



**His Oaks Ministry**  
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## **Participant Intake Information**

The purpose of this document is to familiarize you with the ministry of His Oak's. We want you to understand what you are committing to as you contemplate coming to His Oaks. The "Participant Guidelines" will give you an understanding of what is expected from you while you are a resident of His Oaks.

His Oaks Ministry is a faith based home for men with life dominating behaviors. We will provide a structured, Christ-centered environment giving you the opportunity to break free from the strongholds that have sabotaged your life and provide a path into reentry into your family, church and community.

### **The Program:**

His Oaks is a smoke-free, alcohol-free, and drug-free environment. We allow appropriate medical prescriptions. We accept no state or federal monies for the program participation fee and accept only adults (over 18 years of age). Acceptance and continued participation in the program is strictly at the discretion of His Oaks Ministries.

A week at His Oaks consists of a blend of individual and group counseling/mentoring, small group class time, worship, and physical labor (i.e. property maintenance, animal chores, house chores, community service projects.) In general, the week consists of three days of work and two days of class, leaving the weekends for rest and relaxation. However, living together in a home means that participants share in the chores and up-keep of the property.

### **Cost:**

His Oaks Ministries is a faith-based program requesting a minimal participation fee. In addition to the participation fee, participants must cover their personal hygiene, clothing and medical needs. Upon acceptance, you will be required to pay an initial acceptance fee of (500.00) At that point, we ask that you recruit a sponsor(s) who will assist you with the monthly participation fee of \$450.00. Sponsors commit to helping with your financial needs while you are at His Oaks. As you advance through the program, we will assist you with finding a job. If you are unable to find a sponsor, you can then contribute to your financial obligations in the program. Please know this: His Oaks is a faith-based ministry. We have seen how God faithfully provides for the men in this program. We know He will provide for you if you trust Him for it. We will help you find the finances necessary for your participation.

## **Expectations:**

The following information and expectations is to help you understand the commitment you are about to make.

What you can expect:

- An environment which allows you to focus on transformation in a relationship with God
- To be respected as a person created in the image of God.
- Genuine Christian love and care
- Guidance and direction
- Appropriate feedback on character and attitude

What is expected of you:

- **Honesty:** Mutual trust is important. Complete honesty and openness is the goal as you begin to trust the process at His Oaks and the people placed in your life to help you.
- **Sincerity:** You must have a sincere desire to change in character and conduct.
- **Humility:** Pride hinders a person from coming under authority and structure of His Oaks and also hinders teachability.
- **Obedience:** We request compliance to the guidelines and the authority structure. It is essential for us to be able to help you.
- **Commitment:** The first 30 days of Introduction (Phase 1) is a time to establish relationships, to become familiar with house and program, and develop a progress plan. At the end of that time, we ask commitment to the program if we believe you are ready and we are able to help. Remaining in the program requires a commitment to continued personal transformation in character and conduct.
- **Diligence:** You must demonstrate a willingness and growing ability to follow the program structure and satisfactorily complete homework, and work duties with a positive and teachable attitude.

Understand the following...

- His Oaks Ministry is an Explicitly Christian religious program for men of faith. (See our “Statement of Faith”). Transformation is the goal which means that your current thoughts, emotions, and behaviors are exposed so that core beliefs about yourself, God, and others can change! (We believe for the better.)
- As a participant, you must exhibit the character and conduct of a follower of Jesus Christ.
- Staff provides supervision and accountability for you. Some might be younger and less experienced in some ways.
- The home at His Oaks is a shared living space – privacy and personal space is limited.
- The schedule is structured and free time is limited.
- This is a program that focusses on engagement in relationships with God and others in the house and community.

## Boundaries and Discipline

Behavior not tolerated...

- Smoking, abuse of substances or drugs
- Sexually explicit or suggestive talk; vulgar language
- Unconstructive complaining or criticism; sarcasm, taunting, ridicule, and joking at the expense of others, gossip, abusive language
- Stealing from the ministry or any other person
- Destroying of ministry or another's property
- Violent or hateful talk or behavior (fighting, intimidation, or threats)
- An argumentative attitude or behavior
- Antagonistic behavior towards others
- Music that reflects or endorses the above noted behaviors and attitudes. (Generally, music that is understandable, positive, and uplifting in nature is considered. His Oaks staff approves all music used in the house.)
- Reading material that reflects, endorses, or glorifies sinful behavior, negative thoughts and attitudes, the occult, other religions, or new age thinking. His Oaks staff approve all reading material.
- Religious: Promoting other religions by any means.
- Inappropriate physical contact between people of the same or opposite sex.
- Developing romantic relationships with any other participant or staff person.
- Inappropriate dress and appearance

It is expected...

- That you will be diligent and responsible in fulfilling the program requirements as to class assignments, reading, Bible study, and church services, etc.
- That you be on-time to all activities that make up the daily schedule.

Discipline and correction:

Consequences to improper attitudes or behavior are given as a result of violating the guidelines and will be given in the form of additional work, homework, or revoking of privileges.

Circumstances that might lead to a Participant leaving the program:

You will be asked to leave if...

