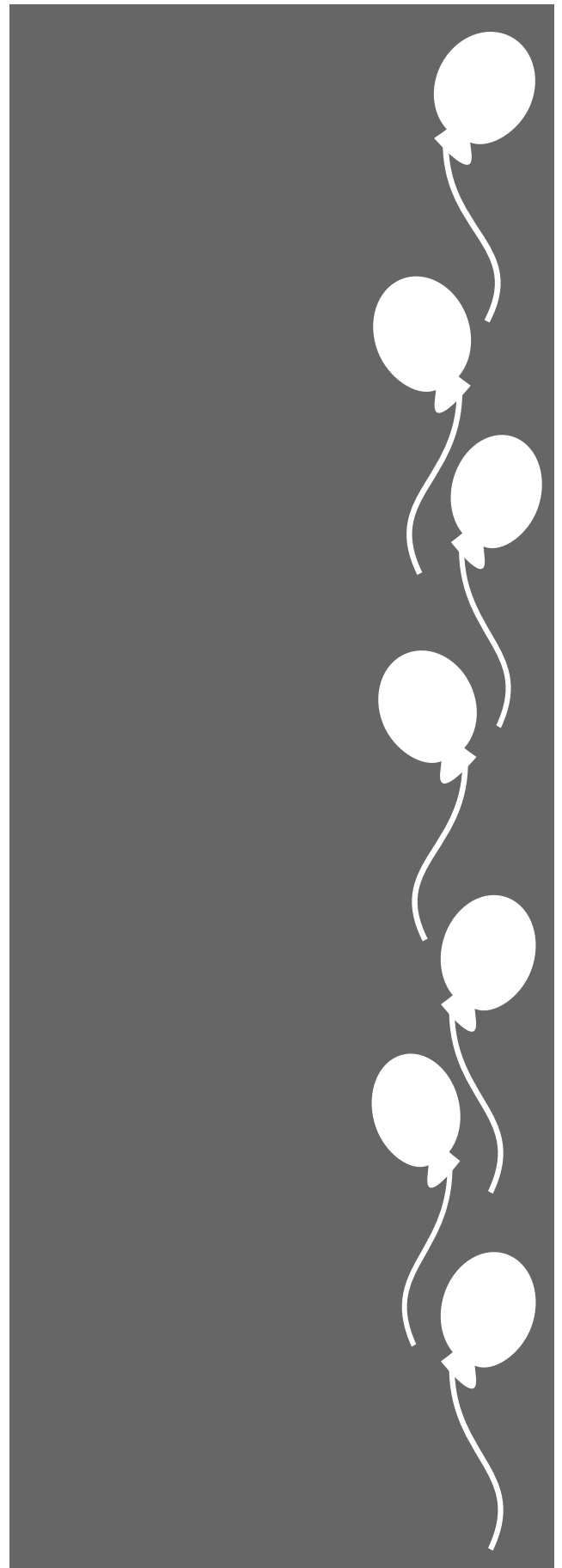


**EMBRACE THE CALL,  
LIVE THE MESSAGE  
CAMP HELPS**



List of Abbreviations Used

NS=Sing a New Song, Herald House, 1999

HS=Hymns of the Saints, Herald House, 1981

SCR=Songs for Camps and Reunions, Herald House. 1986

NIV= New International Version

NRSV=New Revised Standard Version

Updated: Poul Wilson

Community of Christ International Headquarters

Independence, Missouri

Copyright 2007 Community of Christ

# camp planning

The first Community of Christ (RLDS) youth camp was held in Nauvoo, Illinois, June 20–30, 1928. Its mission: “to make a real contribution to the development of character and leadership; to live religion without continually emphasizing it.” Representative campers between the ages of 14 and 18 were encouraged to come from jurisdictions around the church. The cost was \$14 U.S. dollars, \$1 per day for room and board. The girls stayed in the Nauvoo house and the boys camped in tents along the shores of Mississippi River. Their basic schedule was actually quite similar to camps today: meals, worship, classes, swimming, special events, and campfire.

The power of camping was expressed quite well by those who worked to bring together that first youth camp in 1928.

In camp, as perhaps in no other place, our boys and girls may learn to give and take—in order that as a group they may successfully live together. The value of out-of-door life can hardly be overestimated.

Away from the everyday life to which they are accustomed, in the new surroundings with new interests, and in different company, most boys and girls are usually sensitive to the finer things in life. Under these conditions a leader is able to get closer to the boys and girls than at almost any other time.

