

Doe River Gorge



Share the Adventure!

EXPONENTIAL

*INFORMATION PACKET
2024-2025

423.725.4010

www.doerivergorge.com



One of the most difficult times in life is the transition from high school into early adulthood. It is a time when you are seeking to discover your gifts, abilities, and passions, while contemplating college, your future career, and a host of other decisions. Perhaps you find yourself in the all-too-familiar position of not knowing which way to turn.

If this sounds like you, then we invite you to explore *Exponential*.

Exponential is a nine-month residential learning experience designed to help you discover your gifts, abilities, and passions while building a solid foundation for your faith. Numerous studies have shown that as many as 66% of believers will stray away from their Christian faith during their college years. *Exponential* is designed to help you be part of the 1/3 who don't! As you become better equipped to defend your faith, you will also develop essential character and leadership skills such as honor, integrity, personal disciplines, and a God-honoring work ethic. Upon completion of the program, students are encouraged to apply for a three month extension serving as staff at Doe River Gorge summer camps where they will apply the skills they have learned.

All of this is accomplished through mentoring, experiential education, classroom instruction, community living, daily work assignments, community projects, and working with the guests who come to DRG.

Is *Exponential* right for you? Look over the enclosed materials and call us with questions you may have (423.725.4010). When you are ready, please follow the application instructions found at the end of this information guide.

Thank you for your interest in *Exponential* and may you experience God's richest blessings as you seek His will for your life.

For His glory,

Terry Maughon

TESTIMONIALS



Sara Owen

"I came to Doe River Gorge as a hungry Christian wanting to grow in my faith and knowledge, before going to disciple in a world that deceives. Doe River gave me so much more than I ever expected: a new family of believers, who have also been impacted by this place; and awakened a passion in my heart for humbling myself to be a servant for the kingdom. Doe River Gorge lives as a servant to others for the sake of God's glory. I could never forget this adventure God brought me on this year! Thank you to all the full-time staff who truly took the time to care and pour into us!"



Josh Laughrun

"The internship allowed me to take a step back from school, from my job, from the pressures of the outside world. It grounded me in the Lord and firmly in Christ Jesus."

Exponential at Doe River Gorge is a one-year intensive residential training experience designed to establish college-age students with a firm foundation in God's Word and to equip them for a life of personal success and impact. Through experiential education, personal mentoring, classroom instruction, small group interactions, and community living, students will establish a solid foundation in God's Word, discover their gifts, abilities and passions, and develop personal life strengths and disciplines.

The environment of *Exponential* is one that cultivates change and growth. Together with our full-time faculty and staff, students form a community that seeks to discover the character of Jesus Christ and to experience the transforming power of His indwelling life. You will be surrounded by other young people who are passionately pursuing Jesus and His will for their lives.

In a world that constantly vies for your attention, *Exponential* provides an atmosphere with minimal distractions from the world so that you can focus your attention on your personal development and your walk with Christ.

During *Exponential* you can expect to....

Enhance Your Relationship with Jesus Christ

Through the study of God's Word, time alone with God, community living, corporate worship, and personal mentoring, you will experience exponential spiritual growth. You will be established in God's Word as that which produces reverence for Him. You will know what you believe, be able to defend your faith, and enjoy life as God intended it to be.

Although students are required to fulfill some reading and written assignments, the emphasis is placed on personal discovery through discipleship rather than on scholarship or academic achievement. A grade cannot be placed on the work that Christ is doing in a person's heart!

Discover Your Gifts, Abilities, and Passions

Our team strives to help you learn more about yourself. Through Biblical teaching, career counseling, ministry experience, exposure to Christian businessmen, and domestic and international travel, you will begin to discover your gifts, abilities and passions.

Learn Practical Life Skills

Exponential also places an emphasis on the development of practical life skills that you need for daily living. Skills in ministry, team building, administration, basic carpentry, outdoor education, working with the public, personal finance, etiquette, and a host of other opportunities will equip you with practical skills that you will use for the rest of your life.

Develop Physical and Mental Disciplines

You want your life to count. The choices you make daily as a Christian have eternal results. Through *Exponential*, you will begin to develop personal and mental disciplines to become what you want to become so that you can do what you want to do. Disciplines as simple as getting out of bed, personal devotions, Scripture

memory, and being on time for appointments all have surprising impact. Working with your teammates, you will learn to push yourself beyond what you thought was possible.

