

# THE MINISTRY SCHOOL

**Overview:** The Ministry School is a gap year program for college-age students interested in living, learning, working, and growing at Hidden Acres. The program is based on four pillars of growth: academic, spiritual, vocational, and personal.

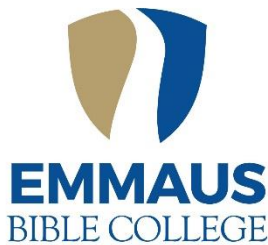
**Dates:** August through May each year

**Students:** The Ministry School is designed for students who either want to enter full-time ministry or are unsure of their future career plans and could benefit from an intentional year of growth before starting college or a full-time job.

**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: \$1,500/semester (includes housing, food, trips, professional development conferences, programming costs, and Ministry School apparel)
- Work Stipend: \$1,000/month
- Tuition: \$200/credit
- *Students will earn enough in one semester (approximately \$4,000) to cover the program cost and tuition for twelve credits (\$3,900).*



**Academic Growth:** Hidden Acres has partnered with Emmaus Bible College to allow students to take online classes from Emmaus during their time in The Ministry School. Students will be required to take one course each semester and can take up to 12 credits a semester.

Students will be given time during the week to complete their academic work based on the number of credits they are taking at the time. The Ministry School Director will serve as an academic advisor, assisting students with their coursework as needed.

**Spiritual Growth:** Students will participate in weekly Bible studies led by the full-time staff and guest speakers. 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 first semester, students will receive two weeks of training in seven different departments at camp: Administration, Food Service, Guest Services, Grounds, Housekeeping, Maintenance, and Programming. During the second semester, students will have the opportunity to specialize in an area that matches their gifting and skills.

**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 include: book reports and discussions, personality and spiritual gifts tests, and 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 5 weekends off per semester.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of their weekends off to go home, visit family, and rest from the busyness of ministry. Students will also receive every Monday off work. This will allow them to have longer weekends off and more time to work on homework and projects.

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

**Trips:** Students will participate in two professional development trips and one college visit. The professional development trips will be conferences hosted by the Christian Camping and Conference Association (CCCA) held at various camps in the Midwest.

The college visit will be to Emmaus Bible College in Dubuque, Iowa, to give students an opportunity to experience college life by attending class, meeting with faculty, and staying overnight in a dorm on campus.



**Community:** Students will live at Hidden Acres in either the Pavilion or the Danielson House. Our Ministry School Supervisor will supervise them. Students will participate in weekly community activities, including games, trips, dinners, and more!



**Application Process:** Students will need to complete an application, four references, and interview for The Ministry School. Applications and references can be found at [hacamps.org](http://hacamps.org). Admissions to Emmaus is required for a student to be considered for The Ministry School, however students will not need to apply for admissions to Emmaus separately. Hidden Acres will forward all application materials to Emmaus. Early admissions deadline is December 1<sup>st</sup>. More information about application deadlines can be found on our website. Email Jesse Evans ([jesse.evans@hacamps.org](mailto:jesse.evans@hacamps.org)) with any questions.



**The Ministry School Director:** Jesse Evans currently serves as Camp Chaplain and is also the head of the Higher Education program at Hidden Acres. He is passionate about spiritual growth and about putting theology into practical application. Jesse has an undergraduate degree in Pastoral Leadership, an MA in Theology, and an MDiv in Evangelism and Church Planting. Jesse and his wife, Nichole, joined the Hidden Acres staff in August 2023. They have six children and four grandchildren.

