



OUT of the EARTH

The camp theme Out of the Earth was chosen because of the endless bounty of God's creation for us, of the richness of life, of the rebirth and renewal which is for all of us.

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof" (Psalm 24:1) is an affirmation of our own creation and everything God has provided for us.

God also brought Jesus Christ Out of the Earth, a savior who lives alongside us on earth. Using the knowledge of God's earth and Christ's teachings, we can celebrate with children and youth in a ministry of wholeness, purpose, and hope.

Introduction

We are pleased to present *Out of the Earth; Camp Helps*. We believe that it is important to introduce the rich tradition of outdoor ministry to youth early in their spiritual development. You will find new ideas for program planning. Please use these as a springboard for your camp planning and do not be limited by what is suggested.

If your jurisdiction sponsors camps for other age groups, there is opportunity to share resources, props, equipment, and information. For example, service projects for each camp can be planned and coordinated so that they build on one another. Junior campers might use their talents on easier tasks, while junior high and senior high campers can perform more difficult ones. Consider working with other camp directors to consolidate staff training and music programming as well. This effort saves time, energy, and money, and makes the best use of the gifts of the campers and staff.

The purpose of camp is to provide youth with experiences which help them to hear and respond to the love of Jesus Christ. Each new day gives campers opportunities to demonstrate Christ's love as they participate in classes, recreation, cabin devotions, kitchen duty, camp and cabin clean-up, campfire, and much more. In your leadership role, you are the catalyst which will bring it all together for this generation of campers.

While it can be overwhelming, remember to rely first and foremost on the Holy Spirit as you prepare. You may also wish to contact those in your area who have been involved in camping ministry before. If more help is needed, please feel free to contact Poul Wilson in the Mission Shapers and Deliverers Enrichment Group at International Headquarters (800) 825-2806. In addition, it is recommended that you become involved with the American Camp Association, the Canadian Camping Association, or other organizations which can provide additional training and resources for camping.

May God bless you in your camping ministry.

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Administration

Quality leadership and administration are critical for the success of camping and all outdoor ministry. The information on the following pages is just the beginning. We recommend team leadership which allows a broad base for creative ideas and past camping experience, decision making, and involvement in camp leadership and administration

1. Set Your Purpose

The objectives of the camp should be written down and shared with the entire camp staff. Filter all planned activities and events through the purpose and ask the question, "How does this help further the purpose of our camp?"

2. Promote Camp

In today's multimedia world, it takes several attempts at communicating to get the message through to those who need to hear it. Convey the purpose of the camp clearly. Include important dates and fees, a list of program activities, and a schedule. Encourage participants to invite their friends. Include financial incentives for bringing friends, if possible.

3. Recruit And Train Staff

Camp staff should be recruited early and included in planning meetings as soon as possible. Orientation, training, and motivation should be part of the preparation. Job descriptions should be provided for each staff member, both volunteer and paid positions. Be up front with staff about expectations and commitment. Quality camps take good planning and a sense of community. These can be accomplished through pre-camp meetings and training sessions. It is critical to verify that all staff are Registered Youth Workers through the Community of Christ "Protecting Our Children" program. Contact your

jurisdictional officer or legal services at International Headquarters 1-800-825-2806.

The American Camp Association, the Canadian Camping Association, and/or the International Camping Fellowship are organizations that can help with understanding current standards regarding organized camping and provide additional ideas for program planning.

4. Plan an exciting program

Camp for children and youth actually begins before they arrive. Use excitement and adventure as part of your pre-camp promotion and during preregistration events. At camp, each part of the program should reflect the overall goals and purpose. Guest ministers, speakers, musicians, and others should be given a copy of the camp's purpose and objectives, with information about the current event (camp size, theme, etc.) before their participation.

5. Select the location

In some cases, this is predetermined by ownership of property. If you have the opportunity to select the location, keep in mind the needs of the campers first: safety; spiritual formation; physical activity. Visit the site before selecting it, or at least before camp, to understand the layout, to visualize where activities can be held, to locate special props, and to note any hazardous areas. Review rental agreements or contracts at staff meetings and orientations. Food is a very important part of the experience; be sure to discuss it with staff provided by the campgrounds or by your staff, considering what facilities are available for preparation of meals. If possible, have your entire staff visit the facility prior to camp. This allows for everyone to understand the grounds and will help when it's time to settle in.