Cultivate Life-long Friendships

Living in a community of other like-minded believers, you will have the opportunity to develop life-long friendship. You will also learn how to keep short accounts and to forgive and accept forgiveness. Whether you are having a conversation over coffee or strumming a guitar, you will develop friendships that will last a lifetime.

Experience Fun and Adventure

You will not only have the opportunity to work hard but play hard. You'll be around some of the most active people in your generation and have plenty of free time, allowing you to relax and enjoy life. **Exponential** offers a combination of fun, high adventure activities, social activities, and day-to-day fellowship with others designed to foster deep, life-long friendships.

Explore Your World

Exponential provides the opportunity to explore the world around you. You will explore hiking trails, waterfalls, caves, and mountain vistas in the Cherokee National Forest. Trips are also planned to the Creation Museum, the Ark Encounter, and an international mission trip to our sister camp in Costa Rica (dependent upon Covid restrictions).

Earn a Scholarship and Optional College Credit

Bryan College, a Christian liberal arts college located in Dayton, Tennessee, will provide a four-year, \$4,000 scholarship (\$1,000 per year) to every student who completes **Exponential**. In addition, many of the courses offered in **Exponential** are accredited by Bryan College and students may earn up to 11 semester college credit hours for the successful completion of these courses. These courses include Old Testament Survey (3 credit hours), New Testament Survey (3 credit hours), Worldview and Apologetics (3 credit hours), and Science and the Bible (2 credit hours).

A MAJESTIC

CAMPUS

A campus for **Exponential** is located in the majestic Doe River Gorge. This property consists of rugged mountains, scenic meadows, vertical rock cliffs, rushing whitewater rapids, and colorful flora, all surrounded by thousands of acres of the Cherokee National Forest. You'll be captivated by the beauty of God's spectacular creation. Here you can rappel sheer rock cliffs, tube whitewater rapids, race down ziplines, go mountain biking, or saddle up a horse and ride along a quiet mountain trail. The property also contains three miles of the historic East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railroad.

Just a few minutes away is Watauga Lake, the Appalachian Trail, two of the south's largest ski resorts, and many other opportunities for discovery and adventure.

In all of the courses listed below the emphasis is placed on personal discovery through discipleship rather than on scholarship or academic achievement. A grade cannot be placed on the work that Christ is doing in a person's heart! Our goal is not to make academic scholars but rather to inspire students during *Exponential*.

T3 Training

T3 is the discipleship training course of Doe River Gorge. With God's Word as the ultimate authority, this training guides students into "knowing God and His Son Jesus Christ whom He has sent (John 17:3). As students are wowed with who God is, what He has done for them, and who they are in Christ, the reaction is one of worship. Worshiping God leads to transformation. As they are transformed into His likeness, they discover the joy and privilege of serving Him. Through acts of service, they begin to discover their gifts, abilities and passions. They develop leadership skills and start to formulate a vision for their lives.

What is the Gospel?

How does a person obtain eternal life? This course leads students through the Bible to understand God's free gift of salvation that comes through faith alone in Christ alone. Students will fall in love with Christ as they gain a deeper understanding of who God is, what He has done for them, and who they are in Christ. They will learn how to share their faith and lead others to salvation.

Search for Significance

Students learn how to be free to enjoy Christ's love while no longer basing their self-worth on their accomplishments or the opinions of others. Students begin to grasp that they are Deeply Loved, Completely Forgiven, Fully Pleasing, Totally Accepted, & Complete...In Christ!

The Authority of Scripture

Teaching in this section is intended to give the student confidence in the Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Subjects will include: How and why was the biblical canon set in the early church? How confident are we that we have what the original writers wrote? What historical and archaeological evidence is there that the recorded events actually happened?

Introductory Logic

Logic is the study of the principles of correct reasoning. To be logical is to think rightly, and to draw reasonable conclusions from the available information. Why does logic matter, and who decides what is the "right" way to think? If two people disagree on whether something is reasonable, who is correct?

What is the standard by which we judge a particular line of reasoning to be correct or incorrect? In the Christian worldview, we can answer these questions because we know that God determines the correct way to reason. He is the standard for all truth claims. In this class you will learn about logic and the Christian worldview, the Biblical basis for the laws of logic, if faith is contrary to reason, informal logical fallacies, and more.

