



Building Youth Groups



Bring your Youth Group to Camp Agapé for a fun weekend of community building! Spend time with other churches for crafting, hiking, games, zip-line and so much more!

IN THIS PACKET, I WILL FIND ANSWERS TO:

1. What is BYG? Why is it important?
2. How Does BYG work?
3. What are the dates and how do we register?

To learn more about the BYG programs offered by Agapé + Kure Beach Ministries, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can contact us at (919) 552-9421 or send an email to program@agapekurebeach.org.

What is Building Youth Groups?

Building Youth Groups (BYG) is a retreat designed to build and strengthen the relationships in your youth group. BYG focuses on laying an early foundation for your leaders in the making. Bring your kids to Camp for a fun community building experience that they are guaranteed to remember for the rest of their lives!

Why is BYG Important?

- **Our youth are the church** – just like us, they are the church now, not simply the future of it. We need to use all the tools we have to support and nurture them in their faith journey.
- **Our youth face more choices today than ever before.** We believe the church needs to make a stronger statement and show youth compelling reasons of how our faith can be exciting, vital and life giving.
- We want to help congregations **build strong youth groups** before youth are bombarded with choices at the middle school level.
- We need to build a strong network of support and fun within the youth group at church so that when the choices hit – **the church and youth group is an appealing, supportive and fun choice.**
- Recent Faith Formation studies have also pointed to the value of Outdoor Ministry camp and retreat experiences in the lives of faithful people.
- We live in an uncertain, fast-paced, and sometimes frightening world. **Children need to know that they are valuable**, they are a part of a larger community, and that there is a safe place to discover more about relationships with God, others and self. Agapé † Kure Beach Ministries addresses all three of these major needs.
- Children at a young age are awed by the **role-modeling and Christian witness of well-trained camp staff**, who take the time to build a relationship of trust and love with them.

Beyond BYG

Because of how successful the program is, congregations asked us to expand BYG! Both programs listed below offer new curriculum and adapt to the interests of your growing youth. We make sure to include new fun elements to make these retreats different from BYG.

BYG-er: For Middle School

Let us help you continue to grow the bonds with your youth grades 6-8 even BYG-er as you play in the woods at Camp Agapé.

BYG-est: For High School We can't forget about the high school youth! Bring your high school youth group to Camp to help it grow the BYG-est it can be! Contact our program director regarding a date for this event, BYG-est is not run every season and is by request only.

What will the Adults do during BYG?

Come planning to spend time each day with your kids in their cabin groups. The most important part of BYG is the time you have with your youth to work on building your own group. You will have about 1-2 hours a day as time for your church group to work on building community. The Agapé staff will not be with you during your community building time, but you can always ask for ideas! You will also have the opportunity to relax, play, worship, and grow with your kids in a unique environment away from the pressures and expectations of home.

Adult Leader Requirements

One adult leader is needed for every 8 participants. For mixed gender groups of more than 8, please provide a male and female adult leader. If you foresee difficulty in meeting this requirement, please contact the Director of Programs and Retreats at program@agapekurebeach.org.

Adult leaders will stay in cabins with the participants at night. Camp Agapé is no longer able to provide counselors to stay overnight with participants for BYG weekends. Our staff will be available to be with participants during the day to lead activities, etc. This policy is subject to change as staffing shifts.

Dates, Cost, and Payment

2025 Program Dates

BYG (Grades 3-5):

- January 31 - February 2
- March 28 - 30

BYG-er (Grades 6-8):

- November 7 - 9

2026 Program Dates

BYG (Grades 3-5):

- January 30 - February 1
- March 20 - 22
- October 2 - 4

BYG-er (Grades 6-8):

- November 6 - 8

BYG-est (Grades 9-12):

- April 17 - 19

Program Length: Friday 7:00 PM - Sunday 1:00 PM

Cost

\$200 per participant

Note: Registration for two adult leaders is free.

Payment

When participants and adult leaders register online, they will select the payment option "Paid by Church." Camp Agapé will invoice the congregation after the event for all registrations. The two free adult leader registrations will be reflected on that invoice.

I'm Sold! How do register?

Participants and adult leaders should visit agape.campbrainregistration.com to register. Be sure to select the season for which you'd like to register (spring/fall).

Additional Questions?

Contact us at program@agapekurebeach.org

919.552.9421 | agapekurebeach.org/retreats/byg

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