



# FIRST RITES 2022



## LETTER TO PARENTS & GUARDIANS

Dear parents and/or guardians of the boy,

Thank you for trusting us to do what we do best. To tend to the safety and growth of your boy. To facilitate healthy risk and new experiences. And to return him to you in whole form.

We know how challenging it can be to say goodbye. And, we recognize the importance of marking our endings... so that we may open ourselves to new beginnings. Your son will one day soon no longer be a boy - a child - but a young man with his own identity, purpose and place.

Your boys' journey began long ago. This summer, with the support of his people, he starts a new chapter that will set the tone for his life's story. These are deeply formative years.

Away from modern media, school, and his regular authority figures, he will be faced with challenges that will test his character. He will be charged with the task of examining his core identities - sitting with big questions like "Who are my people?" and "How do I want to be in the world?" He will be guided by experienced mentors who have faced these challenges long before him.

And, he will also need the help of his community back home. Consider how you may be able to "hold space" for him during this course, empower him to prepare for this experience as much as he can, and receive him in a good way once it finishes.

When he returns, he will be changed. He will need you to be willing to see him differently. He will be tested by all of his former routines, rhythms, influences and/or addictions. And this time is vital for the integration of our experiences together. Be gentle, supportive, and help him stay accountable.

After our **three** days together he will have the opportunity to stay involved in Journeymen activities throughout the year. These include casual recreation days, outdoor games, fire councils, and work parties. Each offers its own unique potential for mentoring and growth.

We hope that this letter offers you enough to feel confident in what is to come, without knowing every detail. If you find yourself truly needing more information, we welcome your inquiry and are always here to support. We look forward to seeing you soon.

- Illuman



# First Rites - Young Men Rising 2022



## ~ ARRIVAL ~

**Friday, August 5th - Rolling Ridge**

691 Christ Church Road Harpers Ferry, WV, 25425

Boys & their families will arrive at **Rolling Ridge Retreat Center** promptly between **1:00pm - 1:30pm on Friday, August 5th**. Families are asked to stay and participate in a brief welcoming ceremony that will conclude by 3:00pm. Please follow Illuman staff instructions for parking. <https://rollingridge.net/directions-to-rolling-ridge/>

Fathers, mothers, and guardians are strongly encouraged to attend. Siblings and close extended family members are also invited. If you have questions about this part of the process, or are unable to make it, please email us at [admin@illumandc.org](mailto:admin@illumandc.org).

## ~ HOMECOMING ~

**Sunday, August 7th - Rolling Ridge**

691 Christ Church Road, Harpers Ferry, WV, 25425

Parents and family members will arrive at **Rolling Ridge** promptly at **2:30pm on Sunday, August 7th**. All are welcome! Please follow Illuman staff instructions for parking.

Families are then invited to the Rolling Ridge meadow to be hosted for light snacks, stories of the experience and to honor each individual as they step toward their role of becoming young men. Celebrations will conclude by 4pm.



# First Rites - Young Men Rising 2022



## COVID-19 Precautions

The health and safety of our participants, staff, and our community is always a top priority. We have developed First Rites based on the latest safety guidance from the CDC.

1. Students, children, and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19, are required to stay home and should get tested and/or see a health care provider and follow the return to work/care/school protocol.
2. Any student, child, or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 is required to isolate at home following current guidelines from DOH; this isolation guidance applies regardless of vaccination status.
3. Hand sanitizer and hand-washing stations will be available to all campers.

We also recognize that these guidelines can change quickly depending on the status of the virus in our state and country. We will only host offerings that we believe are safe for our community. If at any point it becomes clear that any of our program curriculum is not safe, we will either change or not facilitate those components.

Our leadership team, in collaboration with our advisory council and local healthcare professionals, is regularly reviewing our COVID precautions and safety policies as our camp season approaches.

In the final week leading up to camp, we will send out updated and more detailed information about current COVID-related health and safety precautions.



# First Rites - Young Men Rising 2022



## ~ PACKING LIST~

Think adequate, sturdy, minimal, low impact, survival gear. Bring what is needed to stay healthy and enjoy the experience - nothing more. Boys will be packing all gear in and out. Every extra item adds weight.

- Backpack and/or duffel bag
- Sleeping bag & pad
- Water bottle (1 Liter or more)
- Sturdy walking shoes/boots
- Clothing for **three** days of outdoor activities
- Warm jacket / pants for evening
- Paracord (100 ft)
- Flashlight / Headlamp
- Toiletries
- Necessary prescription medications
- 2-3 face masks (Optional)

### OPTIONAL GEAR

- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- Sun hat
- Warm hat
- Bandanna
- Small pillow
- Sunglasses
- Musical Instruments...the more the better, smaller is easier
- A comfortable, small cushion for sitting on the ground for a period of time

## ~ WHAT NOT TO BRING ~

- Food / snacks
- Non-prescription drugs/alcohol
- Sporting equipment
- Reading Material
- Phones, electronics, digital cameras, watches, electronic games, etc.

Please let us know if you are in need of any gear as soon as possible and we will do our best to accommodate.

