

# First Rites of Passage: 40 Hours in the Wilderness

A Son/Father Depth  
Spiritual Retreat for Boys\*

## EXPERIENCE

\* Biblical storytelling \* Kiva  
ladder legend storytelling  
and building \*  
Contemplative wilderness  
exploration \* Local Civil  
War lore \* Bonfires \*  
Stargazing (bring  
telescopes if you want) \*  
the practice of ancient  
council circles \* Faith  
affirmation \* Sharing of  
baptism stories \* Hiking \*  
visit Round Spring, site of  
ancient Rites and  
gatherings \* worship with  
Ozarks congregation \*  
Food \* Fun \* Fellowship



- Shannondale Retreat Center – Ozark National Scenic Riverways
- Friday, Aug., 2022, 6:00 pm – Sunday, Aug. 7, 2022, 2:00 pm
- \$99 for son and father together scholarships available



The general assumption underlying all initiatory rites is that unless a young male is shown real power through a community of wise elders, he will always seek false power and likely will spend much of his life seeking prestige, perks and possessions. The pattern of the monolith of the hero in the Hero's Journey is universal:

- 1) Separation from business as usual, old roles, dependent affirmation...
- 2) This moves the initiate into a threshold or liminal space where God can be heard.
- 3) Here a numinous, mystical, spiritual encounter is possible, desired, required. Wilderness space provides for this.
- 4) Now the initiate returns to his community with a new identity and a gift for the community, although his primary gift is the man he has become. Dads will be empowered to live in this too.

## COMING SOON

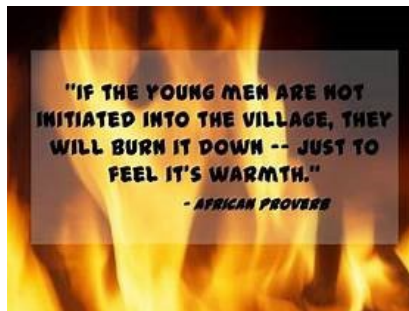
Look for a Daughter/Mom  
Retreat scheduled at a later  
date and different location  
designed for young women  
in their beautiful unique  
journey toward  
womanhood.



## BROUGHT TO YOU BY

These Rites are a cooperative project of the [Christian Church \(Disciples of Christ\) of Mid-America](#), the [Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ](#), [Shanndonale Mission](#), and [Illuman of the Ozarks](#).

# First Rites of Passage: 40 Hours in the Winderness



This long-needed mentoring experience is designed to supplement the support, instruction, preparations, and follow-through for the Pastor's Class and Baptism, typically offered to Chi-Rho age youth (completed grades 5-8). We will empower the youth to "own" their faith formation and encourage a lifelong devotion to Christian companionship and service to Christ and each other by immersing them into the untamed wilderness with Spirit guides. Some activities will involve all and much will be the boys growing together by themselves while Dads and men getting a chance to share, talk, and experience having a young man in their family.

Travelers are encouraged to eat Friday dinner in either Salem or Eminence. Sleeping will be in communal bunks at Timber Lodge unless there is a specific need. Bring linens, toiletries, sunscreen, insect repellent, Bible, and especially a journal. Boys will be given a chance to swim so bring trunks or cut-offs. Sunday worship will be at Shannondale UCC – casual outdoor dress.

\*The Rites include all meals, bonfire snacks and materials for a major project to keep. This price is subsidized by the Region at a half-off basis. More scholarship money is available. Please come regardless of ability to pay! A male elder may accompany the young man if a dad's participation is not possible. All who identify as men, boys, or non-binary individuals are welcomed here. A few older young men who might serve as peer mentors (and older brothers) would be welcomed with their dads. Boys and men from other congregations or faith communities, the neighborhood, scouting, the gym...will feel wholly welcomed.



A link for registration is on the [Summer Programs](#) page of our website.

For more participation information, contact Regional Minister Paul Koch at [paul.ccma@sbcglobal.net](mailto:paul.ccma@sbcglobal.net).