

Camp Veritas

Survival Guide for Volunteers...

www.campveritas.com

Introduction

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How often have we sat in Mass, looked around, and said to ourselves, "Where is everybody from my generation?" Imagine a family member whom you deeply love in ICU at the hospital dying from a preventable illness. Imagine that family member as our Catholic Church. *Do you love our Church?* Do you love the Truth that is espoused through our Church in Christ? If we do not act, how can we expect anybody else to? Do we take the call to discipleship in our Lord seriously? *What do we do in our lives that will last for eternity?* Is there anything we do that is more important than bringing eternal souls to the foot of the Cross? Christ has given us the *privilege* of these challenging times to make a difference!

The light of Christ, shining through each one of us, shines that much brighter in the darkness! One hour of Truth dispels years of lies! Have you answered His call for you during this time? Have you lived to your created potential and destiny to be the greatest saint this world has ever seen?! Stand up now, consider dying to yourself, specifically your time for a week, and give the Lord and the "Body of Christ" your experience, your talents, your faith, and everything you have been built to be. *There is no one else that can replace you.* Take as many hands of those teens as you can and deposit them at the Eucharistic foot of the cross at Camp Veritas and watch our Lord perform miracles! Think of how many eternal souls might make it to Heaven simply because through pilgrimage, you gave these teens a serious opportunity to choose discipleship in our Lord. How much is a soul worth? How far are you willing to go? If you will not act, who will? If you will not act now, then when will you?

The darkness of the "Religion of Self" continues to spread through our region like a tsunami. The future presence of our Catholic Faith, that beacon of Light and Truth, that Foundation of Rock standing within the coming storm, rests on you and our teens! The time to build that foundation is now. I look forward to standing by your side in this critical battle for souls this summer!

Your Brother in Christ,

Ryan Young

Director of Camp Veritas

What to Expect as Camp Veritas Volunteer

We could not do it without all of you, who generously and selflessly give of your time, energy and talents to bring one more soul to the font of Grace, the Cross. We have been blessed to have all of you on the staff of Camp Veritas with the common goal of helping the teens who arrive at camp become disciples of Jesus Christ by the time they leave. It is *your* work that gets them closer to that goal every day...

Who we are:

Teens come to Camp Veritas from all walks of life, from all backgrounds and many states and even different countries. Their understanding of the Catholic Faith can range from almost none at all to kids fluent in Latin and already discerning Religious life. As such, the focus of the spiritual instruction at Camp Veritas is to return to the basic recipe of the Catholic Church for the past two thousand years: the Eucharist, the Rosary, the Mass, the sacraments, and prayer. We offer the teens a chance to have some fun, meet wholesome people their age, and be taught by the best teachers of the faith.

Here is where you come in: There are many ways you can help the mission of Camp Veritas by using your talents, but there are two main chaperone responsibilities once you get to Camp. Your skills, experience, and availability all play a part in which role for you will best contribute to the mission of Camp Veritas. The two roles are ***Mentors*** and ***Supervision Staff***. Both roles are vital to the operations and success of Camp Veritas...

Mentors:

We know it can be overwhelming to think of being "in charge" of 10-15 kids for a whole week, but the good news is: *you are in charge of 10-15 kids for the whole week!* What we mean is that you have their ear, their attention, their trust, for a whole week, without cell phones, ipods and video games to distract them.

This is your chance to be an example, a sounding board, and a guide to them during this week where their faith will be challenged, their questions will be answered, and if all goes as planned, they will have a personal, deeply changing, encounter with Jesus Christ.

You will not be expected to teach them in the formal sense, but they may walk away from the talks and instruction with more questions or they may want guidance from you about how to interpret the emotions they feel during Adoration. Your role here is to help them wade through their confusion and see the truth held within the teachings of the Catholic Church as the light through the darkness.

The teens will look to you as example of how to live a life faithful to the Catholic Church as an adult in the Faith. They will want to know how you deal with the pressures of life, relationships and peer pressure. They WANT to be inspired by you, to be led by you, and to be helped by you to become adults in the Church themselves. No pressure...

The other good news is: if you don't know the answer, someone at camp will, and they will be more than willing to help you guide your teens. The best teachers of our faith are at your side, ready to jump in any moment, day or night.