Old Testament Survey

The first semester course is an exploration of the Old Testament and its central themes, particularly in relation to God's relationship of covenant making with his people. God is king over all creation who has created humanity to have a relationship with him and to extend his reign throughout the entire earth. By entering into covenants, God makes promises to his people and calls them to be faithful to him.

Since God has created humankind in his image for fellowship with him, there is consistent reference to the terms of that relationship. God is presented as holy, loving, and sovereign, while people are presented as responsible for loving God, loving their neighbor, and caring for all that God has created.

Worldview and Apologetics

Worldview and Apologetics combines uncovering the nuts and bolts of competing worldviews and world religions with practical instruction in defending the Christian worldview. A primary theme in the study is the uniqueness of the Christian worldview in providing explanation of the human condition and the reality of hope for meaning through life in Christ. The course will highlight the inconsistencies inherent in all non-Christian worldviews while emphasizing the completeness and consistency of Biblical Christianity. Further, application will be made in apologetics by teaching the student to effectively communicate the gospel to the unbeliever.

Science and the Bible

The lessons in the Science and the Bible curriculum are chosen to enable Christian young people to defend their faith and to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ effectively. The focus is on providing answers to questions surrounding the book of Genesis, as it is the most-attacked book of the Bible. What we believe about origins has consequences. Genesis is relevant to culture, faith, and the whole story of redemption--it is true from the very first verse. The evidence of nature and the proper application of historical and experimental science fully support the straightforward reading of Genesis. In the area of geology and paleontology, the evidence of sedimentary rock layers and fossils provide clear evidence of the Biblical Flood and disprove evolution. Teaching will also include lessons on astronomy, biology, origin of life, dinosaurs, The Ark, molecular biology, anatomy, genetics, radiometric dating and archeology. A field trip to the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter in Kentucky is also planned.

New Testament Survey

This second semester is an exploration of the New Testament, with an emphasis on the establishment of the new covenant through Jesus Christ. Jesus, fully God, became a human being and came in fulfillment prophecy to reign over His kingdom, to bring the good news of salvation, and to establish His church. Emphasis will be placed on the benefits of and life in the new covenant.

Life Vision

Introduce and explore the areas needed for young adults to understand and evaluate how God created each of them. In this class, we will discover each student's innate passions as well as compassionately seeing the broken world around them. This class includes an in-depth study of Ephesians 4 and Paul's understanding of the unique call on the life of the believer.

Outdoor Education

The objective for the Outdoor Education class series will be for students to learn topics ranging from survival skills to animal husbandry. Students will be given targeted opportunities to put these skills into practical use. In the survival skills section, students will put their skills to the test in multiple outdoor adventures. Then they will learn how to teach these skills to other students that come through the Outdoor Education program. Next, in the environmental studies section, students will learn to teach classes on the many amazing things that God created such as Decomposition and Ecosystems. Finally, the students will have the opportunity to work with live exotic animals that are used in DRG's Talk with Animals classes.

Books of the Bible Courses

Operations

Wilderness Ministry Institute

High Adventure

Team Building

Life Skills Courses

INSTRUCTORS & GUEST FACULTY



Steve Falling - Canopy Ministries

Steve earned his B.S. in Chemistry from the University of California, Davis and his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry in 1979 from the University of California, Berkeley. He retired from Eastman Chemical Company, Kingsport, Tennessee, after 31 years of research, development and production of complex organic chemicals. He has over 40 U.S. patents and several scientific publications.



Alan White - Canopy Ministries

Alan earned his B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Tennessee and his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from Harvard University in 1981. He worked for 30 years at Eastman Chemical Company and reached the rank of Research Fellow. Alan spent his career at Eastman working in Research and Development in the fields of organic and polymer chemistry. Among his achievements are the discovery of a commercial biodegradable polymer and the improvement of many commercial polymer processes, including the new Integrex™ technology for producing PET, the soft drink bottle polymer. Alan has been granted 44 U.S. patents and is an author on 18 scientific publications.



James Gardner - Canopy Ministries

James accepted Christ as a young child in Thailand where his parents were missionaries. But being raised in a Christian home did not make him immune to the teaching of evolution. When Jim entered public school upon returning from the mission field and encountered evolution in his science classes, he just received it as it was taught. He failed to see the relevance of the creation/evolution controversy for many years until personal tragedies struck both his family and his wife's family. As they began to question the meaning of life, they became aware of Ken Ham's book, *The Lie: Evolution*. After reading *The Lie*, Jim realized that evolution and the Bible could not be mixed. He and his wife joined several ICR tours and spent over 15 years studying the scientific evidence supporting creation.



