

Return application to:
Westminster Woods
Ministries Department
6510 Bohemian Hwy
Occidental, CA 95465



Ministries Department:
Phone: (707) 874-2426 ext.611
Fax: (707) 874-9129
E-mail:
aimee@westminsterwoods.org

2017 Bridge Application Information

Keep this sheet for your information

Bridge strengthens young leaders by inviting them to experience the joy and creativity of serving in camp ministry through leadership opportunities and living in intentional community. Participants will complete interactive counselor training, be mentored by staff, engage in Bible Study, be trained in CPR and First Aid, and have some fun. After successfully completing this program, participants may be placed in cabins as volunteer counselors.

Eligibility: Bridge is open to high school juniors and seniors who show evidence of a growing Christian faith. Participants must be at least 16 years of age to serve as volunteer counselors in accordance with American Camp Association (ACA) Accreditation Standards.

Bridge Application Process: We are excited that you are interested in participating in Bridge. Before completing the application, please read through the questions as you prayerfully consider your role as a potential Bridger. Each Bridge session has a limited number of spots and you can only counsel after you complete Bridge. You are welcome to participate in Bridge and choose not to serve as a counselor, but you must still complete the full application with references.

There are three sessions of Bridge to select from this summer:

Bridge 1: June 25 — July 1

Bridge 2: July 2 — July 8

Bridge 3: July 9 — July 15

Step 1: Complete an application. We would like to hear more about your faith and your interest in service and leadership. Take your time to reflect and then write a thorough response. Remember that you are applying for a leadership program: we'd like to see evidence of your potential success. Please print clearly in black ink and answer all questions in the spaces provided.

Step 2: Submit your application. Please proofread your application and correct any spelling and grammar mistakes. Indicate your availability for your Bridge session and counseling assignment on the first page of the application. Be sure to submit all six pages of your application. Send no money at this time.

Step 3: Select two references. Your references should be adults who have known you longer than one year and have observed your leadership in various situations. Please do not have a family member, peer, friend, or current Westminster Woods staff person serve as a reference.

- Pastor Reference Form is to be completed by your home church Pastor, Youth Director, or church leader.
- Personal Reference Form is to be completed by another adult, such as a teacher or employer.

Step 4: Distribute your reference forms. Please complete the "Applicant Authorization" box before giving the two-page forms to your references. You are responsible for asking your references to complete the reference forms and ensuring that they do so. Your Bridge application file is not finished until these completed reference forms are received at Westminster Woods.

Step 5: Wait to hear from us. We review completed application files on a rolling basis beginning February 1 and continuing until all sessions are filled. Accepted applicants will receive more information and registration forms in the mail.

The applicant is encouraged to contact the Ministries Department with any questions about Bridge.

Optional Photo

A recent photo of yourself, trimmed to fit this space, will help us remember who you are.



For Office Use Only

Application	Packet Sent
Reference 1	Packet Received
Reference 2	Confirmation Sent
B/C	Decline/Cancel

2017 Bridge Application

Please print clearly in black ink. Mail completed application to the Ministries Department at the above address.

Name: _____ Nickname: _____
First Last

Are you a Christian? Yes No Your age as of June 25, 2017: Under 16 16-17 18+

Will you be entering your Junior or Senior year of high school in Fall 2017? Yes No

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Cell Phone: () _____

Applicant E-mail Address: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Gender: _____ Grade for 2017-2018 school year: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Parent/Guardian Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Home Phone: () _____ Work or Cell Phone: () _____

Provide your years of participation in previous Westminster Woods programs:

Bridge Training Week Selection: Indicate for which Bridge training week you would like to apply. You must complete the training week of Bridge before counseling. Rate "1" for your preferred session, "2" for an alternate session.

___ **Bridge 1:** June 25-July 1 ___ **Bridge 2:** July 2-July 8 ___ **Bridge 3:** July 9-July 15

Counselor Availability Selection: Please circle the week(s) that you will be available to counsel. You will be invited to counsel based on your availability and our need for counselors any particular week. We will confirm with you your assigned week(s). If you are not available for these dates, write "N/A."

Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
July 2 — July 8	July 9 — 15	July 16 — 22	July 23 — 29

Name of Home Church: _____ Denomination: _____ Member

Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

About how often do you attend worship at this church?

- Quarterly Every other month Once a month Twice a month Weekly

Describe your involvement in church activities:

NARRATIVE: Please answer the following questions in the space below. Diversity in opinion in our Bridge program is valued and needed. We are not looking for the “right” answers.

ABOUT YOU: Tell us what you uniquely bring to this program.

1. My two greatest strengths are:

2. My two greatest areas for improvement are:

3. List and provide a brief description of any leadership experience or training you have had. Please feel free to include any teaching experience, such as Sunday School or VBS, peer-counseling, offices you have held or honors you have received in scholastic, service, social, or religious organizations.

