

Music

Theme Song Suggestions

Every camp needs a theme song—maybe even two. The testimony that comes from music stays with us for years to come. Those special words sung each day will come back to the campers long after the camp is over. Each time the music plays in their hearts and minds, their memories will go back to the good times they had at camp. A theme song can become a continual ministry that lives on and on.

The following suggestions are to help you get started in your search for the perfect theme song. The songs listed under younger campers are for children approximately through age 10 and would probably not be appropriate for middle school/junior high or high school/senior high youth.

Unfortunately, songs and CD's and artists come and go. Check your local music and Christian bookstores to see if they carry any of the recordings. If a specific CD/tape is no longer available, you may be able to locate the specific song on another CD/tape. You may want to ask potential campers regarding the latest songs, both Christian and secular. Sometimes the right song emerges just a few months before camp.

Especially for Younger Campers

“Grow Me Up Like You”

“Sowin’ Seeds of Love (chorus only)”

“We Are Your Children”

From the CD: In My Garden: Sowing Seeds of Love by Mary Rice Hopkins

All Ages

“Circle of Friends”

From the CD: WOW 1998 or Life, Love and Other Mysteries by Point of Grace

“Field of Souls”

From the CD: Field of Souls by Wayne Watson

“Hallelujahs”

From the CD: Deep Enough to Dream by Chris Rice

“Seed to Sow”

From the CD: Go West Young Man by Michael W. Smith

“Sing to the Lord All the Earth”

From the CD: Shout from the Mountain or High Praises Sampler by Chris Christensen

“Shake the World”

From the CD: The Final Call by Michael Pearce Donley

“We Can Make a Difference”

From the CD: WOW 1998 or A Heavenly Place by Jaci Velasquez

Campfires

Day One: Earth Garden

Note to Campfire Leaders

If possible, ask two persons to help lead campfires throughout the week. One can be the “serious” person (probably the song leader), the other person the funny “sidekick.” Each evening, the “sidekick” should come dressed in a costume that goes along with the daily theme. They will bring props for the “serious” leader to put on as well. A script has not been provided, so choose your leaders well. They will need to create their own routines for each evening’s campfire. Encourage them to have fun and enjoy guiding the camp through an evening of laughter, joy, reflection, and worship.

Setting

Choose a breathtaking location. It could overlook a valley, a lake, a stream, or an open field of wildflowers. Have the camp gather for campfire before the dark of night takes over. Let the beauty of the location have time to be absorbed.

Campfire Leaders

The “sidekick” should be dressed in a costume that reflects someone who works with nature, i.e., *farmer dressed in overalls with tools, plow, etc. Bring a hat and overalls for the “serious” leader to put on during course of campfire.*

Skit Cheers

Watermelon cheer: Pretend to slurp down watermelon, and then spit out the seeds.

Rain Cheer: Everyone snap fingers to make rain sound.

Sunrise—Sunset Cheer: Everyone sits with hands on the ground in front of them. Slowly move hands up and over head until the hands (and each person) are lying on the ground behind them.

Challenge

Guide the campers through reflections of the magnitude of creation around them. Have them look up at the stars. . . out onto the lake. . . over the shadows of the valleys. Ask them to silently listen to the locusts . . . the frogs. . . the birds. . . the silence. Express appreciation for the gardener, our awesome God, the one who made all these things possible.

Song Ideas

Sing songs that remind the campers of God’s world and all the creatures in it.

Gathering

Warm, Warm As Our Campfire

Silly Action Songs

Grey Squirrel

Flea

Rain Song

My God Is So Big

Rounds and Parts

Hear the Lively Song (*Songs for Camps and Reunions*)

Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Shalom Chaverim (*Songs for Camps and Reunions*)

This Is the Day

Transitional Songs

God’s Got the Whole World

Peace Like a River (*Songs for Camps and Reunions*)

	Awesome God
	Brother, Do You Know?
Serious	Peace of the River
	Where He Leads Me
	God of the Sparrow (Sing for <i>Peace</i>)
Sending Forth	Use the pre-selected theme song for the camp.

Day Two: Earth Web

Setting

Ask each cabin to sit together at tonight's campfire.