John O'Rourke - Full Armour Ministries

John's mission is to glorify God by bringing the Gospel to the lost of East TN and Southwest VA and the world, to see the lost saved, and, through the salvation and sanctification of people, pursue the goal of ending Abortion in our local area and the world by the preaching of the Word of God. John's ministry consists of regularly engaging non-Christians with the Gospel and answering their objections through apologetic debates. John has a wife and one child and lives in the Tri-Cities area of East TN.



Dean Walker - Geneva Institute of Christian

Dean Walker is the Executive Director of the Geneva Institute of Christian Thought. He also teaches worldview and Bible classes at the Institute. Mr. Walker holds degrees in philosophy of religion (Th.M.) and Christian apologetics (MDiv specialization) and is passionate about mentoring young adults to build up their knowledge of God and their life in Christ. When he is not challenging his students with impersonations of various existential philosophers, Mr. Walker enjoys hiking and tending the responsibilities of homestead and family. He is married to Beth and has five children: Stephen, James, Ginny, Anna and Philip.



Terry Maughon - Doe River Gorge Founder and President

Terry graduated from Moody Bible Institute in 1978. He served as Director of Student Ministries at Grace Fellowship Church in Johnson City, TN for 16 years. During that time, he conducted summer camps using rented facilities and eventually formed Doe River Gorge Ministries, where he has served as president since 1994. Terry and his wife, Karen, have three children: Kara (married to Mark Page), Danielle, and Michael (married to Sara [Owen]).



Ryan Vernon - Doe River Gorge Program Director

Ryan worked as a volunteer during development years of Doe River Gorge. After college he became the Activities/Program Director. He and his wife, Jennifer, have two sons.



Michael Maughon - Doe River Gorge Outdoor Education

Michael worked at Le Reve in Las Vegas before coming on staff at Doe River in order to develop an Outdoor Education program. From his early years he has had a passion for all things outdoors. Michael has a well-developed skill in nature photography which he uses to document his discoveries and observations. Michael is married to Sara (Owen), who was an Exponential intern (2018-19).



Spencer Teal - Lead Pastor, Elder Red Stone Church

Spencer is the founding pastor of Red Stone Church in Johnson City, which he and his wife, Nicole, planted in 2013. Nicole is a beautiful gift of grace to his life. Spencer is a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ and is convinced of its transformative power on the soul of sinful man. Spencer's been in ministry since 2001 and earned his Master's in Divinity from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

What will I experience in *Exponential*?

Here are some of the components that you will experience in *Exponential*:

- Community living with other college-aged individuals who are seeking a deeper walk with Christ
- Experiential training and classroom instruction
- Practical work experience
- Ministry opportunities at Doe River Gorge
- Outreach in the local community
- Fun and adventure in a Christ-oriented community

What does a daily schedule look like?

There is no “typical” daily schedule, as each day may be a totally new experience. Your days will consist of personal devotions, Bible study, training or teaching, work/service projects (on site and off), and working/facilitating activities for guest groups, plus fellowship and fun with others in the program. Classroom instruction will generally take place during the early and late morning with afternoons reserved for working guest groups, work projects, recreation, or personal study. A daily schedule outlining the entire 9 months is available upon request (schedule is subject to change).

Where will I live?

Students in *Exponential* will be housed in dormitories on Doe River Gorge property. Each student is given a bed, desk, chest of drawers, and wardrobe. You will have access to a kitchen where, as a group, you will prepare many of your own meals.

How many students are enrolled in *Exponential*?

During the 2023-2024 term, *Exponential* will be limited to one team of 8 guys and one team of 8 girls.

What are the dates of *Exponential*?

Exponential begins on Sunday, **September 1, 2024** and ends Sunday, **May 4, 2025**.

Students will have the following scheduled breaks:

- 2024 Thanksgiving Break:
Leaving on Sunday, Nov. 24 and returning on Sunday evening, Dec. 1 by 6 pm.
- 2024-25 Christmas/New Year Break:
Leaving on Wednesday, Dec. 18 and returning on Sunday evening, January 5 by 6 pm.
- 2025 Spring Break:
Leaving on Sunday, March 9 and returning on Sunday evening, March 16 by 6 pm.

What is the cost of *Exponential*?

