

# Junior Gathering Times

College of Saint Benedict  
St. Joseph, Minnesota



Gorecki Center

Dear Children, Parents and Sponsors,

What a joy it is to welcome you to this year's Junior Gathering Community. We are eagerly getting ready for the 2016 Gathering at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, Minnesota. The Theme of Gathering this year is *be humble*, Be Faithful, **Be Bold**. We are working hard to be all three as we order supplies and snacks, plan the Junior Gathering program, and communicate with the amazing staff we have lined up.

This Junior Gathering Times is full of information that will help you know what to expect, what to bring, who your initial contact folks are, and how to help your child prepare for a spirit-filled week. Plan to come to the Junior Gathering Open House (for children up through rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade) or the Mandatory Oaks Orientation (rising 7<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grade) on Sunday, July 3, where we will share more information and do our very best to answer all of your questions (see page 3 and 5 for details). In the meantime, please feel free to contact me if this newsletter leaves you with unanswered questions.

We hope the next few weeks leading up to Gathering are filled with joyful anticipation. We can't wait to see you!

Humbly, faithfully, and, dare I say, boldly,

*Ida*

Ida Trisolini, Clerk of Junior Gathering



## 2016 FGC Gathering

July 3 to July 9, 2016

College of Saint Benedict, St. Joseph, Minnesota

**CSB Campus Info:** [www.csbsju.edu/about/college-of-saint-benedict](http://www.csbsju.edu/about/college-of-saint-benedict)

**Campus map:** [www.csbsju.edu/about/at-a-glance/csb-campus-map](http://www.csbsju.edu/about/at-a-glance/csb-campus-map)

**Got questions?**

**Check out our FAQs:** [www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/programs-and-events/children-teens/jgfaqs](http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/programs-and-events/children-teens/jgfaqs)

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## Who to Know

### Junior Gathering Clerk:

Ida Trisolini

[itrisolini@cfsnc.org](mailto:itrisolini@cfsnc.org)

### Junior Gathering Assistant Clerk:

Keira Wilson

[keira.leigh.wilson@gmail.com](mailto:keira.leigh.wilson@gmail.com)

### Junior Gathering Friend in Residence:

John Greenler

[johngreenler@gmail.com](mailto:johngreenler@gmail.com)

### FGC Junior Gathering Coordinator:

Patsy Arnold Martin

215-561-1700 ext. 3050

[patsym@fgcquaker.org](mailto:patsym@fgcquaker.org)

## Junior Gathering

### Who are Acorns????



Acorns are our youngest Friends in Junior Gathering. Watch for **Acorns** on nametags and doors to meet families with other little acorns.

### Open House: in Margretta and Smith Sunday, July 3, 5:45-6:45 pm

Come see the **space** for your Junior Gathering Group. Meet your group **leaders**. Get a **preview** of the week's activities. Meet other parents with children the same ages as yours.

**Junior Gathering Open House** is for parents, sponsors, and all children from newborns through those entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall.

Learn about Acorns, Pinecones, Sprouts, Saplings and Pinetrees! Look on the back of your nametags for specific Group Locations. We look forward to meeting you!

### For all Junior Gathering Participants:

During program time, children must either be in their groups, with an adult, or in their room. Children and middle-schoolers may not walk around campus on their own during Morning Workshop or Evening Plenary times.

### Junior Gathering Attendance Policy:

We expect to see each child at each session.

To ensure the safety, well-being, and comfort level of everyone, these procedures must be followed:

#### For newborns to those entering 6th grade this fall:

- Parents must sign these children in and out of morning and evening groups daily. Children in these groups who do not arrive for their group will be missed but we will not search for them.

#### For middle schoolers entering 7th to 9th grade this fall (Oaks):

- Starting **Monday** evening **with** a parent's written permission these young Friends may sign themselves in and out of group time.
- We will search for older children who have been given permission to sign themselves in and do not show up!! This may mean interrupting a parent's workshop.
- Parents must inform staff if a child in this group is not going to Junior Gathering that day.

### Junior Gathering Hours:

Sunday evening we begin with **Open House at 5:45 pm**, after dinner, but before the Opening Plenary

### Junior Gathering Morning Program

8:45 until noon

### Junior Gathering Evening Program (beginning Monday)

6:45 until 9:00 pm

### No Junior Gathering Evening Program on Wednesday

Come to the  
**American Roots Revue**  
Concert for all ages

### Parents To Do List:

- ✓ Give your cell phone number to your child's group leader!
- ✓ Pick up a Daily Bulletin every morning
- ✓ Check online and in Registration packet to plan family activities for the afternoons
- ✓ Sign up for Cooperative Childcare at the Family Place.
- ✓ Join other families during free time.



A Sapling is a young tree. Junior Gathering Saplings are Young Friends ages 8 to 9 years.