6: Set the Price

Camp fees should provide enough revenue to cover the expenses of the camp plus some contingency funds. Offer honorariums to a guest minister or speaker, if one is required. This could include a set fee, plus reimbursement of possible travel expenses. Be sure to think through a cancellation policy. Have a plan in the event it is necessary to cancel camp and include this in publicity and registration information. Rather than reducing fees, you may choose to offset costs through camperships. Many congregations now consider camping as a part of their ministry and include all or part of each camper's fees in their budget. Consult with appropriate jurisdictional financial officers regarding all camp fees and

7. Evaluation & Follow-up

Create an evaluation form to provide feedback from campers and staff. To help with subsequent camps, prepare a written report including these evaluations, staffing, and budget information. Share it at a jurisdictional conference and file it with the sponsoring jurisdiction(s).

8. Youth Development

Camping represents a great opportunity for children and youth to develop a deeper spiritual understanding. Encourage participants to connect with their local church and vice versa, sharing their stories of camps at a special worship celebration. Also plan for an after-camp experience. This might picture party just before the school year begins again.

Six months before camp or sooner

- Select the camp dates
- Schedule campgrounds
- Meet with mission center president, bishop to establish budget
- Explore camp theme and general program guidelines
- Meet with jurisdiction camping committee, if available
- Investigate insurance and transportation requirements for off-site camp activities
- Secure camp staff
 - camp business manager
 - camp cook
 - camp nurse
 - counselors
 - camp pastor
 - waterfront personnel
- Consider optional staff
 - counselors-in-training

Five months before camp

- First meeting with staff (2 hours)
 - Outline individual duties of staff
 - Decide on class choices
 - Choose and assign teachers to classes and special activities
 - Discuss special activities, worship
 - Create daily schedule
- Publicize camp theme and camp dates

Four months before camp

- Meet with camp cook
 - Plan menus
 - Plan snacks
 - Make arrangements for food acquisition with camp manager
- Send out camp registration form to appropriate persons
- Meet with camp nurse
 - Review health forms
 - Discuss supply needs
 - Discuss potential problem areas (ticks, poison ivy, jellyfish bites, snakes)

Three months before camp

- Verify the following
 - Camp facilities
 - Review budget
 - Availability of staff
 - Plan meals and snacks

Two months before camp

- Camp staff training
 - Staff duties
 - Health considerations
 - Youth workers registration form
 - Camp staff behavior expectations
 - Camp rules
 - Camp discipline
 - Draft welcome letter to campers.
 - Have staff sign the letter.
 - Solidify classes and order supplies

One month before camp

- Send a letter to campers, signed by all staff, welcoming campers to camp.
- Send a “to bring or not to bring” list.
- Check meal planning with camp cook
- Send a letter to staff members

Day before camp

- Staff arrival at camp
- Finalize cabin assignments
- Assign latrine duties
- Make Kitchen Patrol (KP) assignments
- Camp and cabin decorating
- Setup classrooms
- Staff worships
- Relax and fellowship before campers arrive. It is your last chance!!!

First day of camp

- Campers register as soon as they arrive
- Campers go to cabins, tents, or rooms and unpack
- Counselors meet with cabin mates to get acquainted with each other
 - Conduct camper orientation meeting
 - Introduce staff, counselors, teachers
 - Go over camp rules
 - Explain expectations for camp
 - Distribute camp schedules and assignments
- Sign up for classes

Staff Selection

Camping Committees

In and across jurisdictions, teams of persons with camping experience are appointed or elected to develop and govern the camping facility and/or program. They may be responsible for a philosophy, expectations, goals, administrative policies and procedures, and maintaining American Camp Association or Canadian Camping Association standards.

Camp Director

The camp director should possess emotional and spiritual maturity. As a living example of his or her faith, it is important for the director to be a skilled leader and have a positive influence on both camp staff and campers. The ability to assist in staff training is vital in the total camp experience. It is also important for a director to be sensitive and committed toward the physical, social, psychological, emotional, and spiritual needs of the campers. The director is asked to be organized, enthusiastic, personable, and knowledgeable of camp policies and must be willing to support them.

Suggested resource: *Basic Camp Management* by Armand and Beverly Ball, published by the American Camping Association.

Business Manager

The business manager is responsible for keeping accurate financial records, paying bills, purchasing, and receiving funds. The business manager should work closely and under the direction of the camp director.

Cooks

Camp cooks should have knowledge of quality and quantity cooking. They should balance being sensitive to the eating habits of young people with proper nutrition. They should work under the direction of the camp director.

