

OCTOBER 2017



ADOPTTEEN

ADOPTTEEN 2017-2018

Adopteen announced its major programming dates earlier this month! We're super excited to build on a record-setting 2016-2017, and hope you'll join us for everything we have going on. Take a look below for more details, and check out the rest of the newsletter for additional programming dates:

Adopteen Midpoint Retreat: Austin, TX**
January 13-15, 2018 - \$280/Camper (ages 13+)

****REGISTRATION NOW OPEN for Adopteen Midpoint - visit www.adopteen.org for additional information****

Adopteen Camp-Conference: Denver, CO
June 27-July 1, 2018 - \$580/Camper (ages 13+)

Adoptees Giving Back - Orphanage Service Trip
July 4-14, 2018 - \$1,100/Traveler (ages 15+)

Adoptees Giving Back - Orphanage Service Trip
July 18-28, 2018 - \$1,100/Traveler (ages 15+)

Adopteen Camp-Conference: Minneapolis, MN
July 25-29, 2018 - \$580/Camper

WELCOME

Adopteen has been a little delayed in returning from our summer of delight and amazement - enjoy this month's newsletter and look forward to more announcements coming soon!

This month:

- *Camp-Conference & AGBOST Announcement*
- *Adopteen Chicago*
- *Coming Soon: Adopteen Hangouts & Midpoint*
- *AdopTween Denver*
- *A 2017 Recap*

MIDPOINT

We haven't been to Texas since 2014, and have been chompin' at the bit to get back over to you guys. That's why we could not be more excited to host Midpoint in Austin over MLK Jr Weekend in 2018. Austin is the perfect location for some blissful Adopteen shenanigans!

We will be staying with the amazing folks at YMCA Camp Twin Lakes, in cabins that sleep twelve people bunk style in each community room. As usual for our Midpoint Retreat, we will stay on campus the entire time, focusing on building relationships with one another and taking advantage of the campgrounds and the fun activities that the staff there have planned for us.



Registration is already open for our Midpoint Retreat! Take a look at the event page for Midpoint at www.adopteen.org for more information on the Twin Lakes lodgings, the area, and a preliminary schedule. We can't wait to see everyone in the New Year!

ADOPTTEEN CHICAGO

This Saturday, Adopteen officially kicks off what may be our favorite development in 2018 - Regional Hangouts!

Please meet Laura Williams, our fantastic new Adopteen Chicago coordinator. She will be the head for all things Adopteen Chicago, and the face you'll see at all Chicago Hangouts!

"My name is Laura Williams, and my parents adopted me from Guangxi Province, China in 1997. I grew up in the Chicagoland area, and am a senior at DePaul University, majoring in Graphic Design and minoring in Hospitality. I enjoy traveling, sports, and hanging out with my family and friends.

I am so excited to take on this leadership role with Adopteen! As long as I can remember, I have always wanted to help make a difference for people like me. Like many, I'm sure, I have had many barriers to overcome as an adoptee. Over the years, I have learned to embrace and appreciate who I am. Adopteen is the kind of group that I wish I had, growing up, so I can't wait to bring this opportunity to other adoptees in the Chicagoland area!"



We are so incredibly happy to have Laura on board the Adopteen team leading the charge in Chicago. You can contact Laura and register for Chicago hangouts at adopteenchicago@gmail.com.

Adopteen Hangouts are a direct response to the demand for more frequent, low-key, and regional opportunities for our community to get together. There is no registration fee aside

from the admission fee for the activity of the day, as all our coordinators are all volunteers and are not responsible for attendees - this is an easygoing hangout with new and old friends alike. All adoptees ages 13+ and their friends/siblings (still no parents, please) are welcome!

Peek at the schedule for Adopteen Chicago!:

November (Official Date TBA) -
Feed My Starving Children

Saturday, December 9:
Ice Skating & Hot Chocolate @ Millenial Park

Saturday, January 20:
Stan's Donuts and Coffee

Saturday, February 17:
Deepdish Pizza & *Chicago Blackhawks game*

Saturday, March 17:
Museum of Contemporary Art

Saturday, April 21:
Argo Tea

Saturday, May 19:
Lincoln Park Zoo

Saturday, June 23:
Jeni's Ice Cream

Saturday, July 14:
Lunch @ *Emperor's Choice*

Saturday, August 18:
Chicago White Sox game

COMING SOON

ADOPTTEEN DENVER & ATLANTA HANGOUTS

Does Adopteen Chicago sound like all the

fun? Jealous? If you live in Denver or Atlanta, never fear! We've got Adopteen Hangouts heading your way, as well. Sign up for our mailing list at www.adopteen.org or follow us on Facebook to be the first in the know on all things Adopteen Hangouts.

