

# Life Institute

# learning while serving





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# Welcome

### **Message to Parents**

Many young people feel like they are being rushed into the next stage of life after high school. More than any before it, this generation cares deeply about making right decisions and does not want to live with regret. The pressure to attend college is immense, and the idea of carrying crippling debt throughout life can be overwhelming. Most young people change majors multiple time throughout their college career, adding years to their training and dollars to their debt.

At Life Institute, we want to help your young person prepare better for those "Next Step" decisions. We partner with them to realize the gifts and talents God has given them so they can determine where and how He wants them to serve.

Jon Moore

Jon Moore, Executive Director Wolf Mountain Camps

### Message to Students

Next steps can be scary! Many of you are leaving a place with a built-in safety net for the decisions you make. Growing up is a great thing! This means that you are entering the stage of life where you are about to realize God's plan for you in your church, family, work, and community. The decisions you make in the next five years will set the direction for many of those areas. You may not realize it yet, but you have been training for this your whole life.

At Life Institute, we want to help you take your training and practice walking through many of those decisions with a Bible in your hand. We will look at areas like work skill, financial investments and savings, church selection and involvement, and even relationships as we work to make sure our thinking lines up with God's thinking on these areas of life. It has been our privilege to help many young people prepare for the next steps of life while serving in an amazing camp environment. If you feel like this type of program would be a benefit to you personally, pray about it, seek counsel, and let us know how we can help you in your pursuit to serve God.



# Vision & **Mission**

# What is Life Institute

Life Institute at Wolf Mountain a great option for those not yet ready to commit to college who are looking for something profitable to do in a gap year. Life Institute provides a place for personal and spiritual growth within the unique experience of full time camp ministry.

# **Unique Opportunities**

One of the goals of Life Institute is to provide the opportunity to try different trades to see what you have an aptitude for.

The positions available to those interested in Life Institute are food service, stores (retail + coffee shop), grounds, maintenance, and hospitality. The Life Institute program will not confine you to one position for an entire year. Instead, you will get to experience multiple positions, obtain new job skills, and enjoy the camaraderie of a smaller staff team.

# Our Goals **For You**

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#### **Personal Readiness**

Many of the struggles going into adulthood are because we are not used to practicing lessons that we have learned. At Life Institute, we provide the space to work on your personal and professional communication skills, like reporting to your boss. You will be in places where you get to serve others through various work environments, and even prepare and be responsible for important skills like meal planning, shopping and money management.



#### **Ministry Focused**

Whether full-time ministry is the vocation we are called to or not, it is clear that every Christian is intended for service. God has called us to serve in our homes and communities as well as in our local church. We will develop and practice a personal philosophy of ministry through camp and our churches that is based on biblical principles and practical skills.



#### **Skilled & Prepared**

How do you know what you are good at unless you try? You will have the opportunity to try your hand at many different aspects of professional life while serving at camp. Not only will you get basic training to serve in many different areas of camp, but you will also get enough practice to see if those areas fit how God has skilled and made you. The goal is not that you leave a professional, but that you learn enough about yourself to make wise choices toward future endeavors.



# Your Community



Life at Wolf Mountain is what will make your experience in this program so memorable. There are many benefits to being part of a small staff team. Your role in the camp's ministry is vital. You will have a place to belong and will not fade into the background. You will have the encouragement of your fellow staff members as we serve God alongside one another. You will have numerous opportunities to learn new skills and apply them at work each day. You will be assigned to a specific work area where attendance and communication is expected. You will also be given many opportunities to serve on crossover teams both here at camp and in ministries that we serve around the west. You will likely find yourself using the skills you have been practicing here at camp to serve at a church workday or mission trip with other camp staff members.

You will be challenged to live intentionally and purposefully. Each week you will participate in our Hereto-There classes which cover a variety of topics that range from biblical philosophy to practical life skills like meal planning. These classes are only the beginning of the learning. Many of the topics will be used and applied through living and serving at camp. Through your time here, you will also frequently be invited into the families of our camp staff. Weekly dinners will be provided at staff homes, where you will get to observe and participate in the ministry of hospitality and personal relationships. These times are very valuable, as you get to get to see how homes operate differently and begin to shape your philosophy of opening up your home for ministry opportunities in the future.

Not only will you have the joy of building strong relationships with our resident staff team, volunteers, and campers, but you will also experience the satisfaction of being a member who serves and gets plugged in at church! The churches you will attend know that you are in a temporary spot where you are learning and training and are committed to helping you be involved and use your gifts to serve.

# Cost

The cost of Life Institute is broken down by semester. Many students choose to stay for two semesters. An option may be granted to a student who is learning and growing to stay for an additional two semesters.

**\$700 per semester** covers all expenses while in the program at Wolf Mountain. These expenses include all room and board + books and materials used for curriculum. Many times, trips to other camps and local churches will be part of the teaching at camp, and all expenses are covered in this fee.

# Your **Experience**



#### The Classroom of Knowedge

First, there are weekly classes taught on a college level to challenge you to grow in your knowledge of God and His purpose for your life. Many of our classes require work assignments to be done in the busyness of ministry, giving responsibility to develop a balance of school / life responsibilities.

#### The Classroom of Responsibility

The next classroom is filled with opportunities to experience the real-world responsibilities of a full-time job, where you not only learn and develop skills but also must develop aspects of servant leadership. We are determined to be a safe place to fail and the consequences of irresponsibility will be gently and lovingly communicated and used as learning experiences.



#### The Classroom of Experience

We understand that academics may not be for everyone, so Life Institute provides a practical classroom of simple business and trade skills. Each semester, a focus is given to different aspects of personal growth to help an individual become a biblical employee and church member.

# The Classroom of Choices

The last and possibly the most difficult classroom is that of choosing what to do with your free time. The choice of prioritizing what you do in the off-work hours greatly determine the success of your year. Learning to say "yes" and "no" to opportunities is a real-life skill that must be practiced in order to keep life in balance. The priorities of your personal relationship with God and personal health are conscious decisions that we hope become a habit in your life going forward.

# Sample **Curriculum**



### Finances

- 1. Understanding stewardship
- 2. Biblical principles of work and reward
- 3. Trusting God for my needs
- 4. Stewardship everything belongs to God, after all
- 5. Savings
  - What percentage goes to savings?
  - Looking way down the road to retirement
- 6. Credit
  - What is a credit score?
  - What is a credit score used for?
  - How do I build my credit?
  - Is a credit card the right option?
  - How do I buy stuff I don't have money for?
  - Saving for the big stuff
  - Loans and interest
  - How to shop for a car

# **Ministry Focus**

- 1. Practical ministry classes + experience in teaching youth
- 2. Song leading
- 3. Growth in communication and relationship skills
- 4. How to give the gospel and be a gracious soulwinner

# **Life Focus**

- 1. God made us to do something *Biblical philosophy of work* 
  - How to interview for a job like Joseph did
  - Being the godly leader/ employee your team
- 2. needs God made us for a purpose Biblical philosophy of mission
- Creating your own life mission statement
  God made us to be part of something
  Biblical philosophy of church
  - How and why church
  - How to find a church
  - How to find your place to serve in church
- 4. How to correctly leave a church Biblical principles for taking life's next steps
  - How do I relate to my parents as I get older?
  - How to begin or end a relationship?
  - How do I use technology as a tool and not let it rule me?
  - How do I make principled choices and save myself from regret?





# **Thank You**

We hope that you will prayerfully consider allowing the Life Institute to be part of the toolbox that God uses to build your life and prepare you to life a life well-pleasing and glorifying to Him!

Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul. Psalm 66:16

# **Contact Information**



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