Camp Medical Staff

Camps must be staffed with proper medical personnel. Under current standards, a medical doctor or a registered nurse is required. Medical staff should provide assistance during camper check in and pre-screen applications for health-related information that would impact camp management.

Counselors

Each counselor is key in assuring that campers have a positive experience. Their responsibilities include: creating a positive community; monitoring attendance; promoting physical health including good eating and drinking habits; developing spiritual insights; and leading campers in activities that might include scripture study, devotions, and cleaning duties.

Counselors-in-training

Counselors-in-training or CITs, should be 15-20 years of age and always under the direct supervision of an adult staff member, especially for overnights, trips, or outing.

Pastoral Team

The pastoral team should serve as the spiritual leaders and offer pastoral care to campers and staff. They are natural to assign to worship and religious educational responsibilities. They should be highly visible at all camp activities.

Waterfront Safety Staff

Swimming pool and natural waterway activities, even at public facilities, must be under the supervision of properly trained and certified water safety personnel. Check with local or state/province laws and American Camp Association/Canadian Camping Association standards for requirements.

Staff Orientation

- Invite a parents' group to share their expectations with camp staff.
- Ask a veteran camper to discuss what they want in a good counselor.
- Ask local law enforcement and/or emergency medical personnel to address the staff regarding emergency procedures.
- Take the staff on a walking tour of the camp to consider safe and hazardous areas.
- Conduct a CPR training course, first-aid course, or other related classes.
- Stage a mock emergency **WITH STAFF ONLY** to help them understand everything it takes to handle an emergency situation.
- Put staff into activity groups to simulate the camp experience for _campers prior to the beginning of camp.
- Have each staff member write down one rainy-day activity and compile a list to share with everyone.
- Use hands-on, activity-based learning experiences to train staff to model the type of experiences best suited for teaching at camp.
- Review appropriate child safety guidelines; conduct a *Protecting Our Children* youth worker registration training, if necessary.

Camp Schedule

Day One:

3:00 p.m.	Registration	
	Pay camp fees	Cabin assignment
	Medical documentation	Settle into cabins
4:00 p.m.	Organized swim and volleyball	
5:15 p.m.	Camp Orientation	
5:30 p.m.	KP Report	
5:45 p.m.	Dinner	
6:45 p.m.	Class Selection	
7:45 p.m.	Mixer-Getting to know each other!	
9:00 p.m.	Campfire	
10:00 p.m.	Cabin Devotions	
10:30 p.m.	Lights out!	

Daily Schedule:

7:30 am.	Rise and Shine
8:00 am.	Breakfast, KP & Cleanup
9:00 am.	Devotions
9:30 am.	Class #1
10:30 am.	Class #2
11:30 am.	KP Report
12:00 noon	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Rest Period
2:00 p.m.	Class #3
3:00 p.m.	Swimming, Recreation, and Fun Stuff
4:30 p.m.	Free Time
4:45 p.m.	KP Report
5:00 p.m.	Dinner, KP & Cleanup
6:00 p.m.	Evening Activity
8:30 p.m.	Campfire
9:45 p.m.	Cabin Devotions Campfire
10:00 p.m.	Lights Out

Last day of camp:

7:30 am.	Rise and Shine
8:00 am.	Breakfast, KP & Cleanup
9:00 am.	Camp Cleanup
10:00 a.m.	Closing Service
11:30 am.	Camp Departure & Check Out--See you next year!

News You Can Use

Extra camp photos: Give them away or send them to campers and staff after the event or send them to the *Herald* with a description of your successful camp.

Forms collected during camp: Forward forms like health and accident reports, camper registration and health forms, and permission forms to the jurisdictional office overseeing the camp where the records can be kept safe and confidential. This might be the mission center office.

Leftover medications: Return prescription medications to the parents or guardians. Over-the-counter medications and other medical supplies should be locked in cabinet in an infirmary or may be given to another camp director or nurse for use at a future event. Otherwise, outdated over-the-counter medication should be thrown away.

Lost and found items: Tag items with a note describing where they were found to help in returning them to their rightful owner.

Working with Kids

State clear expectations and consequences. The more consistent you are, the less they will test you. Be sure to include positive expectations and positive consequences. Institute limits before camp begins and reinforce them consistently during camper orientation.

Pick your baffles carefully. It is true that counselors and staff must say “no” to campers sometimes. It is often the context and delivery that changes a difficult situation.

