

CONVERGE 180°

This year we have pulled out all the stops to make Friday's youth night under the Hope Tent an amazing experience for teens and young adults. We believe that this year's event will be so well received, that we branded it with the name Converge 180.

Converge 180 is an event which combines Music, Extreme Sports, Crazy Games, Great Prizes, and a Message of Hope. Throughout the event, there will be ping pong, foosball, air hockey, billiards, Body Zorbing, and a chill area where teens and young adults can sit and hang out with their friends. There will be prize giveaways all night, including: an Apple Ipad, Nintendo Wii Console, pieces of art, gift cards, cd's, t-shirts, and lots of other great items.

However, if it was just a place to hangout and have fun, it would be nothing more than another entertainment event at the Spiedie Fest. Instead, our desire in planning an event such as this, is to use things that engage the mind of the youth, such as art, music and sports to assist us in reaching them with the gospel. We believe that the time spent in planning a great youth event, will first demonstrate that we love them. Second, we believe that in return, they will grant us the authority to speak in to their lives.

Throughout the night we will be ministering the gospel of Jesus Christ in many different ways. The gospel presentation will begin as soon as they approach the tent. Jared Ingraham, from the band Cry of the Scapegoat, will be painting a 12' x 8' canvas of Jesus stitching up a broken heart. This painting will be a work in progress in front of the hope tent, and will be completed and revealed in full, when Cry of the Scapegoat takes the stage.

Inside the tent we will have art displayed from local Christian artists, and local youth groups. All of the art displayed will be themed to engage the mind to unplug and think about God. To go along with the art, we will have flatscreens hanging up which will be posing questions such as "Why am I here?" & "What if God is real?" And if someone has their own question, they can ask one of many counselors who will be available throughout the event. If they prefer to keep remain anonymous, they will be able to text their question to a designated phone number. Christian youth will also be engaging other youth during the event through acts of service and conversation to stir thoughts about God.

On the stage, we will have musical guests, Reasons Fail and Jay Carlisle offering up some power packed Christ centered rock, hip hop music, and testimony. Immediately following, Enemy Opposition Extreme Sports Ministry will be taking over the tent and performing crazy tricks and stunts on bmx bikes, rollerblades, & skateboards...while most importantly delivering the message of hope. The event will conclude with Cry of the Scapegoat taking the stage with the large 12' x 8' broken heart painting sitting behind them. They will talk about the evenings' event, and bring it to a close, explaining all of what Christ has done for us, and wants to do in hearts and lives.

A fully trained counseling staff, comprised of both youth and adults, will be on hand to work with those who are making decisions for Christ. The counselors are trained to assist new believers understand their decision to follow Christ, and to point them to a place of worship within their community, where they can grow spiritually. The counseling volunteers will be available all throughout the event, as musicians share testimony, as youth are witnessing, and as the message of hope is delivered.

We hope that you will find a way to help support Converge 180 and the Hope Tent, whether in prayer or in participation.

God Bless,
The Converge 180 Planning Committee