WHY BRIDGE?: This is your opportunity to share with us your excitement about Bridge.

1. Why do you want to participate in Bridge?

2. What do you hope to gain from your Bridge experience?

3. What do you think will be the most challenging aspect about Bridge for you?

4. What three goals would you set for yourself as a Bridge participant?

5. What do you hope campers will gain from their experience at Westminster Woods?

CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE: This is your opportunity to share with us your spiritual story.

1. Please write a statement of faith describing your beliefs.

2. What does it mean to you that you are a Christian?

3. The purpose of programs of the Ministries Department at Westminster Woods is:

“To guide persons to Jesus Christ so that through him they may come to a true knowledge of God, to a living faith, and through the power of the Holy Spirit live as Christ’s disciples through the fellowship of the church.”

What phrase in this statement stands out the most to you? How will it guide you while at camp?

ACTIVITY AGREEMENT

Yes No Are you willing to participate in physically demanding service projects?

Yes No Are you able to lift 25 pounds?

Yes No Are you able to bend and do repetitive motions?

Please explain any no response:

1. Do you have any physical or mental condition which would limit your capacity to perform service?

Yes No If yes, please explain.

2. Bridgers are placed in a position of influence with youth and children. We look for people with consistent values whether at camp or online. Can you state honestly that your behavior online and in other public arenas is consistent and portrays a person of faith and Christian moral values?

Yes No

3. Have you ever had a civil or criminal complaint pending or sustained against you or have you ever resigned, been suspended, or terminated from a position for any of the following reasons: sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, unethical behavior, child abuse, driving-related legal problems, or alcohol/drug abuse?

Yes No If yes, please explain.

4. Have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor?

Yes No If yes, please explain.

5. Westminster Woods expects all participants to abide by the rules of Westminster Woods including: no knives or guns of any kind (including paint, water, and potato guns), no fireworks, no matches or lighters, no cell phones and no portable electronics. In addition, participants must abstain from illegal drugs and use of prescribed medical marijuana. Participants must not engage in or encourage bullying, underage drinking, becoming intoxicated on or off camp grounds, or using profane language. Infractions will most likely result in the participant being sent home without a refund. Do you understand this and agree to abide by the rules of Westminster Woods?

Yes No

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Name of Pastor Reference: _____

Phone: () _____ Email Address: _____

Title & Church: _____

Relationship: _____

Name of Personal Reference: _____

Phone: () _____ Email Address: _____

Title & Organization: _____

Relationship: _____

BRIDGE AGREEMENT

Yes No Do you want to participate in Bridge, understanding that it is a rewarding opportunity but also a demanding commitment that will challenge you physically, emotionally, and spiritually?

Yes No The purpose of Westminster Woods is "To guide persons to Jesus Christ so that through him they may come to a true knowledge of God, to a living faith, and through the power of the Holy Spirit live as Christ's disciples through the fellowship of the church." Will you help fulfill this purpose as a Bridge participant?

Yes No Will you practice a positive attitude while participating in all Bridge activities, including team-building, Bible studies, and special projects?

Yes No Will you be guided and supervised by camp staff, understanding that you are to remain on camp grounds during the entirety of the Bridge program?

Yes No Will you respect other programs in progress during the Bridge session, allowing other campers, counselors, and staff to function without interruption?

Yes No Will you respect the group living guidelines and camp policies?

Yes No Will you be responsible for your appearance and actions?

Yes No Will you abstain from smoking, chewing tobacco, and using alcohol and drugs while in Bridge?

Yes No Do you understand that if your behavior is unsatisfactory you may be separated from Bridge and sent home before the end of the program?

I authorize the references listed above to provide Westminster Woods with reference information and release him/her from all liability for any damage incurred in giving this information. I waive my right to see the response on the reference. I hereby certify that the facts set forth in this application are true and correct as far as I know.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature (if applicant is under 18): _____ Date: _____

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E-mail:
aimee@westminsterwoods.org

Pastor Reference Form

To be completed by Pastor, Youth Director, or Church Leader

Name of Bridge Applicant: _____

Applicant authorization: **Please sign and date before handing out this reference**

I hereby authorize _____ to provide Westminster Woods with the information requested. I release him/her from all liability for any damage incurred in giving this information. I waive my right to see the response on this reference.

Signed: _____ Date _____

The applicant named above has applied for entry into the Bridge program at Westminster Woods Camp and Conference Center and has selected you as a pastor reference. The Bridge program includes a week of leadership training and the opportunity to serve as a cabin counselor. Please indicate "NA" for any questions you feel unqualified to answer. The applicant has given the authorization for you to release this information. Please send this reference directly to the address above. Thank you for your assistance.

