



## Mission **JONI & FRIENDS** [NORTH CAROLINA]

This trip is designed for students who have completed 9th - 12th grade & Young Adults.

What if you had the opportunity to experience an impactful mission trip and a fun summer camp all in one? Want to experience joy and adventure alongside dozens of families with the potential of building a lifelong friendship? Then you will want to consider our mission trip to Bonclarken Retreat Center as we join with Joni and Friends Ministry to spend a week showing and receiving the love of Christ by pairing up with a buddy with special needs. The Family Retreat is a place where families living with disability find rest, fellowship, and fun. This 5-day camp is full of unique programs for caregivers, individuals with disabilities, and their siblings. We will support the families throughout the week by providing daytime one-on-one support to the individual with the disability or their siblings while the parents enjoy activities designed for them.



**Date & Cost**  
August 3 - 8  
\$300



**Focus**  
Experiencing the kindness of God while ministering to someone with special needs.



**Imagine**  
Spending a week with a buddy with special needs who loves you for who you are.



**Fun Fact**  
1000 families attend Family Retreats across the US each year.



**Apply By**  
March 15

### Expected Impact

**01** Being a buddy is life-changing. You would go to be a blessing to a person with special needs and to that person's family.

**02** By Friday afternoon, you will wonder who received the greater blessing. Many leaders return each year.

**03** Reminds us that every person is made in the image of God and has gifts and abilities to worship and glorify Him.



## Focus of Joni & Friends

Nearly 1 billion people around the world live with some kind of disability. Many of these individuals and their families live in poverty, pain, and despair. Joni and Friends family camp is committed to bringing the Gospel and practical resources to people who are impacted by disability around the globe.

## Am I Equipped?

Prior experience is not required. Joni and Friends will ensure that you feel prepared to serve by providing training on topics such as disability etiquette and God's view of disability. Team members arrive one day before the families and receive training on disability and behavioral support. Plus, you will receive ongoing support from great experienced leaders all week.



### Pray With Us

Pray for our Joy Ministry as we seek to minister to individuals with disabilities and their families here at Carmel. Pray for the Family Retreats this Summer. Pray that families would hear the Gospel and be encouraged in their faith through this ministry. Pray that lives would be changed as friendships are built with those who have special needs.

## Standards

Spiritual preparation is vital to serving on mission. In order to participate in the Joy Ministry Family Retreat mission project, students are expected to have consistent attendance in Sunday Student Morning Small Groups, and attend all training dates.

## Important Dates

- Jan. 1 - Open Trip Application
- Mar. 15 - Trip Application Deadline
- May 14 - Training - 7:00-8:15pm (SDC)  
\*Parents Required to Attend\*
- May 14 - Half cost Due
- Jun. 13 - Full Cost Due

## Trip Leader

Jeremy Amick, Special Needs Pastor  
jeremya@carmelbaptist.org

## The Challenge

Each year, there is a need for teens and young adults to serve. It is more fun for a child, teen, or young adult to have a buddy for the week that is closer to their age. In the past, most family retreats have lacked the number of teens and young adults serving as these critical volunteers. Let's continue to build on the momentum from last year.

Most volunteers will serve as a friend to a child or adult with a disability joining the participant for all meals, programming, and free time activities such as boating, swimming, and crafts. Volunteers may also serve in a specific program area such as worship, crafts, recreation, and other activities.

The main goal is to simply love and encourage your buddy with a willing and humble heart for the week. As a member of this team, you'll work alongside others from around the region.

Many volunteers mark their calendar year after year to return. Some have the same buddy for 5, 10, 20+ years. For many, ministry with people who have special needs becomes a significant part of their lives.



## Accommodations

- Hotel style rooms with two beds.
- Linens and towels provided.
- Rooms sleep 2 people.
- Bathrooms within each room.
- Food will be prepared and provided by Bonclarkern Retreat Center.

Visit [carmelstudents.org](http://carmelstudents.org) to join the team today.