To see a typical schedule, look under "Supervision Staff" to the right. It is a very busy week but the graces you will receive for your efforts and time will be infinite! The goal of the supervision staff is two fold: to make sure the kids are safe, and to make sure you get breaks and time to get to know the other mentors.

For you? The reward for your sacrifice of time is priceless...

Supervision Staff:

The basic premise is that WE NEED YOU! We need you to have eyes and ears around campus during the free times when the mentors are off duty to make sure the kids are safe and protected, but also following the rules. We need the extra people to maintain the staff to child ratio required by state law and Safe Environment regulations.

Camp Veritas also WANTS YOU to be there with your wisdom, knowledge, and experience to help the campers on their path to discipleship. They will look to you for guidance and direction throughout the week and your role is to help them find the truth in the Catholic Church. To us, the Supervision Staff is an essential part of the successful formula of Camp Veritas.

A typical daily schedule is shown here so you can get a glimpse into the daily life of the camp. You are "on duty" during the break times in the afternoon and during the evening "free time." Otherwise, you are free to partake in any activities you want, or stay with a particular group and help the mentors throughout the week... The choice is yours.

Time	Scheduled Activity
7:45am	Morning Prayer (optional)
8:00am/8:30am	Breakfast (shifts)
9:00am	Guided Rosary
10:00am-12:30pm	Activity periods (3 x 40 min)
12:30pm/1:00pm	Lunch
1:30pm-4:00*	Activity periods with 2 breaks (Supervision Staff on as scheduled 2 or 3 -4:15PM)
4:15	Celebration of the Mass
5:30pm/6:00pm	Dinner
6:45pm	Exposition and Adoration
7:00pm	Catechesis (main teaching)
7:45-8:00pm	Praise and Worship/ Benediction
8:15-8:45pm	Testimony
8:45-10:30pm*	Supervised free time (Supervision Staff on)
11:00pm	Lights out

- **(Supervision Staff on during these times)**

Training

You do not have to be fully trained before arriving at Camp Veritas. You will be sent details by email about arrival times approximately one month prior to Camp. You will arrive at Camp Veritas several hours before the campers to have Volunteer Orientation, training, a tour of the facilities, and an overview of the registration process for when the campers and parents arrive. We look forward to having you as part of the Camp Veritas team!

If, for some reason, you will not make it to the training sessions starting at 10:00am on each Sunday of the camp weeks due to a serious reason and cleared by core staff, you can view the volunteer training video by typing the following into your browser:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDo2elOiBj8&feature=youtu.be>.

Orientation

Introduction: What follows here is a list of “Do’s and Don’ts” that on the surface appears daunting and overwhelming. However, careful adherence to the “rules” we have developed over time-tested trials will guarantee you the best Camp Veritas experience possible for both yourself and for the kids you are mentoring. It will be a hard week, especially for the mentors who are “in charge” of kids, most of whom will be unfamiliar to you. The following pages will give you loads of tips and tricks to get to know your kids better and help them experience a true pilgrimage experience, aimed at changing their lives... no pressure!

Do’s:

- **Get to know your kids:**
 - Make a point to get to **know the kids names by Monday afternoon**, it is a small gesture that shows
 - You care about them as individuals
 - You are keeping track of them (helps with all of the discipline issues noted later, trust us!) You should know how many kids you have by Sunday and constantly know where each camper is at all times.
 - **Take time at meals and small “breaks” between periods or meals to get to know the kids in a more personal** way by sitting together, especially in the first few days. For you this will accomplish:
 - You are developing a strong rapport with the kids who will respond to that effort by listening better to you if they sense that you care about them
 - You are facilitating time for the kids to get to know the other campers in the group. Many children come to camp without knowing anyone else and can feel very “stressed out” and/or

overwhelmed by the experience. They may not feel included unless you make a specific effort here. This is key to making the experience for EVERY camper as good as it can be.

