

Why Twin Lakes?

Some people may be wondering why we would have a youth gathering at Twin Lakes when we have Mennonite camps within our conference. This is a reasonable question. In short, because of its central location. Meeting at Twin Lakes puts Youth Escape 2008 within a four-hour drive of most of our churches.

This is a weekend event. Many sponsors and youth will go to work on Friday and drive to Twin Lakes after work. Crooked Creek and Swan Lake are each six or more hours from a number of Central Plains churches, an additional two hours farther.

This is the first time we've tried a conference-wide youth gathering. We want to lower every possible barrier to attendance in order to get the widest possible participation. We hope that in time, distance will be less of a barrier; but until youth and sponsors are convinced that they want to attend an event like this, it helps to remove as many barriers as possible.

We want everyone to come as equals. A major reason for having Youth Escape 2008 is so our youth can make friends with each other. It helps if *everyone* leaves familiar settings to meet together in a neutral setting where no one feels like an insider or an outsider.

We've had conversations with Swan Lake and Crooked Creek about the location of Youth Escape 2008. We share with the camps the hope that someday we will have a regular biennial youth gathering that will be alternately hosted by Swan Lake and Crooked Creek.