How do I get a group started in my area?

Not located in any of the areas mentioned above? Don't worry about it! We are looking to aggressively place new locations across the



US in 2018, and want you to be a part of the action! To start a group, there are only three requirements:

- Adoptee
- Over 18
- Availability!

Though you don't need much to get started, starting an Adopteen chapter is a HUGE responsibility. Even though we have tons of fun, we don't want anyone to take this on lightly. Before you think about contacting us to start your own chapter, you should be absolutely positive that you can dedicate at least ten hours a month to Adopteen for at least a year.

There are more specifics and logistics involved with starting your own chapter, but as a first step, give us a call at 303-850-9998 x 26 or email us at info@adopteen.org, and we can chat!

ADOPTWEEN DENVER



AdopTween kicked off last Saturday in Denver, and it was amazing! Tweens learned about courage and what it takes to be brave in everyday situations. From there, they participated in an escape room style candy hunt mystery, fighting to save Adopteen HQ from the Candy King!

Join us again in December, when we will host our annual ugly sweater holiday dinner party, focusing on community and holding a book exchange.

Your 2017-2018 AdopTween Denver Schedule:

Saturday, December 9
\$35/Tween - Community

Saturday, February 10
\$35/Tween - Generosity

Saturday, April 14
\$35/Tween - Staying Positive

Saturday, May 12
\$35/Family - Family Day Picnic

****REGISTRATION NOW OPEN for ALL
AdopTween Denver Hangouts - visit
www.adopteen.org for more info****

A 2017 RECAP

- Originally posted on the CCAI Family Blog

Adopteen's 2017 summer programming closed out in August when both the Adopteen Wilmington leadership team and our Zhuzhou AGBOST landed home safely. This year was an overwhelming success, and the summer passed in a whirlwind of beautiful memories and amazing new friendships.



In June, Adopteen came back to Colorful Colorado from June 21st-25th after a gap year in 2016. Though it was our 6th (!) conference in Colorado, it was our very first time in downtown Denver, and we had a blast! The highlight of camp was absolutely exploring 16th Street Mall, and packing every camper into a couple cars on the train to get there. We also visited Water World, took part in some late night team competitions, cheered on our camp leaders in an...interesting...eating competition, and took part in workshops such as Adoption 101, Dance, Self-Confidence, and so much more. We packed our Denver schedule full to bursting, and are so grateful to every camper that stuck it out with us and enjoyed every minute. In all, Adopteen Denver brought us 74 campers with 12 camp leaders, representing 19 different states, 20 birth provinces, and 2 birth countries.

July brought Adopteen Wilmington, with 70 campers and 8 camp leaders, representing 23 states, 15 birth provinces, and 2 birth coun-

tries. In Wilmington, we had the chance to visit the beach and boardwalk area, as well as



to explore downtown after an amazing ghost tour. Though it was rainy most of the time, the area decided to give us a reprieve just in time for the last day of camp – our beach day! We had an amazing time, and cannot extend enough thanks to the fantastic team at UNC, our local volunteers, and everyone that came – it's always hectic bringing everything that we do out of state, and our team in Wilmington knocked it out of the park!

Of course, we would be remiss to not mention the entire month that Amy spent in China! 2017 was the first year that we have had two summer AGBOST trips, and as ever, it was an



unforgettable experience. Both trips were in Hunan, the first at Yueyang Social Welfare Institute from 6/28 to 7/8 and the second from 7/12 to 7/22 at Zhuzhou Social Welfare Institute. Our travelers (48 total, with 18 from

Hunan!) were amazing, embracing the call to service and together this year's AGBOST brought in over \$20,000 in donations for the Yueyang and Zhuzhou orphanages, which will go towards large capital improvements for the buildings. Our travelers in Hunan became best friends with every kid they worked with, and we couldn't possibly be more proud of them.



Thank you to everyone that made Summer 2017 such a success – we really, truly, could not have done it without each and every one of you. In all, we met 129 new friends, while 83 of you decided to join us yet again. We hope that every single one of you will hang out with us again in 2018, when we will celebrate our TEN YEAR anniversary. We miss you all and cannot wait to do it all over again.

Sincerely,
Adopteen