Campfire Leaders

The two campfire leaders should come out in one very large pair of overalls, with their inside hands around each other's waist. Their legs should be situated so that they must both be able to walk. To clap or direct songs, their arms will have to work together. They may wish to change out of the costume before the final, more serious portions of the campfire.

Skit Ideas

Call different groups of campers and leaders together throughout the night to sing a song or do a quick skit. This must be very fast and very spontaneous. Each group called will be connected in some way (see list below). Every time a group is called, it should naturally contain a different mix of persons.

Connections Possibilities

campers who go to "You Name It" school	return campers
everyone who lives in. . .	cabin groups
all boys or all girls	everyone who likes broccoli
everyone who has traveled to the Temple	all seniors
first-time campers	all counselors

Challenge

Have the camp create a circle. If the camp is large, you may wish to do this in several smaller circles. The leader should name one person at camp; tell one way they are connected to that person, and then throw the ball of twine or yarn to that person. The receiver should then hold onto the twine/ yarn with one hand and toss the twine/yarn ball on to another person, saying the name of that person and how they are connected to them. This should continue until everyone in the circle is connected. If campers are not familiar yet with each other, help them as they think of connections. If more than one circle has been connecting, toss the twine/yarn between circles to connect everyone in camp together. When the whole camp is connected, close with a prayer thanking God for the garden of lives present and the gifts and blessings that comes from our interconnections.

Song Ideas

Sing songs that remind the campers of the many ways they are connected to one another.

Gathering	Let Us Sing Together
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Silly Action Songs	The More We Get Together Father Abraham One Elephant Went Out to Play Eddie... Brown
Rounds and Parts	Grab Another Hand (<i>Songs for Camps and Reunions</i>) Make New Friends (<i>Songs for Camps and Reunions</i>) Love, Love, Love, Love (tune: Rose) The Upward Trail
Transitional Songs	Viva L'Amour I Wanna Be a Friend of Yours
Serious	One In the Spirit No Man (One) Is an Island
Sending Forth	Camp theme song

Day Three: Earth Watch

Setting

Start the trek to campfire early. Take everyone on a nighttime “Earth Watch Walk.” What you look for will depend on what can be found on your campground: birds, flowers, night creatures, sea shells, etc. If walking after dark, be sure campers are guided by flashlights and walk quietly. End the “Earth Watch Walk” at the campfire location.

Campfire Leaders

The “sidekick” should come outwearing giant glasses. Throughout the campfire they should provide the “serious” leader with a wide variety of looking devices, (i.e., *big glasses, sunglasses, reading glasses, magnifying glass, binoculars, kaleidoscope, telescope*), Continue to switch “watch” glasses all throughout the campfire.

Challenge

Read Alma 16:152-173 to quiet instrumental music in the background. If there is a drama class, or someone gifted in the art of dance or mime, have them create a silent visual illustrating the scripture as it is read.

Following the scripture reading, ask the campers to think tonight about their responsibilities as gardeners. What do they need to tend to? What are the fruits they are hoping to grow? Are there weeds that need pulling and plants that need pruning?

Song Ideas

Sing songs that remind the campers of their stewardship responsibility for the world.

Gathering	Each Campfire Lights Anew (<i>Songs for Camps and Reunions</i>)
Silly Action Songs	My Eyes Are Dim I Cannot See An Austrian Went Yodeling Simon Says Zulu Warrior
Rounds and Parts	I Love the Mountains Scotland's Burning (<i>Songs for Camps and Reunions</i>) Zum Gali Gali (<i>Songs for Camps and Reunions</i>)
Transitional Songs	This Land Is Your Land Jesus in the Morning (<i>Songs for Camps and Reunions</i>)

Serious
Sending Forth

Do Lord
Give Me Oil in My Lamp
Camp theme song

Day Four: Earth Quake

Setting

Go to a brand-new location for campfire tonight. If possible, it should be next to a body of water like a stream, lake, or swimming pool. At the campfire site, provide no fire. Have one large candle burning at the front, on a board. Ask a few leaders to guide campers to their places using flashlights. All other lights should be left off. Let the darkness of the night speak. As each camper enters the setting, hand them a votive candle (one that can burn for a while) and ask them to light it from the larger candle and set it down on the board next to the large candle. As each candle is lit, the light will grow. This light will serve as tonight's fire.