- **Small Groups?** We do not hold official small groups at Camp for various reasons, but you will run into many circumstances where the kids have questions after the talks; Great! If you are equipped to deal with it, please remember to keep your answers in line with the Catholic Church, and if you cannot answer the questions, please refer to the many religious present who would be more than happy to assist.
- **Enforce the existing “rules of Camp Veritas”:** Believe us; this is in **your** best interest. We have had over 8 years of experience going into the formation of the rules and they are really there to help you have the best week you can and help the campers in the same way while at the same time reducing the risk of injury, damage to property, and headaches for the core staff. If you do not know how to enforce a specific rule, please ask one of the veteran counselors or core team who would be happy to help. We greatly appreciate your help in this regard and are more than willing to share the background behind each rule/policy should you have any questions. We will go into the specific rules and policies later on. Use your resources! We have years and years of combined experience in practically everything that comes your way during camp. We are here to help!!!!
- **Attend all of the scheduled events on time with your kids:**
 - It is crucial to the kids for them to see that you are committed to the program of Camp Veritas. If you come and are on time, the kids will come and be on time. Their journey to the foot of the Cross, designed as a full one-week program, depends on their presence and engagement at **all** of the events.
 - This is also crucial for us to know that the kids are being “watched every minute they are here” as is promised to the parents. You are the way we can keep that promise to the parents, who are nervously entrusting their kids to us for the week.
- **Maintain a positive attitude:** Attitude is contagious! If you are optimistic about everything, the kids will be, if you are negative, the kids will be. If you don’t like a particular activity, try it anyway! Some of the key parts of the program of Camp Veritas are encouraging the campers and staff to come out of their comfort zone, try new things, work as a team, and experience healthy competitiveness in a supportive, Catholic environment. We are teaching many subtle things throughout the week that may not be evident on the surface. Again, feel free to ask us if you have any questions.
- **Set a good example:** Some of the campers have no idea what being reverent in church is or what being modest looks like, or what putting down their cell phone looks like... You are their examples on HOW to do all of these things as Catholic adults living a life as part of the body of Christ. If you are not following the rules yourself, you are also the first thing the campers point to as a reason to NOT follow the rules themselves.

- **Follow the Safer Spaces guidelines as presented during your training:** Makes sure you are NEVER alone in a closed space with a minor or minors. You are not to be alone in the bunk house without your co--counselor.
- **Get rest!** It is so important that you are well rested. It is a very busy week and if you do not take advantage of the time to sleep, shower, eat and rest when you have it, you will not have enough energy for the kids. Take advantage of the scheduled “free time” for the mentors to get to know each other, pray, rest, shower and get your energy back for the next round. You are the kids’ parents for the week which any parent will tell you can be exhausting even if you take the best care of yourself. Good luck!
- **Turn discipline experiences into life lessons:** One of the things you learn early on when it comes to the difficulty with enforcing rules is that their resistance is rarely, if ever, about the actual rule itself. There is usually an underlying issue the camper is struggling with, preventing them from being willing to be compliant with a rule. Getting to the bottom of the “why” can expose a potential for a life lesson that may really, truly help this camper for life, not just for the minute to have the rule enforced.
 - **Example:** Camper shows a disrespectful disposition toward staff. After repeatedly correcting him, you finally get to talk to him a little more and find out there is an absentee father at home and never learned respect. He may need you to step in as a Catholic adult example and try to teach him how and why to be respectful and how to become a good Catholic man.
 - **Example:** Camper refuses to give up her phone and deeper questioning reveals she doesn’t trust her boyfriend at home without checking on him every hour. This exposes the deeper issue of mistrust in her relationship which may need to be addressed for her to go home to that relationship and make it healthy. Even more questioning reveals her parents recently divorced and she doesn’t feel she can trust men at all. You can see that a simple issue of a cell phone rule enforcement has unburied deep concerns about relationships and that we now have a chance, in one short week, to really help this child’s life forever. **This shows the camper we really care about them, not just some rule.**
 - **Example:** You see a camper wearing a low cut tank top with spaghetti straps and too-short shorts to Mass. You gently tell her that her clothes are not appropriate for church. She says, “yeah, but I look good!” Upon deeper challenging, she reveals that her mother left her family when she was a toddler, she loves her father but has to take care of him for his medical issues, and doesn’t think she is worth being loved by anyone. Wow! And this is a true story....
- **Get to know the other counselors and help each other through the week:** The staff at Camp Veritas have the biggest hearts on the planet, and are giving a week (sometimes much more) of their lives to volunteer their time for free to help another soul find Christ. These are members of the Body of Christ that the Lord has put in our paths to build relationships both at camp and beyond to help you in your spiritual journey.
- **Offer suggestions to the core team anytime if you feel it could help the flow of camp. Our best policies have come from our volunteers!** Camp Veritas is blessed to have over 500 volunteers and religious participating in