Respect privacy. Many counselors take it personally when campers cut them off from sharing their private thoughts. This can be a healthy emergence of boundaries. Counselors should be careful about telling details of their private lives.

Do not embarrass campers in front of their peers. Remember praise should be public and reprimands private. This goes for adults as well.

Adapted from the article, “Working with Teens,” by Bob Differ, *Camping Magazine*, September/October 1995.

Camper Characteristics

Elementary School Age

Intellectually

concrete thinkers

need non-symbolic objects in object lessons

think in terms of facts, not feelings in the “golden age” of memorization

Emotionally

like non-mushy touching

enjoy obvious, concrete humor

Physically

energetic and active

express awareness of sexuality

Socially

eager to please whomever they’re with

don’t have a strong internal sense of right and wrong

like competition, team games, clubs, and mysterious activities

express affection through attention, positive and negative

Spiritually

want Christian heroes

make spiritual decisions based on facts only

Middle School Age

Intellectually

enjoy non-verbal creative expression

still developing verbal skills

need structure and limits

can’t handle too many choices

may have an odd sense of humor

like to explore what’s funny

Emotionally

have mood swings

need successful experiences and achievements

Physically

experiencing rapid, uneven growth

self-conscious about appearance

have ravenous appetites

enjoy vigorous activity but are sometimes lethargic

express confusion over sexuality with false bragging and conversations about sex

Socially

experience is what counts

developing sense of right and wrong

like competition, team games, clubs, and mysterious activities

express affection through attention, positive and negative

Spiritually

*test authority, but still want it
need to belong to a group*

*may challenge beliefs of parents or others in
authority*

High School Age

Intellectually

can organize, evaluate, and make choices

can verbalize and talk well in small groups

want to use their talents and imaginations

curious and want to know why

seeking recognition

Emotionally

independent and can be rebellious

intense and can have emotional outbursts

want acceptance and may copy their peers

may try on new identities or values

Physically

curious about sex

experiencing rapid physical growth

may experience ravenous hunger

get exhausted and need rest

Socially

want more freedom

want to share and develop friendships

loyal, even to unusual friends

need to practice Christian principles

in a non-threatening environment

Spiritually

may branch out and serve others

on their own

*can apply ideas and skills from scripture
study*

define beliefs and convictions

Notes about Campers

Week –at-a Glance

	Theme	Scripture or Quote	Main Thought
Day One	Garden Earth	Genesis 1:12:15 IV/INRSV	In God’s awesome act of creation, a universe of purpose, interdependence, diversity, stewardship, love, and continual rebirth surrounds us. Despite differing creation stories and scientific theories, the truth of God’s love and purpose for the earth and humanity comes through, calling us to be co-creators with God.
Day Two	Earth Web	...Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. —Chief Seattle (1854) adapted	God created a world that is not only beautiful and functional within each part (flower, bug, and seed) but works together in community. Scientifically this is called biodiversity, the individual purpose of each part of nature and the interdependence of each upon the other. How would certain pollens get from one flower to another without the activity of the bumblebee? How would the ground become aerated without the push of the roots? God has created within us the same interdependence, sharing the diversity of gifts which is “a more excellent way” (1 Corinthians 12:31). Earth Web is the web of life, the dependency we have on each other and all of creation, and the - need we have to share our own uniqueness. This is God’s “more excellent way.” God has created within us the same interdependence.
Day Three	Earth Watch	Luke 13:19 NRSV	Stewardship and giftedness is learned in the story of the seed. Everything that we are and can become has been given us in our giftedness, in our seed. The story of the mustard seed is our story of great potential in a small beginning. Stewardship requires nurturing, developing, and maintaining our gifts, as well as awareness and responsibility for the gifts around us
Day Four	Earth Quake	Matthew 17:20 NRSV	Moving and shaking things up is an important part of nature and an important part of our Christianity! Christ came to shake things up: he took grains of wheat from the garden to feed his disciples on the Sabbath; he ate with tax collectors and sinners; he overturned tables in the Temple. We are called to “shake up” injustices, too, to move out in faith to follow Christ’s example.
Day Five	Harvest Earth	Matthew 10:6 NRSV	Every culture has a celebration of the harvest, the bounty of God’s blessings to them. The joy in the celebration is not only the joy of community, of combining our gifts together, of sharing in the harvest meal, but it is in the promise that life regenerates itself, and that God blesses us and will continue to bless us with a bountiful creation. The harvesting of our own gifts for our own joy and for the benefit of others is cause for celebration.

