



THE PINE SEED

CCSM Family Connections

June 2018

rites of passage

Marking significant life transitions is an ancient tradition. Like indigenous people of old, CCSM recognizes our children’s deepening spiritual maturity with a series of “rites of passage.” Culturally, rites of passage may be as commonplace as a child’s first steps or as significant as marriage. Some growing-up achievements lack an official celebration, like coming forward for the Children’s Message or moving from the church nursery to join the older groups across the hall—but *children* realize these moments are monumental. Other transitions in life deserve a special ceremony, like baptism and fifth graders receiving their gift Bibles from the church. Our mid-highers spend a weekend exploring what “coming of age” means to them (and how some Bible characters didn’t make that transition very



Tyler Pratt receives his prayer shawl as he joins the church on Confirmation Sunday

High school students participate in two confirmation retreats to explore their faith and determine if they want to *confirm* their parents’ earlier baptismal vows to raise them as Christians. High school seniors apply to receive our graduation blessing of a scholarship as they launch into college (thanks to the Sue Bullis Scholarship). Five official rites of passage at CCSM!



Last week a third grader said she hated it when adults told her, “You are getting so old.” She said she wish people would notice something *other* than her physical growth. Let’s make her wish come true and acknowledge the significant transitions of our children and youth—not just their age.

← Kyle Neil receives a college scholarship from CYF along with a hand shake from Warren Long

DO NOT MISS CAMP CAZ

So many CCSM kids are signing up to go to summer camp at beautiful Camp Cazadero that we will organize carpools up to the Russian River area. Cabins have showers (that the kids sometimes use) and a pool that rinses them off daily. Fun crafts, programs, worship, music—yes! Scholarships are available!

Here’s the link to sign up:

CAMP REGISTRATION

July 6-8, *Caz “You and Me” Camp*
for entering 1-3rd graders

July 8-14, *Caz Senior High Camp*
for entering 10-12 graders

July 15-21, *Caz Junior Camp*
for entering 4-6 graders

July 22-28, *Caz Junior High Camp* for entering 7-9 graders



SMOOTHIE DAY → JUNE 17, after church Support the youth trip to Hawaii, just \$1



SUMMER OUTDOORS

Why is Children’s Church outdoors in the summer? Often God is more accessible in nature than in a building. Appreciation for creation increases the children’s commitment to protecting the environment. The list could go on and on, but did you know that outdoor experiences actually make you smarter?

In his decade’s worth of research on the psychological and cognitive effects of the outdoors, neuroscientist David Strayer has found time in nature — sans cell phone — to be a powerful antidote to the constant distraction of our digital lives. More than that, it enhances higher-order thinking, restores attention, and boosts creativity. For example, in a 2012 study, Strayer found that backpackers were 50 percent more creative after they had spent four days out on the trail.

Want to help out outdoors this summer? Go to [volunteer](#) to sign up.



HOORAH!

Four CCSM young men graduated this spring:

- Nick Hudson will be representing CCSM in Washington, DC, at George Washington University. When Nick wasn’t playing with Aragon’s tennis team, he staffed our Shrove Tuesday pancake dinners and routinely volunteered distributing produce to Samaritan House clients.
- Elliot Adams will be playing lacrosse at Roanoke College in Virginia next fall. At Serra High School, he participated in an immersion project with migrant workers in Watsonville.
- Brandon Kyle also graduated from Serra where he ran cross country, participated in track and field, and enjoyed making films. Next year he will attend Indiana University in Bloomington (he’ll have to run there to stay warm!)
- Kyle Neil will stay in town and remain an active volunteer at church, while attending College of San Mateo where he has already taken Astronomy and Macro Economics while a student at Hillsdale High School. He will continue to keep CCSM staff computers working smoothly and train us to better use the fancy electronics he installed in the CE Building as his Eagle Scout project.



IS GOD GOOD OR EVIL?

For the next Sixty Minutes June 10, the teenagers voted to talk about God. Wonder how God will fare after *this* discussion! As always, the lively conversation will be during worship in the Fireplace Room with peren-

nial Mike Mullery and his delicious donuts.

MID-HIGH SUMMER SCHEDULE

Mid-High class continues after the youth leave worship, except on the first Sundays (when they stay in church). As guest speakers each week, fascinating CCSM members will share their stories and wisdom.