various ways throughout the camp season and the off-season. In that crowd are many leaders, youth ministers, and talented individuals who run events for a living or advise the Church on matters pertaining to the youth. We are always open to suggestion about ways we can enhance the experience, make it more rewarding, or improve logistics and safety. Our best policies, procedures and rules have come from you!

- ***Have a good time!*** Soak in the sacraments, relax on the beach, play a great game of soccer, talk to some of the religious. This camp is for you, too!
- ***Pray!!!!*** Fervently and as often as possible, for the campers, for yourself, for the staff and for Camp Veritas, that we can continue this mission for souls.

Don'ts: The hard part... These are here to help you in your journey this week. We know it will be hard but by following the Do's and Don'ts, your week will be infinitely easier. Good Luck!

- ***Don't be tricked into thinking that you need to be friends with your campers:*** Really good parents know that you can love your kids, you can tend to all of their needs, you can encourage, help, assist, discipline lovingly, prepare them for the realities of life, but if you become “friends” with them, you will have a MUCH tougher time helping THEM in THEIR lives. We know it sounds silly and a little bit like semantics, but “friendship” implies a two-way street of caring for each other, of presumably mutual benefit... this is very and distinctly different than a parent-child relationship should be. Kids should know completely and consistently that you (their pseudo-parent for the week) have their best interests at heart and are therefore following and enforcing the rules FOR THEIR BENEFIT. The second the kids think they can negotiate terms or solicit your sympathy for what seems to them to be a “harsh” rule, you will lose control of the group and the week quicker-'n-spit, my mom used to say.
- ***Don't disagree with your co counselors or disagree with the camp rules in front of the campers:*** There is a time for all discussions, including disagreements, but as any parent can tell you, fighting, disagreeing, or arguing in front of the kids leads to openings in your “parent armor” that the kids take advantage of in a flash. They will learn very, very quickly, which one of you is sympathetic to their cause and it may create negative feelings toward one of the two or three of you that will be very hard to overcome and will affect the whole group dynamic. You should try to maintain a unified front on all things in regards to the campers for the week and feel free to bring concerns about the overall camp rules to the attention of the core team so we can help explain the “why's” behind the rule.
- ***Don't be tempted to bend or break the rules for your campers:*** This is more tempting than you think, but giving in has far reaching effects throughout the camp and at worst may put the campers at risk or undermine the Camp Veritas Program.
 - **Example:** “You guys can keep your cell phones, just don't tell anyone I said so and keep them out of sight!” Effects of this come to our attention as other counselors are getting harassed by their campers saying things like “well, BO7's counselors let THEM have their cell phones, why do they get special rules!?” You can imagine how difficult this is to handle once the precedent is set.
 - **Example:** You tell your kids that they can stay up until 12, but they don't end up going to bed until after 12:30 and they are difficult to get up in the morning. We set the 11pm lights out intentionally knowing that it takes some time to fall asleep. We have also promised the parents that the kids will have enough

opportunity to get healthy nights' sleep. We want them to be rested for the busy day the next day. We, the core team, see the effects of this over and over again with kids falling asleep in Mass or not able to participate in the activities, counteracting the very reason the kids are there.