Day One-at-a-Glance

	Morning Devotions	Theme Class	Evening Activities	Campfire	Evening Cabin Devotions
Theme	Planting for The Future	In God's awesome act of creation, a universe of purpose, interdependence, diversity, stewardship, love, and continual rebirth surrounds us. Despite differing creation stories and scientific theories, the truth of God's love and purpose for the earth and humanity comes through, calling us to be co-creators with God.	It's a Small World	Reflection of God's creation around us. Thanks be to God!	Growing Our Spiritual Garden
Scripture or Quote	Psalm 1:1-3 NRSV Genesis Ecclesiastes 3:1-3 NRSV	Genesis 1:1-2:25 IV/ NRSV	Adlai Stevenson	Genesis 1:1-2:25 IV/ NRSV	Ecclesiastes 3:1-3 NRSV
Materials	tree(s) shovels water	See Theme Class Section	See Evening Activities Section	See Campfires Section	fast-drying clay paper for journaling
Staffing					
Location					
Time					
Other					

Day Two-at-a-Glance

	Morning Devotions	Theme Class	Evening Activities	Campfire	Evening Cabin Devotions
Theme	The Richness of Diversity	God created a world that is not only beautiful and functional within each part (flower, bug, and seed) but works together in community. Scientifically this is called biodiversity, the individual purpose of each part of nature and the interdependence of each upon the other.	Our Interdependence	Our Interconnections	Becoming More
Scripture or Quote	Corinthians 12:4-6,12 NRSV	Doctrine & Covenants 101:2f; 147:5a; 150:7; Mosiah 1:53,2:32; I Corinthians 12:31	Chief Seattle	Ephesians 4:16 NIV	I Peter 2:4-6
Materials	See Morning Devotions section	See Theme Class section	See Evening Activities section	See Campfires section	
Staffing					
Location					
Time					
Other					

Day Three-at-a-Glance

	Morning Devotions	Theme Class	Evening Activities	Campfire	Evening Cabin Devotions
Theme	Stewards of the Earth	Stewardship and of the giftedness are learned in the story of the seed. Everything that we are and can become has been given to us through our giftedness, in our seed. The story of the mustard seed is our story, the story of great potential in a small beginning. Stewardship requires nurturing, developing, and maintaining our gifts.	Perspective	Bearing Good Fruit	Watching Ourselves
Scripture or Quote	Genesis 2:15 NRSV	Luke 13:19 NRSV	Revelation 7:3	Alma 16:152-173	Colossians 3:1- 18
Materials	See Morning Devotions section	See Theme Class section	See Evening Activities Section	See Campfires section	None
Staffing					
Location					
Time					
Other					

Day Four-at-a-Glance

	Morning Devotions	Theme Class	Evening Activities	Campfire	Evening Cabin Devotions
Theme	Move and Shake	Moving and shaking things up is an important part of our Christianity! Jesus came to shake things up: he fed the disciples on the Sabbath; he ate with tax collectors and sinners; and he overturned tables in the Temple. We are called to “shake up” injustices, too, and to move out in faith to follow his example.	Leave and Take Nothing	Making a Difference	I Can Because I Am
Scripture or Quote	John 15:5, 8 NRSV	Matthew 17:20-21 NRSV	Kuan-Tsu	Matthew 5:14-16 James 1:22-25 NRSV	Psalm 139:14 NRSV
Materials	See Morning Devotions section	See Theme Class section	See Evening Activities section	1 large candle, votive candles and paper plates for each person	Paint, paint brushes, and cleanup supplies
Staffing					
Location					
Time					
Other					

Day Five-at-a-Glance

	Morning Devotions	Theme Class	Evening Activities	Campfire	Evening Cabin Devotions
Theme	Celebrate!	Most cultures have a celebration of the harvest, the bounty of God's blessings to them. The joy in the celebration is not only the joy of community, of combining our gifts together, of sharing in the harvest meal, but it is in the promise that God blesses and will continue to bless us with a bountiful creation.	Environmental Nature	Keep Your Garden Growing and Celebrate!	Celebrate
Scripture or Quote	Genesis 8:22 NRSV Matthew 9: 37-38 NRSV	Psalm 126:1-6 NRSV	Ovid	Psalm 150 NRSV	Ephesians 4:15-16 NRSV
Materials	See Morning Devotions section	See Theme Class section	See Evening Activities Section	See Campfire Section	String or leather to make necklaces, beads
Staffing					
Location					
Time					
Other					