



**Overview:** Project Path is a gap-year program for college-age students interested in living, learning, working, and growing at Hidden Acres. The program is designed to give students the time and space to:

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| discover | <b>P</b> urpose             |
| pay      | <b>A</b> ttention           |
| dedicate | <b>T</b> ime                |
| find     | <b>H</b> ope for the future |

The student can choose between one of two paths to take in the program: a vocational path or an academic path.

**Vocational Path:** The vocational path is a work-focused path where students will primarily work and serve at Hidden Acres. Students can expect to work 35-45 hours per week in seven different departments.

**Academic Path (formerly *The Ministry School*):** The academic path allows students the opportunity to take college courses online from Emmaus University while also getting vocational experience working at camp. Students will work up to 25 hours per week while also being allocated time during the workday to complete college coursework.

**Dates:** Mid-August through May each year

**Students:** This program is designed for college-age students who may not know what the next step in life is and they just want some time to breathe as they figure it out. It may also be for the student who does know what is next, but they just want some time to grow before pursuing it.

**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: \$2,500/semester (includes housing, food, trips, professional development conferences, programming costs, and camp apparel)
- Work Stipend: \$1,200/month for the vocational path or \$1,000/month for the academic path
- Tuition (*academic path only*): \$200/credit hour
  - *Students on the academic path will earn enough in one semester (approximately \$4,000) to cover the program cost and tuition for six credits (\$3,700).*



**Academic Growth (*academic path only*):** Hidden Acres has partnered with Emmaus University to allow students to take online classes from Emmaus during their time in the academic path. 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 the week to complete their academic work. The Education Director will serve as an academic advisor, assisting students with their coursework as needed.

**Spiritual Growth:** Students will participate in devotion time, weekly Bible studies led by the full-time staff and guest speakers, and staff chapel service. 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 year, students will receive training in seven different departments at camp: Administration, Food Service, Guest Services, Grounds, Housekeeping, Maintenance, and Programming.

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



**Weekends:** Students will work weekends on a rotating schedule, 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 serving in the kitchen, dish room, snack shop, housekeeping, activities, and other areas as needed. Each student will typically have one weekend off per month. Students are encouraged to take advantage of their weekends off to go home, visit family, and rest from the busyness of ministry. Students also receive Monday off of work.

**Time-off:** Students will receive time-off for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year, and Easter. Additional time-off can be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Education Director.

**Trips:** Students will participate in a professional development trip. It will be a conference hosted by the Christian Camping and Conference Association (CCCA) held at various camps in the Midwest. Other trips may occur on a year-to-year basis.



**Community:** Students will live in our Pavilion, located on the top of the lake hill, and be supervised by our Education Director. Students will participate in weekly community activities, including games, trips, dinners, and more!

**Application Process:** Students will need to complete an application, submit four references, and interview for Project Path. Applications and references can be found at [hacamps.org](http://hacamps.org). Admission to Emmaus is required for a student to be considered for the academic path, however students will not need to apply for admissions to Emmaus separately. Hidden Acres will forward all application materials to Emmaus. More information about applications can be found on our website. Email Jesse Evans ([jesse.evans@hacamps.org](mailto:jesse.evans@hacamps.org)) with any questions.



**The Education Director:** Jesse Evans currently serves as camp Chaplain and Education Director at Hidden Acres. He is passionate about spiritual growth and about putting theology into practical application. Jesse's wife, Nichole, helps with administration and discipleship. They have six children and four grandchildren.

