

# THE MINISTRY SCHOOL AT HIDDEN ACRES



**Overview:** The Ministry School is a gap year program for college-age students interested in living, learning, working, and growing at Hidden Acres. The program is based on four pillars of growth: academic, spiritual, vocational, and personal.

**Dates:** August 15, 2018- May 18, 2019

**Students:** The Ministry School is designed for students who either want to enter full-time ministry or are unsure of their future career plans and could benefit from an intentional year of growth before starting college or a full-time job.

**Hidden Acres Christian Center:** Hidden Acres is a Christian camp and retreat center owned by the Evangelical Free Church Central District. It is located on 660 acres in Dayton, Iowa and hosts over 20,000 guests each year.

## Finances:

- Program Cost: \$1,500/semester (includes housing, food, trips, professional development conferences, programming costs, and a t-shirt)
- Work Stipend: \$1,000/month
- Tuition: \$150/credit, plus \$160 course fee (paid directly to Trinity)
- *Students will earn enough in one semester (approximately \$4,000) to cover the program cost, tuition for nine credits, and fees (approximately \$3,300).*



**TRINITY**  
INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

**Academic Growth:** Hidden Acres has partnered with Trinity International University to allow students to take online classes from Trinity during their time in The Ministry School. Students will be required to take one course each semester and can take up to 9 credits a semester.

Students will be given time during each week to complete their academic work, based on the number of credits they are taking. The Ministry School Manager will serve as an academic advisor, assisting students with their coursework as needed.

**Spiritual Growth:** Students will participate in weekly Bible studies led by the full-time staff and guest speakers. Each student will also be individually mentored by a full-time staff member, and will grow in their spiritual lives by living and working in a Christian community.

**Vocational Growth:** Students will work alongside the full-time staff at Hidden Acres to gain vocational ministry experience. During the first semester, students will receive two weeks of training in seven different departments at camp: Administration, Food Service, Guest Services, Grounds, Housekeeping, Maintenance, and Programming. During the second semester, students will have the opportunity to specialize in an area that matches their gifting and skills.

**Personal Growth:** Students will attend weekly life skills seminars, led by full-time staff and qualified guests. Some seminar topics include: personal finance, cooking, car maintenance, conflict resolution, time management, and more! Students will also be given various assignments throughout the year to promote personal growth. Some projects include: book reports and discussions, personality and spiritual gifts tests, and goals and reflection papers.



**Typical Week:**

|          | Monday | Tuesday                              | Wednesday                              | Thursday                             | Friday                | Saturday  | Sunday                   |
|----------|--------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 9:00 AM  | Off    | Class Time<br>(3 credits)<br>or Work | Class Time<br>(6-9 Credits)<br>or Work | Class Time<br>(9 Credits)<br>or Work | Work                  | Work<br>(2 on, 1 off,<br>with<br>exceptions for<br>certain<br>weekends) | Work<br>(2 on, 1<br>off) |
| 10:00 AM |        |                                      |  |                                      |                       |   |                          |
| 11:00 AM |        |                                      |  |                                      |                       |   |                          |
| 12:00 PM |        | Lunch                                | Lunch                                  | Lunch                                | Lunch                 |   |                          |
| 1:00 PM  |        |                                      |  |                                      |                       |   |                          |
| 2:00 PM  |        | Work                                 | Work                                   | Work                                 | Work                  |   |                          |
| 3:00 PM  |        |                                      |  |                                      |                       |   |                          |
| 4:00 PM  |        | Life Skills<br>Seminar               | Community<br>Activity                  | Bible<br>Study                       | Community<br>Activity |   | Off                      |

**Weekends:** Students will work weekends on a rotating schedule of two weekends on, one weekend off, with the exception of certain weekends when everyone will be required to work. These weekends include the retreats that we program, such as Sportsmen’s Retreat, and other weekends with larger groups. Weekend work may include kitchen, dish room, snack shop, housekeeping, activities, and other areas as needed.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of their weekends off to go home, visit family, and rest from the busyness of ministry. Students will also receive every Monday off work. This will allow them to have longer weekends off and more time to work on homework and projects.

**Time-off:** Students will receive time-off for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, and Easter. Additional time-off can be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Ministry School Manager.

**Trips:** Students will participate in two professional development trips and one college visit. The professional development trips will be conferences hosted by the Christian Camping and Conference Association (CCCA) held at various camps in the Midwest. The college visit will be to Trinity International University in Deerfield, Illinois, to give students an opportunity to experience college life by attending class, meeting with faculty, and staying overnight in a dorm on campus.



**Community:** Students will live in our newly renovated Pavilion and be supervised by our Community Advisor. Students will participate in weekly community activities, including games, trips, dinners, and more! Once a month, a full-time staff member will host a community activity for the students.



**Application Process:** Students will need to complete an application, four references, and interview for The Ministry School. Applications and references can be found at [hacamps.org](http://hacamps.org). Admissions to Trinity is required for a student to be considered for The Ministry School, however Hidden Acres will forward all application materials to Trinity. Students will not need to apply for admissions to Trinity separately. Email Eric Smith ([eric.smith@hacamps.org](mailto:eric.smith@hacamps.org)) with any questions.



**The Ministry School Manager:** Eric Smith is passionate about developing future ministry leaders. He has degrees in Biblical Studies and Human and Educational Services. He is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Christian Leadership. Eric spent four summers as a counselor at Hidden Acres and started on full-time staff in 2015. Eric oversees the summer camp staff and curriculum. He lives in Ogden with his wife, Emily, and their daughters, Mackenzie, Hannah, and Megan.