- ***Don't share your personal testimony before having it "cleared" by the core team:*** This is an unfortunate one, but we have taken many parent complaints about this subject along the lines of "my kids didn't even know what satan-worshiping was until they came to your camp and the counselor was talking about how they converted". It will be very hard for you to gauge the level of experience and knowledge of your campers especially in the first few days. Please let us help you decide if your testimony is appropriate for the campers or help you tailor it to the age group you have.
- ***Don't abandon your group:*** Another tough one... We are counting on you to keep an eye on the kids at all times except for your breaks and the campers very keenly sense your disinterest in them if you are never with the group.
- ***Don't leave the cabins after lights out:*** New York State Camp Law mandates that we have 2 adults in every cabin with the kids overnight without exception. Kids are not allowed to be left alone in the cabins in New York except for extreme emergencies.
- ***Don't forget why you are there and that we at Camp Veritas can't offer the camp without you!!!*** Don't forget you are there for the kids. It is very easy to think that socializing with the other counselors (which is also a good!) is why you are there, and that can be detrimental to the camper experience. You are the saints of our time, participating in a small piece of the New Evangelization, and your time with the campers may just be the very thing they need to decide to live a life of a Christian, a Catholic and a want-to-be saint.
- ***Romance:*** Camp Veritas is not the place to foster a romantic relationship with other counselors except during the free times because it is a distraction to why you are really there; to help the campers. Along these lines, please consider not making life changing relationship decisions (such as break ups, etc.) just before or while you are camp, because again, this serves as a big distraction for you and other counselors as well as for the core team of camp. We do encourage you **after camp is over** to foster relationships that may have started with meeting someone at camp!
- ***Romance with campers:*** Is prohibited under all circumstances.

The Tuesday Talk

Our veteran Camp Veritas volunteers can all attest to the need for a reminder on Tuesday afternoon about why you are there. By Tuesday, you will be physically, spiritually and emotionally exhausted. It happens to all of us, no matter how many Camp Veritas weeks we have attended. Why Tuesday? By then, the kids have gotten over their initial fear of the Camp authority and start to push your buttons. They have all but figured out how to make you upset, how to push the limits of what you will enforce with the rules, and how to manipulate situations to get what they want or create drama in the group.

Your control here is essential to keeping order and peace at camp. You have to remember that these kids are just that: kids. They are like onions that we gave to you at orientation to slowly get through the layers during the week. By Tuesday, you are realizing that some of the onions are rotten on the outside and really stink. However, *all of them* just need love, every last one, and may have never had anyone take a personal interest in them as little human beings. You

may be the first person in their lives to break through their tough exterior and let them be a little vulnerable to the love of Christ. No pressure!

What you need to remind yourself in the moments of stress and frustration, is that the program of Camp Veritas works! That program is time in front of the Eucharist, immersion in religious life for a week, access to the Sacraments daily and catechesis like they have never heard before.

For every Tuesday, there is a Thursday and Friday when you will see WHY you experienced Tuesday... on Friday, you will see the kids on their knees in Adoration, weeping, laying their hearts bare in front of the Lord. And you were part of what got them there. Well done!

Discipline

What a tough subject! The Camp Veritas policy for discipline is as follows:

- The first offence of breaking a rule will be given a verbal warning to correct and curb the behavior.
- The second offense of the same rule should involve a core team member of the Camp Veritas staff. Parent phone calls should be at the discretion of the core team.
- The third offense for the same issue shall result in the camper being sent home after the parents have been involved.
- Certain offenses may result in immediate dismissal from camp including: vandalism, racial comments with intent to harm, assault, sexual harassment, or threats of any kids, either verbal or physical. Any instances of these should be reported to the core team.

Activities

The activity matrix you will see in your folders is a small part of a big picture of the camp activities. It is a miracle of pure genius on the part of our activity director to be able to schedule hundreds of teens in tens of activities, factoring in water, no water, breaks, showers, max numbers of kids for each activity, availability of activities, and safe numbers. This schedule is a very delicate balance of well thought out pairings, avoidance of overlaps and conflicts, and best optimization and access to all activities. Long story short: switching activities or trying to attend something you are not scheduled for is almost impossible. Free periods or rainy day activity periods can be used for talent show prep or getting to know the campers better in a questions and answer session.

Red Flags

Occasionally, as you get to know your campers, and as the campers draw closer and closer into a relationship with Christ, they may feel they need to talk to someone about things they have been experiencing. Be careful here: if they start to talk about issues that make you uncomfortable or do not know how to handle, please alert a member of the religious or core team staffs to follow up with that camper. Camp Veritas is not equipped to treat matters that need therapy. There are three “red flags” that require immediate intervention from the medical or core team. These are: Suicidal thoughts/ ideas, sexual or physical abuse, or delusional thoughts within the past 2 years. Please ask three questions: ***When was the last time you experiences these***

thoughts? Did you tell anyone about it? Are they getting help already? Any of these three issues for which the camper is not already being offered help at home need immediate referral to a medical team member or core team member. You are advised to discontinue the conversation for your protection as well.