The cost for *Exponential* experience is \$12,500 which includes:

- Tuition
 - Books
 - Housing
 - Utilities (water, electric, gas, internet)
 - Meals/Groceries
 - DRG-Sponsored Recreation
 - Trips/Transportation
- By working DRG Guest Groups and/or completing other tasks, students can earn up to \$80 per week. This amounts to approximately \$2,500 during their time in *Exponential*.
 - Students who choose to take courses for college credit will be charged \$50 per credit hours, as per Bryan College (taking the same courses at Bryan College is \$400+ per credit hour).
 - Each student will be asked to raise up to \$2,000 in personal missionary support for a foreign mission trip.

What other financial responsibilities will I have?

Students will be financially responsible for the following personal expenses:

- Medical insurance (proof of medical insurance is required to be in the program)
- Personal toiletries
- Laundry supplies (detergent, dryer sheets, etc.)
- Personal spending money (going out to eat, personal snacks, entertainment, etc.)
- Personal transportation as desired
- Passport (if a mission trip is scheduled outside the USA)

When is the *Exponential* fee due?

There is a \$100 application fee (refundable if student is not accepted into the program). \$1,000 is due 30 days prior to student arrival. The balance is due upon arrival. Payment plans can be arranged.

Is financial aid available?

Generally, financial aid is not available except in specific cases.

Can I raise missionary support to cover *Exponential* fees?

Students in *Exponential* can raise a portion of their fees by asking friends and relatives to support them with a tax-deductible contribution for their personal missionary support. All money is given to Doe River Gorge and is applied to cover your ministry and living expenses. Parents of participants are not allowed, by law, to receive a tax deductible receipt for the support of their own child.

Can I work an outside job?

Due to the specificity of the *Exponential* schedule, working a regular outside job will not be permitted. However, during scheduled time off, students may accept optional odd jobs that are arranged through Doe River Gorge.

Are meals provided?

Food will be provided for all meals during a student's time in *Exponential*.

- Prepared meals will be provided whenever the DRG Food Service staff is preparing meals for DRG program or guest group participants.
- Leftovers will be provided when available, but each student/team will be responsible to prepare and clean up from these meals.
- When the DRG Food Service staff is not preparing meals and leftovers are not available, students, as a team, will be given a grocery budget and will develop their own menus, purchase needed groceries, and prepare their own meals.

Do I have free time?

Students in *Exponential* will be scheduled 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. As part of this schedule, students will be given adequate time off for rest, relaxation, recreation, and personal errands. Due to variations in the training and experiences, this schedule will vary from week to week.

Can I gather with the church of my choice on Sundays and/or at other times?

Exponential students will be able to gather with the church of their choice as long as it does not conflict with the *Exponential* schedule or other Doe River Gorge program scheduling.

Can I take time off to go on vacation with my family?

Time off will be limited to the three scheduled breaks as specified in the *Exponential* calendar.

Can friends visit me at Doe River Gorge during *Exponential*?

Visits from friends during *Exponential* will be allowed only with the *Exponential* Director's approval and as long as there are no scheduling conflicts. Overnight guests are not permitted in *Exponential* dormitories. It may be possible to arrange for guests to stay in other facilities at DRG at a minimal charge.

What are the age requirements?

Exponential is designed for students ages 18 to 24.

INTERESTED?

To be eligible for *Exponential*, the following requirements must be met:

- Belief in Jesus Christ as Savior
- A desire to pursue a lifestyle consistent with Christian principles
- Completed High School
- Between the ages of 18 and 24
- Unmarried
- Be in good physical health

All applicants must be able and willing to:

- Live at Doe River Gorge in dormitory housing for the length of *Exponential*
- Provide proof of medical insurance
- Work with your team to cover the cost and prepare your meals
- Be responsible for the full payment of the cost of *Exponential*
- Travel internationally (valid passport required)
- Refrain from working a regular job during *Exponential* (odd jobs during scheduled time off are permitted)
- Agree to and sign the *Exponential* Expectations and Guidelines
- Agree to the Doe River Gorge Statement of Faith

Application Process:

1. Fill out the online application
2. Send out the three reference forms to the appropriate people
3. Pay the \$100 application fee online (refundable if not accepted to *Exponential*)
4. You will be notified when your application is received and scheduled for an interview

You are welcome to call us at 423.725.4010 with any questions you may have. Applications will be taken until the program fills.

