plane or train to Camp Hickory in Ingleside, IL, we will be offering complimentary pick-ups from Chicago O'hare International Airport (ORD), Chicago Union Station (Amtrak), or a local Metra station (Fox Lake, Ingleside, or Round Lake). This is the closest airport to the retreat center, and approximately an hour away. If you would like for us to coordinate a ride for you to the retreat center, then plan on arriving on Friday, January 14 before 4:00 PM and schedule your return flight after 6:00 PM on Sunday, January 16.

Please email your plane or train travel itineraries to [DiocesanYouthMinistries@gmail.com](mailto:DiocesanYouthMinistries@gmail.com) no later than January 7, 2022.

For specific driving directions from your starting place, please use your favorite travel app.

For questions, please contact the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries staff:

- **Jennifer Morris (Hye Camp)** at (248) 648-0702 or [jenniferm@armeniandiocese.org](mailto:jenniferm@armeniandiocese.org)
- **Kathryn Ashbahian (St. Vartan Camp)** at (215) 452-8322 or [kathryna@armeniandiocese.org](mailto:kathryna@armeniandiocese.org)