Medications

It is the Camp Veritas policy that campers are not allowed to self-administer medications with the exception of insulin, rescue inhalers, or epipens. All other medications, including over the counter meds, need to be given to the medical team. Also, if your camper needs daily medications, please make sure they visit the nurse at the designated time to maintain the appropriate timing of meds and workflow for the nursing team. It is very difficult to track down kids when they miss their dose. As their parent for the week, you have big shoes to fill!

Of note: please do not use the week of camp to alter your own medications, as this has resulted in severe impairment and in many cases, counselors being unable to perform their duties at camp.

Cell phones and other electronics

The intent of the Camp is to provide an experience that will facilitate an encounter with God. A major key to our success is that we turn off the “noise” of our life so we can listen. Campers are therefore **not allowed** to have electronic distractions on the Camp premises. This includes cell phones, I-Pods, and video games. Many of our parents are also deeply concerned about pictures of their children ending up on the internet without their control or permission, and the existence of Instagram makes this a very difficult issue for us... please help us enforce this one!

If there is any remote reason to communicate with parents at any time, the Camp Veritas staff will contact them immediately.

Should a call home be needed following the Wednesday of camp (except Summit Lake Location which does not have reliable cell service but has a land line for emergencies) campers can use staff cell phones or the office phone to make a quick call home. Why Wednesday? Teens whose minds are not in the present and that are distracted by matters at home are less likely to engage in the great relationships and activities that are being provided to them at Camp Veritas. If this is followed, we guarantee a dramatic reduction in homesickness!

In short, we want the teens to fully engage in camp. For some parents, this separation may be difficult. Camp Veritas would love extra volunteers for the week if closer contact is needed.

Camp Veritas Rules

- Campers may not leave the grounds of Camp Veritas (Summit Lake Camp, Camp Lakota Maynooth University, or Mount Saint Mary College) at any time. Campers must get their chaperone's permission if they wish to leave their group's area/activity. Any parent requests for a camper to leave campus must go through the parent liaison for the week.
 - Campers are not permitted to enter the housing quarter's area of the opposite gender – No exceptions. Campers must be in their assigned quarters by curfew and respect "lights out" times.
 - Modest dress is expected. No halter-tops, spaghetti straps, belly-shirts, two-piece bathing suits (unless there is no belly showing), or clothing with inappropriate language/logos. Shorts and skirts must reach mid-thigh **and** past your fingertips or longer. Also, if it looks like it is painted on, it is not appropriate for our camp! We would be more than happy to lend some of our awful lost-and-found clothing to be used as an alternative!
 - Inappropriate behaviors including racial comments, foul language, disrespectful comments, vulgar gestures, vandalism, harassment, refusal to follow the rules of camp and/or physically aggressive behavior will not be tolerated.
 - Cigarettes, alcohol, and illegal drugs are not allowed.
 - **No Cellphones or electronics**
 - Each camper is responsible for keeping track of his or her belongings. Camp Veritas will not be held responsible for lost or missing items.
 - Although many teens desire romance, the primary objective of Camp Veritas is to develop a relationship with God. Physical signs of affection at Camp Veritas are limited to hands on backs or shoulders only, if needed.
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About Camp Veritas

Organization

- Camp Veritas is a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of New York and organized exclusively for the purpose of inspiring and forming young Catholic teens into disciples of Jesus Christ. Camp Veritas is faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Catechism and to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church.
- Camp Veritas has been approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for listing in the Official Catholic Directory, which is also known as the Kenedy Directory. Camp Veritas is recognized by the IRS as a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. This classification allows donors to claim their contributions as tax-deductible.
- Every person involved with Camp Veritas is entirely volunteer. They give of their time, talents, energy and knowledge with the common goal of bringing our teens to the foot of the Cross in the Eucharist.
- Camp Veritas is a one week sleep away pilgrimage experience for teens going into 7th grade through 12th grade. The recipe is play-and-pray with a full immersion in the Catholic Faith through sacraments and activities.