- Medical issues arise and become a serious obstacle to normal participation in the program
- Your emotional, psychological, or spiritual needs turn out to be beyond the ability or existing expertise of the program or staff
- There are significant omissions or falsifications of information on your application or in the interview process
- Attempting to smuggle in or use tobacco, drugs, pornography, weapons, or anything else deemed to be a threat to yourself or others into the community
- Engaging in violence, or threats of violence, taunting to provoke violence, or creation of an atmosphere of intimidation

- A pattern of inappropriate relating with members of the same or opposite sex or pursuing romantic relationships with another participant or staff person
- A pattern of lying and deception
- A pattern of abusive language
- An influence on others that is destructive or demoralizing

Reentry to the program is possible in some cases. This will depend on the reason for dismissal and the dismissed participant's attitude, thinking, and behavior.

#### Outside Contact:

- Contact with the outside world is limited while you are in the program. Any off-campus activity is "covered" by a staff person or a person that the ministry can trust
- Phone calls are limited to "safe" people and for a certain amount of time based on the phase of the program. Calls may be monitored or restricted.
- Mail is limited to safe and supportive people
- You may be asked to terminate romantic relationships outside of marriage deemed detrimental to you or the community.
- Visits are limited during your time in the program. Generally, visits with trustworthy people or staff are granted depending on the phase of the program. Passes can be earned based on progression in the program.

#### Miscellaneous:

- All belongings and the attire you arrive in are searched upon arrival. We reserve the right to search you or your belongings at any time while in the program and upon departure
- You cannot have your personal car or any other mode of transportation while in the first ninety days of the program. Once eligible to work, staff will determine if the privilege of having your own personal vehicle is to be restored. Abuse of this privilege will result in revocation of this privilege as well as potential additional discipline.
- Personal electronic devices of any kind are not allowed during the first thirty days of the program. (Special needs or circumstances must be approved prior to your arrival). His Oaks staff will determine eligibility for restoration upon completion of thirty days in the program. Abuse of this privilege will result in revocation of the device as well as potential additional discipline.

### PROGRAM WORK REQUIREMENTS

A significant part of each participant's experience at His Oaks is contributing to our life together in a practical and meaningful way. This involves participating in the daily work that is required to keep the community going and service projects that are a part of the programming.

To be invited to participate in the program, you must be willing and able to do the various work and chore assignments that are a part of our daily and seasonal schedule.

Out of shape workers are expected to fully participate to the best of their ability, improving their physical conditioning over time. If any applicant has any back problems, knee problems, heart problem and/or restrictions on lifting it may result in not being offered to participate.

The typical tasks...

- Physical work approximately 30 hours per week
- Working outdoors in all weather conditions, year-round.
- Typical tasks include:
- Lifting, splitting, stacking fire (cord) wood.
- Gardening, grounds, and shrub caretaking
- Standing all day during work – regular use of shovels, rakes, hoes that includes bending and lifting
- Animal care: daily feeding, watering and barn cleaning
- Property maintenance: snow shoveling, raking, cutting, and trimming of lawns
- Housekeeping: vacuuming, sweeping, window cleaning, bathroom cleaning, and car washing
- Laundry: Running washers and dryers, sorting and folding of cloths and linens
- Kitchen Duty: food preparation and preservation(canning), cooking, and dishwashing

What Participants Can Bring:

- Government Issue Photo ID: (Driver's License, State ID, Passport, etc.)
- Clothes to work in: Bring clothes that are in relatively good condition and comfortable but that you don't mind getting dirty. Rain gear (jacket and pants) is recommended.
- Clothes for leisure time: Shorts, jeans, sweat suits and T-shirts are okay. Your clothes should be modest (loose fitting) and in good taste. Do not bring clothing items with logos or messages that promote anything to do with alcohol, drugs, sex, secular music or violence.
- Clothes for recreation: Swimsuits that are modest. Clothes to play sports in, including tennis shoes.
- Clothes for church: Dress pants and a shirt with a collar for the men. Shoes or sneakers that are in good condition.
- Clothes for winter: Winter coats and hats are required. Bring gloves, thick socks and heavy shoes or boots.
- Toiletries: Shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrush, deodorant, comb or brush, shaving cream, disposable or electric razors, non-alcoholic mouthwash or cologne, soap and a soap case. Bring at least one month's supply.
- Educational supplies: Bring study supplies, pens and pencils, spiral-bound notebooks, and a Bible.
- Miscellaneous: A watch; stationary and envelopes if you plan to send letters.
- Prescription medication: bring at least a 30-day supply. Bring your social security card and insurance information if you have either
- Finances (see Sponsor Form).

You have the option of bringing...

CDs or tapes of Christian, classical or mellow instrumental music. All music is subject to the approval of the His Oaks staff once you are on site. No burned CD's of copyrighted material. The number of CD's are limited to 12 upon arrival.

Subject to staff approval, you may have up to six books at a time but be aware that we have strict standards concerning authorship and subject content.

Limited amounts of some types of candy, like gummy bears, spice drops, caramels, licorice or hard candy; jars of nuts and limited amounts of chewing gum and cough drops are also permitted. Bring up to a one-month supply of candy or nuts. (Amounts are subject to staff discretion) Food is stored in the kitchen area only.

Craft projects and sporting equipment (baseball and glove, Frisbee, etc.)

Musical instruments: acoustic guitar, other musical instruments may be approved--please ask before coming.

Alarm clock (not a clock radio).

You cannot bring...

- Lighters, matches, straight razors, knives or weapons of any kind

Remember...space is limited so only bring things you need and will use. If you're not sure if you would be allowed to have a particular item here, call for approval. You may be asked to ship items back home if you come with too much.

Thank you,

His Oaks Ministry