

RELEVANT STUDENT MINISTRY

helping students discover real life



March 16-18
CLARKSVILLE, TN

WHAT IS MERGE?

Merge is a weekend long retreat designed for middle school and high school students. The goal of this retreat is to help students merge their lives around Jesus, and His next steps for their relationship with Him.

Merge is a weekend for students to separate from their normal, typical, routine, and instead for a little over 48 hours connect with spiritual friends, leaders, and mentors to reflect on what their life currently looks like, what it could look like, and begin taking steps to live a real life with Jesus.

WHO:

6th-12th Grade

DATES:

March 16-18th

LOCATION:

Clarksville. Students will stay in the homes of host families and leaders from Grace Community Church. Gatherings will be held at Grace Community Church (2853 Dunlop Ln.)

COST:

\$75 for students, but FREE for you. The cost for students covers-- Food, merchandise, supplies, speaker, band, and production. Each host home will receive a specific amount of money to provide food for groups during the weekend (snack Friday night, breakfast Saturday morning, and dinner Saturday night)

REQUIREMENTS TO BE A HOST HOME

In order for students, leaders, and host homes to have a safe, fun, and positively memorable experience we have several specific requirements of all our host homes/families.

1. All members staying in the home over the weekend that are of legal age (18 years old) must be background checked. This pertains to all leaders of small groups, and all members living in the home over the weekend.
2. An adult is required to be in the home at all times unless previously notified and approved by the Student Pastor (Van Riggins).
3. The host home must be a home that can comfortably and safely accommodate a designated number of students and leaders. On the registration form you may request a specific sex group, and age group, and sized group, but before registering be aware that group sizes range from 5-15 members.
4. We look to host homes to feed their group for three meals: snacks on Friday night, breakfast Saturday morning, and dinner Saturday night. All homes will be compensated a week in advance to be able to buy groceries for their groups.
5. A positive attitude and an expectation to serve. We don't ask much from our host homes, because you are already sacrificing so much, but by registering to be a host home we expect all host homes to be ready for your home to be louder, and rowdier, than normal. Groups will be staying up later than normal hours for most, so make sure you're prepared for this ahead of time, and ready to embrace their excitement and energy.

6. Allow groups to grow independently. We love for our host homes to interact with the groups they host, we even encourage it, but when it comes time for small group time we ask all host homes to allow the small group's designated small group leaders to lead. We want our students to feel comfortable in their normal group structure, and so we ask all host homes to allow small group to happen without the hosts present.

WHAT WE PROMISE TO OUR HOST HOMES

Again, we know how much of a sacrifice it is to be a host home for a weekend, but we want this to be a positively memorable experience for you as well, so we promise to you:

1. To keep you in the loop of what is going on with the weekend, who your group will be, and where your group will be in plenty of time for you to be confident, comfortable, and prepared.
2. To treat your home with care, respect, and love. Students are messy (especially middle schoolers), but we promise to make it a value for our leaders, and students to treat your home with care, respect, and love. Our value is for students to leave your home cleaner than when they got there.
3. To provide support both emotionally and financially. We will provide money for you to appropriately feed your group, and care for them. We will also be there with any concerns or worries that may come up.

REGISTRATION & TRANSPORTATION

Students can be dropped off at Grace on Friday March 16th between 6:00-6:30 by parents. Students will check-in and place their bags in the main hall until they leave.

Students will be transported in groups, by an adult (preferably you, but if you cannot drive please let me know), for the rest of the weekend. Students are to be picked up from Grace Community Church on Sunday morning at 10:15AM. (If your family attends Grace Community Church, you may arrange to meet your family there.)

High school students are welcome to drive themselves, but they will turn in their keys to their leader when they arrive at their host home. This is to ensure everyone's safety for the weekend.

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY MARCH 16

- 4:45- Leader Meeting
- 5:45- Host Home Meet and Greet
- 6:00- Registration
- 6:45- Gathering
- 8:00- Small groups (at host home)
- 9:30- High School Late Night
- 12:00- Lights out

SATURDAY MARCH 17

- 8:00- Breakfast (at host home)
- 8:30- Quiet time (at host home)
- 9:30- Gathering
- 10:45- Small groups (at host home)
- 12:00- Lunch (in town)
- 2:00- Down time
- 5:30- Dinner (at host home)
- 6:30- Quiet time (at host home)
- 7:30- Gathering
- 9:00- Small groups (at host home)
- 12:00- Lights out

SUNDAY MARCH 18

- 8:00- Breakfast (at Grace)
- 9:00- Gathering
- 10:15- Go home and sleep

STUDENTS PACKING LIST

Bible

Pen

Notebook or journal

Sleeping bag, pillow, and blanket

Clothes

- Comfortable clothes for lounging around
- Warm clothes for being outside
- Normal clothes for everything else

Sweatshirt or jacket

Tennis shoes

Toiletries

Towel and wash cloth

Phone charger

An open mind and good attitude

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

Things that can be easily broken or hard to replace

GENERAL RULES

No weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, etc.

No pranks. Period.

Respect others, their stuff, and their space.

CONTACT

For questions, concerns, or more information contact:
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For more information about Relevant Student Ministry, check out
RelevantStudents.com

For more information about Grace Community Church, check out
GraceClarksville.com.

Follow us each weekend and for this weekend on social media at:

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#Merge18