Facilities

- Camp Veritas rents space from existing facilities owned by other organizations.
- Starting in 2008 and every year thereafter, Camp Veritas has reserved in late August, for one week, the facilities of Camp Lakota, an existing campsite located in the foothills of the scenic Catskill Mountains. This camp is located near Middletown New York, just 90 miles North of New York City, and 55 miles West of Poughkeepsie.
- The Camp Lakota facility is situated on 200 beautiful acres of land in Wurtsboro, New York, with access to the magnificent spring-fed Masten Lake which facilitates an array of water activities. The camp has a heated swimming pool, sporting fields, a beach volleyball court, basketball courts, go-carts, a climbing wall, a roller hockey rink, and a ropes challenge course.
- We have recently expanded to a facility that can handle even more campers; Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY. Mount Saint Mary College was founded by the Sisters of Saint Dominic in 1959, but the Mount has been an academic presence in Newburgh since 1883. This facility boasts a beautiful campus on a hilltop in Newburgh with views of the Hudson River. It's less than a mile from the intersection of the New York State Thruway and Interstate 84, and just a few blocks from the entrance to the Newburgh side of the Beacon-Newburgh Bridge.
- The Mount Saint Mary College location has a beautiful new all-weather athletic turf field for soccer and six new tennis courts. They also have a competition-sized pool, indoor running track, and beautiful dorm room style accommodations for our campers. They boast a generous indoor space for our catechetical instruction, testimonies, and praise

and worship. This is a sneak peek into the lives of students who attend MSMC and for them, the experience costs \$38,000 per year!

- In 2014, Camp Veritas answered the call to open a location in Maryland and found Summit Lake Camp in Emmitsburg, MD. This beautiful camp offers many of the aspects of an outdoor camp such as hiking, challenge courses, soccer and other field sports, swimming and a small lake for boating. The facilities there provide a comfortable, air conditioned experience for the campers and staff.
- In 2015, Camp Veritas extended overseas to Ireland! We currently rent the facility at Maynooth University in Co. Kildare for the Camp Veritas week. The campus has stunning grounds located just outside Dublin in the heart of the Irish countryside.

Spiritual Program

- The daily spiritual activities at both locations include the Mass, scriptural Rosary, Adoration, confessions, education, and personal testimonies.
- The structured spiritual program is led by Priests from the Archdiocese of New York and is supported by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, the Sisters of Life, and the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal. Other Religious groups have been becoming involved as well.

Safe Environment Considerations

- There are separate sleeping areas for males and females. The Camp Veritas chaperone policies are in accordance with the Safe Environment Program policies of the Archdiocese of New York.
- To ensure the personal safety of the youth, every Camp Veritas adult chaperone submits to a background check and attends a Safer Spaces training session designed by the Archdiocese of New York.

The Safe Environment Programming

- **Camp Veritas is committed to following the Safe Environment program of the Archdiocese of New York.** As part of the program, you will be required to watch the “Safer Spaces” video prior to being able to work with the campers directly if you are a new chaperone only. If you miss this chance at orientation, you may watch the video online before or after you arrive at camp by following the instructions below:
- Once we have received and submitted your background check form, you may watch the "Safer Spaces" Video ahead of time by following the instructions on the [Archdiocese "Safer Spaces" online link.](http://www.archny.org/pastoral/safe-environment-program/online-training/) (http://www.archny.org/pastoral/safe-environment-program/online-training/) You will be asked 3 questions to register and will need to use the following answers:

- 1. Institution/school is **Camp Veritas**
 - 2. Program you will be serving is **Religious Education**
 - 3. Position is **Volunteer**
- We will show the video for those who still need to view it on the first day of Camp Veritas week during Chaperone orientation. Come prepared to watch it and sign the form per regulations.
 - At Camp Veritas, we strictly follow all of the rules and regulations involved in the Safe Environment program. These rules will be incorporated into your training with us, but should you need to reference a specific policy, please use the following link for the full Policy Manual published by the Safe Environment office: [http://www.archny.org/media/files-sep/Safe Environment Policy Manual 05162014.pdf](http://www.archny.org/media/files-sep/Safe%20Environment%20Policy%20Manual%2005162014.pdf)

Camp Veritas Resources

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