## Help us Plan for the Needs of Your Child

Please let us know in advance if a child in your family has particular needs or if there are family circumstances you think we should know about. All information about challenges in coping with groups, serious illness, allergies, limitation in physical ability, or significant changes in a child's life will be treated tenderly.

Communicating this information will allow the Junior Gathering staff to prepare appropriately for your child's needs.

Contact your child's group coordinator (see letter enclosed) or Patsy Arnold Martin, the FGC Junior Gathering Coordinator at 215-561-1700 ext. 3050.



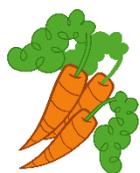
**Pinecones** are our Preschoolers, usually ages 3 to 5. Look for Pinecones on nametags and doors.

### Tips for a Successful Gathering for your Family

With so many choices of activities for youth and parents, stopping to think about what we need sometimes takes a backseat.

- \* Plan your day to meet the needs of your family for play, food, rest, worship, and water!
- \* Pause between activities to allow space for the wonderful Gathering 'coincidences' to occur.
- \* Think about being *humble*, Faithful, and **Bold** and what it means for your week at Gathering!
- \* At the end of each day check in and see how things went. Does tomorrow's plan need to be readjusted based on today?

### Snacks, Snacks, Snacks



Thanks to the input of our experienced educators and many parents over the years, we provide healthy snacks for your children during our morning program time. We serve juice daily and **a balance of fruits, vegetables**, and crackers throughout the week. Please let us know if your child has food sensitivities or allergies so that we can meet the needs of all of our children.

### Things to bring:

- ✓ Alarm clock
- ✓ Clothes you can get wet or dirty!
- ✓ Musical instruments
- ✓ Swimsuit and towel
- ✓ Sunglasses
- ✓ Hat
- ✓ Sunscreen (fragrance free)
- ✓ Refillable water bottle
- ✓ Cooler - for your family - since this campus has very few refrigerators
- ✓ Doorstop - for your room to make it easy for Friends to see when you are available to visit.

Remember to label things you bring.

Sprouts are really emerging —and so are the children in Junior Gathering. Our Sprouts will be in Kindergarten, First or Second grades in the fall.



# New for 2016



## Naturalist in Residence

**This year we have very special walking Field Trips for afternoons.**

Each day, beginning at 3:15, **David Eagan** will lead **Nature Explorations on Campus**. The College of St. Benedict campus has 100 acres of woods, a small lake, wetlands, restored prairies and a couple miles of trails that wander through these natural areas. Participants will explore a different area each afternoon, discovering what makes each one unique and fascinating. Some themes for exploration will be: Reading the landscape to discern its many stories; Uses of plants for food, fiber and fun; Plants and insects – the dynamic duo at the base of the food web everywhere; Restoration and healing the land; Connecting to natural places through silence.

**Monday.** Explore the prairie.

**Tuesday.** Explore the woods.

**Wednesday.** Rest time.

**Thursday.** Explore the prairie wetland and lake.

**Friday.** Explorer's choice. Back to the woods, prairie or wetland.

Please note participants will be walking for approximately 60-90 minutes for these interactive nature activities on trails in woods, and other natural areas. All are welcome, but children younger than 12 but must be accompanied by an adult. There will be a Junior Gathering staff member present for all hikes.

**Sign up for these Field Trips at the Local Arrangements Table in Gorecki Center.**

Be on the lookout for **Nature's Place**, a table for natural "findings" from Trail explorations: cones, feathers, rocks, and mystery nature objects. These will become part of a Touch-and-See exhibit. Our Naturalist in Residence, **David Eagan** will facilitate this exhibit, including a "What's Blooming?" display and a board where Friends can write names of animals and wild plants seen or blooming. A small collection of field guides and maybe even an old pair of binoculars will be available to borrow.



## Enter the T-Shirt Design Contest

Junior Gathering Staff have had the iconic orange t-shirts for nearly a decade and we think it is time for a change. This year we are excited to accept drawings from Junior Gathering participants for the new design. More information will be available when you arrive at the Gathering.

**What will the new design be?**



## Sun and Sunburn

Gathering is a fun time with lots of activities to choose from. Here are some tips: Drink lots of fluids. Bring a refillable water bottle for each member of your family. Help or remind them to start their day with it full. Each building on the campus has a hydration station for refilling water bottles. **There will be NO bottles of water for sale anywhere on campus.** Remind your family and yourself to drink frequently throughout the day while participating in Gathering activities. Please bring sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat – and wear them.



## Who are Oaks????



Middle Schoolers:  
those who have  
completed 6th,  
7th, or 8th Grade.

Find out more at the **Oak** Group Orientation at  
**8:45 pm Sunday night\***— **in the BAC  
Family Theatre** (in place of Open House)

**\*EVERY Oak participant and at least one  
parent or sponsor from each family are  
required to attend. \***

At this orientation, **Oaks** staff present skits  
introducing the morning workshops. Each  
middle schooler will indicate two favorites.  
(Workshop assignments won't be revealed until  
Monday morning).