Campfire Leaders

The "sidekick" leader should continually come in dressed for different kinds of "earth-shaking" work. As the campfire progresses, the "sidekick" will convince the "serious" leader to dress for the "shakeup" as well (i.e., *hardhats, flashlights, raincoats, umbrellas, big heavy boots, miner's lights, winter coats, etc.*).

Skit Idea

Nephite Skit

Four persons walk up front. They each come in discussing how they feel like a "Nephite" today. As each new person comes in, the others agree that they really feel like a "Nephite" today, too. Finally a fifth person comes in asking them to explain what they mean. The first four persons then pair up, place their arms on each other's shoulders and begin to *fight* with their *knees*.

Challenge

Challenge the campers to think about their personal commitment. What is God calling them to do? What things do they see that need to change? How can they make a difference? How are they going to shake things up enough to make that change begin to happen? Give everyone time to think in silence, and then begin the song, "Pass It On" (It Only Takes a Spark).

Motion for the campers to quietly begin to come up one at a time and pick up a candle. Place that candle on a paper plate (some candles will float alone) and let each person send their candle off as a commitment of their willingness to be a mover and shaker for God. As everyone watches the candles float away, sing the song, "Spirit of the Living God." Close with prayer. If water is not nearby, have the campers form a circle as they come up and take a candle. After the whole camp is in place, sing the song, "Spirit of the Living God." Close with prayer.

Song Ideas

Sing songs that remind the campers of their ability to make a difference.

Gathering	We're Here Because
Silly Action Songs	Grand Old Duke of York If I Were Not upon the Stage (<i>Songs for Camps and Reunions</i>)
Rounds and Parts	Throw It out the Window (<i>Songs for Camps and Reunions</i>) Jesus' Love Is a Bubblin' Over (<i>Songs for Camps and Reunions</i>) I Have Decided to Follow Jesus
Transitional Songs	If I Had a Hammer (<i>Songs for Camps and Reunions</i>) We Shall Overcome Blowin' in the Wind
Serious	Let There Be Peace on Earth (<i>Songs for Camps and Reunions</i>) Pass It On (<i>Songs for Camps and Reunions</i>) Spirit of the Living God
Sending Forth	Camp theme song

Day Five: Earth Harvest

Setting

Tonight should be a celebration. It may even be an extension of the evening activity. Make a giant bonfire that can be seen far off in the distance as everyone arrives. If resources are available, consider transporting the camp to the bonfire by way of a hayride. When everyone arrives, continue the party atmosphere by letting the camp roast hot dogs and/or marshmallows.

Campfire Leaders

The "sidekick" leader should come out dressed for a fancy party. Through the course of the campfire, they can change the "serious" leader's attire into one for a party, too. The serious leader may need to go off in the distance during skits to make some of their dress changes (i.e., *fancy shoes, scarves, hats, gloves, jackets*).

Skit Ideas

Ask each cabin to create and present a cheer (*preferably with jumps, kicks, cartwheels, and flips*) that expresses the joy found as the love of God grows in our lives.

Challenge

Reflect on the activities of the week and the challenges presented each day. Remind the campers that the garden they are planting never ends. Wherever they go, there are new seeds to sow, new fields to tend, new harvest to reap. To close, ask everyone to join in one large circle and move in alternate directions during the chorus as they sing "King of Kings." Have them stomp one foot instead of clapping, between the words "glory" and "hallelujah."

Song Ideas

Sing songs that celebrate the love of God and the joy that comes from living in partnership with God.

Gathering	We're All Together Again
Silly & Action Songs	If You're Happy and You Know It Keep on the Sunny Side
Rounds and Parts	Alleluh—Praise Yethelord King of Kings (<i>Songs for Camps and Reunions</i>)
Transitional Songs	This Is the Day

	I'm Gonna Sing (<i>Songs for Camps and Reunions</i>)
	Lord, Be Glorified (<i>Songs for Camps and Reunions</i>)
Serious	I've Got the Joy
	Go Tell It on the Mountain
	Freely, Freely (<i>Hymns of the Saints</i>)
Sending Forth	Camp theme song