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Dear Middle School Youth & Families:

I hope everyone is having a smooth transition into the new school year. Tim, Naomi, Carla, and I have some great things planned for our group, including various service projects, fun outings, games, lessons, retreats, and delicious food! Perhaps you participated in our Wednesday afternoon program as a K-5th Grader; now you get to participate in the Tuesday group! Search and Discovery is a smaller group where we focus more on building community among the group, exploring our faith more in depth, and putting our faith into practice through regular service in the community.

Search and Discovery is designed for middle-school youth; 6th-8th graders. We meet once a week for two hours on Tuesdays after school (3:00pm to 5:00pm) and have a delicious Snack Supper, games, recreation, music, art, drama, and service projects. The first month we'll get to know each other and find out what the group participants enjoy doing, and we'll plan our activities together as we go throughout the year.

Our main goal is simply to Love God and Love our neighbor. We'll learn what that means together each week as we get to know one another and discuss real-life situations that the youth go through and explore what our faith says about it. Once a month we'll go out into the community for some service-learning projects – learning about the issues facing our community and putting our faith into action with hands-on service like working at the soup kitchen, sorting clothes in the clothing closet, organizing and buying food for the food pantry, cleaning/painting, walking dogs at the animal shelter, etc. It is a very meaningful way to give back to our community as we grow closer together as a group.

All middle school youth are welcome to participate and are expected to follow our Relational Covenant and House Rules to ensure everyone's safety and that everyone has an enjoyable experience. Those who do not follow the rules will not be able to participate.

What You Need To Know

- Search and Discovery starts on **Tuesday, September 8th**.
- The Oak Hill Church van will pick youth up at Table Rock in the School bus parking lot at 2:45pm
 - Naomi Nantz will pick students up from Walter Johnson Middle School in the car rider's line.
- Parents/Guardians pick up children at Oak Hill United Methodist Church **at 5pm**.
- A healthy, filling snack supper is provided.
- In order for your youth to attend, we must have their Participant Form on file. You can return it to Heather Smith at TRMS, to Deacon Shannon, or the church office. Forms are available at the church or online at <http://ohumc.com/search-and-discovery.php>. You may also email the signed form.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call or text at 336-460-1769 or at the church office. I look forward to getting to know you all and helping your youth **Search** for God's purpose in their lives **and Discover** ways to show God's love to others.

Blessings,

Rev. Shannon LeMaster-Smith

Director of Children's and Youth Ministries

Oak Hill United Methodist Church

OakHillDeacon@gmail.com

***Like* our church facebook page for information on upcoming events: facebook.com/oakhillmethodist**

Oak Hill United Methodist Church

Participant Form for Tuesday Search & Discovery (2016-2017)

Must be completed in order to attend Tuesday afterschool programming at Oak Hill UMC

General Information

| Children's Full Names | Birthdate | Grade | Medical concerns/allergies |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------|----------------------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Circle which middle school your child attends: Table Rock Middle School Walter Johnson Middle School

Parent/Guardian name(s): _____ Home #: _____

Cell #: _____ Alt. Cell #: _____ Work#: _____

Address: _____ City/zip: _____

Email(s): _____

Youth cell #: _____ Is it okay to text your youth regarding Oak Hill UMC youth activities? Yes No

What is the best way to contact you? _____

In case of an emergency and I cannot be reached, please call:

Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Relationship: _____

The following people have my permission to pick up my child from Tuesday Search and Discovery:

Medical Information

Physician's Name: _____ Physician's Phone # _____

Insurance Company: _____ Policy Holder: _____

Policy Number: _____ ID Number: _____

Media Release

I give permission for media such as photography, video, and/or sound clips of my child to be used in relation to Oak Hill UMC events, in the following ways, noting that first names only will be used. (Cross out those you do NOT give approval for.)

Church Website/Church Facebook Page/Oak Hill UMC Youth Instagram/Email/Flyers/Brochures/Newsletters

Participation Release

I give permission for my child to participate in Oak Hill UMC's Tuesday after school program, Search and Discovery, including travel to, from, and during events via church vehicle or automobile driven by an adult chaperon/leader who is age 21 or older with a valid driver's license. I give permission for my child to receive emergency medical care if necessary. I give the adult chaperones/leaders the authority to act on my behalf with respect to my child's health and safety while attending Search and Discovery, with the understanding that I/emergency contact listed above will be contacted as soon as possible should the need arise. I release Oak Hill United Methodist Church and its representatives from liability in the event of accidental injury or illness. I understand that my child is to be picked up at 5:00pm at the church.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

We will assume the information on this form remains valid through June 2017, unless you inform us of changes.

Thank you for registering your child as a participant in Oak Hill UMC's Middle School Youth Ministry. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Rev. Shannon LeMaster-Smith, Director of Children's and Youth Ministries: OakHillDeacon@gmail.com or (828) 433-5308.