We'll also go over the ground rules, review  
health forms, and answer your questions.

This is a time for parents or sponsors and  
youngsters to work together to set expectations  
for the week that are consistent among families.  
We look forward to seeing you there!

### **\*If you have conflicting orientations, contact:**

2016 FGC High School Coordinators:

Deanna Boyd [deanna.m.boyd@gmail.com](mailto:deanna.m.boyd@gmail.com)

Ben Hustis [benhustis@gmail.com](mailto:benhustis@gmail.com)

They will reschedule your High School Parent Meeting!



Pinetrees in Junior  
Gathering are  
entering 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>  
grade in the fall.

Watch for **Pinetrees**  
on nametags or doors.



### **With Waubanewquay Day, Tonia Hughes, and Billy Steele**

On Wednesday evening, July 6, there  
will be a concert for all ages.

There will be no Junior Gathering  
Programming that evening.

To hear a little of what to expect, go to  
Larry's website: [www.larrylong.org/](http://www.larrylong.org/)

Waubanewquay Day can be heard  
performing "The Water Song" at:  
[bit.ly/1tuNX13](http://bit.ly/1tuNX13)

The Steeles' website is:

[www.thestelesmusic.com](http://www.thestelesmusic.com)

Tonia's website is: [www.toniahughes.com](http://www.toniahughes.com)

### **Special Event Monday and Tuesday at 1:30**

Larry will lead a multigenerational  
collective songwriting event on the  
theme *be humble*, Be Faithful, **Be  
Bold**. Applying a community based  
creative process, Friends of all ages  
will engage in critical conversation  
about what these words mean. From  
this, the group will write lyrics and  
melody to perform with Larry at the  
evening concert on Wednesday.  
Children younger than age 9 must be  
accompanied by an adult.

## AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

**Our Family Place:** where families can play, read, learn and relax together.

**You're part of Junior Gathering; you're part of Our Family Place!**

**Open to families from 1:30-4:30 in Margretta Hall 1<sup>st</sup> floor**

A Place to:

- Get acquainted with and reconnect with other families.
- Set up playdates and cooperative childcare!
- Bring your instruments, gifts, and voices to join in music, storytelling and discussion.
- Take time together as a family to make art, play games, or read books from the **Junior Gathering Lending Library**.



Check the Daily Bulletin for special activities at Our Family Place.

**Monday** at 3:15 p.m. — Come to **Worship Sharing** with attention to planning the week: Offer to lead a discussion, games, songs or stories for later in the week or suggest discussion topics at **Our Family Place**.



If you have ideas you'd like to share before you come to the Gathering, contact Laura Matanah at [lauramatanah@gmail.com](mailto:lauramatanah@gmail.com)

**Junior Gathering Library:** We have a library of children's books for you to check out all week in Our Family Place. We also invite you to donate your favorite new or used books to our collection. Please bring donations to Our Family Place between 1:30 and 4:30 Monday —Friday.



**Multi-Gens:** Activities for all ages to enjoy together in the afternoons.

Monday 1:30 p.m.

- **Capture the Flag** Location: The Mall
- **Collective Song-writing** Location: TBA (repeat on Tuesday)

Tuesday 1:30 p.m.

- **T-Shirt Design Contest** Location: TBA
- **Story-time** in the Center for People of Color

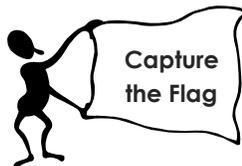
Wednesday 1:30 p.m. Take a Nap!

Thursday 1:30 p.m.

- **Disc Games** Location: The Mall

Friday 1:30 p.m.

- **Sharing Songs & Poetry** Location: TBA
- **Story-time** in the Center for People of Color



Find More Information about **Family Friendly Afternoon Options** in the Daily Bulletin or at the Local Arrangements Table in Gorecki Center.

## Swimming



Indoor Pool on campus: open Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons, so don't forget your suits and towels.

## Playgrounds

Two outdoor playgrounds are in walking distance of the campus: at Centennial Park (West Birch & 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue) and the Parish School, corner of W. Minnesota Street and College Avenue.



## Some Special Events

### Monday

Collective Songwriting  
**1:30 pm** (repeat on Tues.)  
Location: TBA

### Tuesday

Parent Feedback Meeting  
Location: TBA  
**3:15 pm**

### Wednesday

Take a Nap afternoon!

### Concert: 7:00 p.m.

Multigenerational Plenary:  
American Roots Revue  
**NO JG Evening Groups**

### Saturday

**9:00 AM All Gathering  
Worship**

Have a safe trip home & plan to come to the **2017 FGC Gathering** at Niagara University, Niagara, NY  
July 2-8, 2017.

