

LISTEN Weekend FAQ's

Why LISTEN Weekends?

Following Jesus is hard. In our noisy world, it is difficult to build a deep & truly personal relationship with our ever-present but invisible God. So, practically speaking...

- how can we hear from Jesus?
- how can we help our kids hear from Jesus?

Who created the LISTEN Weekend experience?

LISTEN Weekends are shaped by veteran youthworkers who have learned from firsthand experience what it means to walk all the way through each day with Jesus. They are there to help young people in their first steps into a stronger, deeper walk with Jesus.

What are LISTEN Weekends?

LISTEN is a weekend spiritual formation experience for high school & college-aged young adults. These weekends build our capacity to hear from Jesus through hands-on experiences. There is not a lot of lecture, instead there is guided time with Jesus in the one-on-one setting of Solo Time...and then with Jesus & His people in both Small Groups and Large Group settings. There is great worship and practice in hearing Jesus' Voice.

Where are the LISTEN Weekends held?

At Lawler Alpine, 7 miles outside of Idyllwild, CA. Lawler is operated by the County of Riverside and includes a building for meetings and meals, six cabins holding 10 campers each, along with restroom & shower facilities. The setting is rustic. The beds are not soft. Cell phone reception is spotty. Lawler is an awesome little camp in the trees.

What is the goal of each LISTEN Weekend experience?

*That in learning to listen better to the voice of Jesus Christ you will make **at least one change** in your everyday life at home that will enable you to hear Jesus more clearly each day.*

Who are LISTEN Weekends for?

LISTEN is for serious Christ-followers who are of high school and college age... because LISTEN Weekends require an ability to concentrate during solo times with Jesus and to actively participate in a self-led small group setting.

What makes LISTEN Weekends special?

What makes each weekend special is getting a vacation from the distracting noise of life in the SoCal area...so we can truly be with Jesus.

What can we expect at LISTEN?

If you come you will:

1. Receive practical tools that will deepen your friendship with Christ.
2. Get to know more about yourself and Jesus.
3. Build some new Christian friendships.
4. Spend time both alone with God and in community with your Christian brothers and sisters.
5. Some awesome worship time.
6. Be coached and helped to practice these & other spiritual disciplines:
 - Worship
 - Service
 - Prayer
 - Meditation on Scripture
 - Solitude
 - and more...

What is the adult role during the LISTEN Weekend?

We do not accept young people without an adult mentor who goes through the weekend with them. Without an adult, kids tend to become “orphans” for the weekend. A Christian adult can bring a carload of their students up to the retreat. Each kid needs a big brother or sister who has shared their weekend experience & can walk with them back at home. We do what they do all weekend long.

What about fun at LISTEN?

While we do not have planned recreation, there is plenty of afternoon time to relax, catch up in sleep, or do homework. Other options include the forest to explore and town to go to in the afternoon. We bring table games. People make new friends each time they go.

What about transportation?

In an effort to keep the cost low, each group provides their own rides up the hill. We often meet groups from other locations at the bottom of the hill in Beaumont to caravan up together. The campground is easily missed in the dark.

Do LISTEN Weekends have any special requirements?

The short answer is yes. Please look at & read the **LISTEN Entry Form** carefully. It has three major parts:

- **LISTEN Covenant**...we ask each person to read it, sign it, & to abide by it.
- **LISTEN Application**...we ask everyone to fill out their own application
 - We also ask that all young people **under the age of 18** have a youth pastor or church mentor sign in the box at the bottom of the **Listen Application** signifying that they believe the young person is serious about the weekend and should be able to maintain self-discipline throughout the weekend.
- **Liability Release**...we ask that **all participants get this form signed**...
 - those **under the age of 18** need a parent/guardian signature here.
 - those **18 or older** need to sign for themselves.

What is the schedule like?

We leave for Lawler Alpine usually by 6:30 pm on Friday. We roll into to the campground about 10 pm. We will leave on the last day after cleaning the cabins by about 1pm. Each day will start with breakfast, then worship & morning (spiritual) exercises followed by lunch. The afternoons are free. After dinner, we have evening spiritual exercises and worship together.

What about the cost?

The **Fall** LISTEN Weekend is Friday through Monday, with the **Spring** LISTEN Weekend being Friday though Sunday. The Fall retreat costs \$85...the Spring \$75.

- SoCal Youth For Christ asks that everyone pays what they can, but we will not turn people away due to lack of funds.
- All we ask is that we know in advance what help is needed.

For more information please contact Al Siebert -- al@socalyfc.org