From where do you know this applicant? _____

Church denomination: _____ City: _____ State: _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____ In what capacity? _____

How would you describe your relationship?

How would you describe the applicant's leadership abilities in group settings?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prefers to follow | <input type="checkbox"/> Leads only when followers are cooperative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Makes some effort to lead | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional leadership ability |

How is the applicant's emotional temperament in most situations?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Over-responds emotionally | <input type="checkbox"/> Tends to be moody |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relatively stable | <input type="checkbox"/> Well-balanced |

How well does the applicant work with peers and leaders for the good of the group?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperates grudgingly; makes trouble | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperates at personal interest level |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperates towards accomplishment of common cause | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperates exceptionally well |

How responsible is the applicant?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Irresponsible even under supervision | <input type="checkbox"/> Will do a satisfactory job with supervision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Needs detailed instructions with regular checks of work | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptionally able to accomplish own work |

How does the applicant react to suggestions or criticisms from others?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resents suggestions as a personal insult | <input type="checkbox"/> Asks for criticisms and suggestions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Listens, but may act without considering suggestions | <input type="checkbox"/> Follows suggestions willingly |

In which areas has the applicant been involved in Christian leadership and service? Check all that apply.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School teacher | <input type="checkbox"/> Mission trips | <input type="checkbox"/> Worship music/drama |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare provider | <input type="checkbox"/> Community service | <input type="checkbox"/> Other worship leading |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth group leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ | |

To your knowledge, is the applicant a Christian? Yes No

Narrative Report: Please briefly respond to the following questions as they relate to the applicant. If you have no knowledge regarding the applicant's qualifications, please indicate "NA."

Does the applicant appear to be growing in his/her Christian faith during the last twelve months? Yes No
Please explain:

During the past year, about how often has the applicant attended worship at this church?
 Quarterly Every other month Once a month Twice a month Weekly

How involved has the applicant been in church and Christian groups?

In what areas does the applicant need to be nurtured and encouraged to grow?

Please describe any tendencies or traits which you feel might reduce the effectiveness of the applicant in the camp program for which they are applying.

Would you place your own child under the direct influence and care of this individual for an overnight program?
 Yes No — If not, please explain why:

To your knowledge, has the applicant ever had any civil or criminal complaints pending or sustained and/or has he/she ever resigned, been suspended or terminated from a position for any of the following reasons: sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, unethical behavior, child or spouse abuse, driving-related legal problems, alcohol or drug abuse? Yes No

What is your overall recommendation for this applicant?

I am recommending the applicant based on:

- what the applicant can contribute to programs at Westminster Woods.
- what Westminster Woods can help the applicant learn through the program.

Please provide any additional comments you feel would help us in considering the applicant:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Title & Church: _____

Phone: () _____ E-mail: _____

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aimee@westminsterwoods.org

Personal Reference Form

To be completed by a Teacher or Employer

Name of Bridge Applicant: _____

Applicant authorization: **Please sign and date before handing out this reference**

I hereby authorize _____ to provide Westminster Woods with the information requested. I release him/her from all liability for any damage incurred in giving this information. I waive my right to see the response on this reference.

Signed: _____ Date _____

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From where do you know this applicant? _____

City: _____ State: _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____ In what capacity? _____

How would you describe your relationship?

How would you describe the applicant's leadership abilities in group settings?

- | | |
|--|--|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Resents suggestions as a personal insult | <input type="checkbox"/> Asks for criticisms and suggestions |
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In which areas has the applicant been involved in leadership and/or service? Check all that apply.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Part-time job | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports teams | <input type="checkbox"/> Community service/Mission trips |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare provider | <input type="checkbox"/> Band/Drama | <input type="checkbox"/> Church participation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School clubs | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ | |

To your knowledge, is the applicant a Christian? Yes No

Narrative Report: Please briefly respond to the following questions as they relate to the applicant. If you have no knowledge regarding the applicant's qualifications, please indicate "NA."

Does the applicant appear to have grown in his/her maturity during the last twelve months? Yes No
Please explain:

How involved has the applicant been in leadership positions?

In what areas does the applicant need to be nurtured and encouraged to grow?

Please describe any tendencies or traits which you feel might reduce the effectiveness of the applicant in the camp program for which they are applying.

Would you place your own child under the direct influence and care of this individual for an overnight program?
 Yes No — If not, please explain why:

To your knowledge, has the applicant ever had any civil or criminal complaints pending or sustained and/or has he/she ever resigned, been suspended or terminated from a position for any of the following reasons: sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, unethical behaviors, child or spouse abuse, driving-related legal problems, alcohol or drug abuse? Yes No

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