

Western Kentucky Youth Camp Names Aarek Farmer as Summer Session Director

Western Kentucky Youth Camp is delighted to announce the selection of Aarek Farmer as the new Director for 11-13-Year-Old Week, replacing long-time Director, Michael McDavid. Farmer is no stranger to the directorship, having served as co-director of another church camp for the last 11 years. Farmer first attended WKYC as a camper before joining the summer staff as a lifeguard during his four years of college. He later went on to serve as a counselor, Bible class teacher, and regularly takes his own children and/or youth group to camp.

Apart from his volunteer work, Farmer is a professor at Freed-Hardeman University, where he also serves as the Academic Director and Director of their doctoral program in Educational Leadership. Furthermore, he works at Great Oaks church of Christ as the college and young adult minister and occasionally substitute teaches for Arlington Community Schools when needed. He and his wife Jen have three children and live in Arlington, TN, just outside of Memphis.

“The Board is very excited that Aarek Farmer will be joining our work at WKYC as the director for 11-13-Year-Old Week,” noted Vice President Landon Clark. “Aarek has a long history with WKYC as a camper, lifeguard, counselor and Bible teacher, so him coming home as a director is a blessing. I’ve known Aarek since high school, and we became good friends at WKYC and Freed-Hardeman. We’ve been able to build on the friendship the past few years with our kids attending Pee-Wee Weekend and as well as working together on staff for Teen Week. I know that Aarek, his wife (Jen), and his staff will do a fantastic job in creating a week for our 11-13-Year-Old campers that will help them grow closer to God and create those lifelong friendships that are a cornerstone of the WKYC experience.”

Reporting to the Board of Directors, Farmer is responsible for session operations, curriculum development, staff management, and collaboration with the Board and related staff to ensure a safe, fun and memorable experience for all campers.

When asked what makes Farmer most excited about his new role, the opportunity to create a safe, welcoming, and Christ-centered culture strengthened by relationships to help kids grow stood out. Cultivating relationships that make an impact on the lives of each camper was a core value he stated that he hopes to achieve: “When I was a lifeguard, it was my goal to learn every kid’s name at camp each summer.” It’s something he wants to continue into the future: “Camp should be a place where children can grow physically, spiritually, and socially, so that all, regardless of age and interest, can find their place and feel welcome there.”

Spiritual formation speaks to another of Farmer’s priorities for the week. Middle school is full of kids at “...such an impressionable age. They’re still trying to figure out who their friends are and who they want to be when they’re older. Faith may or may not be their focus, but I hope to instill faith at a young age so that when they get into high school and peer pressure starts to hit them even harder, they will be focused to stay on the right path.”

Do you have questions about 11-13-Year-Old-Week or the WKYC experience? You can reach Aarek at afarmer@fhu.edu, or visit wkyc.org/dates-and-fees for additional information. 11-13-Year-Old Week will take place June 26 – July 1, 2022.