A summer camp brims with realities. Artificialities seem to just drop away. Social barriers dissolve. Distinctions in dress, in financial status, and in personal importance cease to exist. There are real and satisfying experiences and sensations which soothe tired nerves and awaken new and unthought-of-interests.

May the Spirit that has touched and changed the lives of young people throughout the history of camping, touch your experiences this year.

Poul Wilson  
Youth Disciple Formation Specialist

## **camp schedule**

### **forenoon**

6:00 rising bell  
6:10 calisthenics, morning dip  
6:30 flag salute, morning prayer  
6:45 breakfast  
7:45 inspection  
8:00 projects  
9:30 music, worship period  
10:30 competitive games  
11:00 swimming  
12:00 lunch

### **afternoon**

1:00 rest period, letter writing  
2:00 nature study, handcraft  
4:00 free time  
5:30 discussion period  
6:00 supper  
7:00 flag lowering and vespers  
7:15 playground games  
8:30 campfire  
9:00 evening health chores  
9:30 taps

# **sample schedule for camp**

### **opening day**

3:00 p.m. camp registration  
cabin assignments and move-in  
free time activities

4:30 p.m. sister/brother cabins meet  
small group mixers  
small group prayers for the week

6:00 p.m. supper and 75th celebration of  
youth camping

8:30 p.m. campfire

9:30 p.m. late night swim

10:15 p.m. cabin devotions

11:00 p.m. lights out

### **closing day**

7:00 a.m. early risers swim, run, fishing  
and/or exercise class

7:45 a.m. KP report for duty

8:00 a.m. flag raising

8:15 a.m. breakfast

9:00 a.m. cabin and camp clean-up

10:15 a.m. closing assembly

11:30 a.m. camper pick-up

**sample camp schedules**

**\*full day schedule**

- 7:00 a.m. early risers swim, run, fishing, and/or exercise class
- 7:45 a.m. KP report for duty
- 8:00 a.m. flag raising
- 8:15 a.m. breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. morning chapel
- 9:45 a.m. class session I
- 11:00 a.m. class session II
- 12:00 p.m. KP report for duty
- 12:30 p.m. prayer for peace
- 12:35 p.m. lunch
- 1:15 p.m. rest period/cabin time
- 2:30 p.m. free time options: swimming, boating, fishing, classes, camp projects, recreation, intramural challenges, field trips
- 4:30 p.m. KP report for duty
- 5:00 p.m. supper
- 6:00 p.m. all-camp theme class
- 7:30 p.m. all-camp events
- 9:15 p.m. campfire
- 10:15 p.m. cabin devotions
- 10:45 p.m. lights out

**\* Full day activities are referred to throughout camp helps as days 1–5.**



## opening day activities

Events this day help to set the mood for the whole camp. It is important for campers to have opportunity to get questions answered and fears calmed. They should begin to connect as “cabin” groups, as well as, the whole camp community.

### registration check-in

- final payment of registration fees
- parental permission for activities, photography, and video
- emergency contact information
- health histories and insurance information
- parents talk with camp nurse for specific medical instructions
- parent information for final day closing activities and pick-up
- class sign-up
- cabin assignments and move-in

### free time activities (during registration)

- cabin move-in
- swimming
- recreational games
- carnival games/booths
- camp tours
- snacks

### cabin/small group activities

- sister/brother cabins meet
- small group mixers
- small group prayers for the week

### camp orientation

- While gathered together, introduce leaders, sing a few songs, explain expectations and rules, make announcements, and enthusiastically welcome everyone to camp.

### campfire

Use this time to continue introducing campers to camp staff. Let staff present skits, lead favorite songs, and connect to cabin groups.

### cabin devotions

The first night sets the stage for camper’s expectations to close each day with cabin devotions. It will be an important opportunity for campers to process their first day together, as well as, wind down for a good night’s rest. Don’t let the busyness of this first day tempt counselors to skip this activity!

- Let campers sign onr another's journals.
- Create memory tee-shirts by letting campers sign one another's camp shirts with permanent markers.
- During a sending forth service, give campers opportunity to be prayed for individually by camp staff. If leaders are in various places around the room, several campers can be prayed for at a time. Encourage campers waiting to participate by encircling the one receiving the prayer.
- Provide opportunity for campers to share their testimonies of the week.
- Make sure parents are aware of when to pick up their campers, where they should park, and where they should meet the campers.