

Camp Planner  
*Junior High Camp*  
**SEARCH & DISCOVER**

## **Acknowledgements**

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## **Introduction**

This material for Junior High Camp centers on the theme “Search and Discover.” Youth 12-14 will be challenged to search for the presence of Christ in their life as they discover joy, hope, love, and peace.

The focus of the lessons aims the campers toward a discovery of the *Community of Christ* in their friends and families as they examine their conflicts, struggles, accomplishments, and future.

As camp director, you have the wonderful opportunity to guide adults and youth in this search and discover adventure. It will be a challenge. It will also be an adventure. But, remember you are not alone. The motivation which causes you to commit six months of your life to 12-14 year olds speaks volumes about your desire to serve your Lord.

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 cleanup, campfire, and much more. As the camp director, you are the catalyst which will bring together both camp staff and campers in a wonderful and fulfilling journey with God and each other,

If you are not an experienced camp director, do not despair. Seek out the wisdom and experience of former camp directors. Numerous resources are available to camp personnel. If more help is needed, please feel free to contact Poul Wilson in the Mission Shapers and Delivers Enrichment Group at International Headquarters (800) 825-2806 Ext. 2357 or talk with your local church administrator or camping committee chairperson.

May God guide and sustain you in your camping experience.

K. Poul Wilson  
Youth Disciple Formation Specialist

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**SECTION I**  
**CREATE**  
**A**  
**SUCCESS**

# Camp Planning Director's Help and Calendar

## Six to nine months before camp or sooner

- Select the camp dates
- Schedule camp grounds
- Meet with Regional Administrator/Mission Center President and Bishop to establish budget
- Explore world church camp theme, "Search and Discover," 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 members
  - Decide on class choices
  - Choose and assign teachers to classes and special activities
  - Discuss any special activities and worship services
  - 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 campgrounds 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, jelly fish bites, mosquitoes, snakes)

### Three months before camp

- Verify the following
  - Camp facilities
  - Review budget
  - Verify staff availability
  - 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
- Also send a “to bring or not to bring” list
- Check meal planning with camp cook

- Send a letter to staff members

#### One Day before camp

- Staff arrival at camp
- Finalize cabin assignments
- Assign latrine duties
- Make Kitchen Patrol (KP) assignments
- Camp and cabin decorating
- Set-up 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
- Have a camper orientation meeting
  - Introduce staff, counselors, and teachers
  - Go over camp rules
  - Explain expectations for camp
  - Distribute camp schedules and assignments
  - Sign up for classes

## **Camp Staff**

Each person who works with the camp must comply with the requirement to be a Registered Youth Worker. Screening is critical. Registration may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. See your local jurisdiction leader for forms and information.

### **Jurisdiction Camping Committee**

In some jurisdictions, a team of persons with camping experience is appointed to develop and govern the camping facility. They are also charged with the responsibility to develop ongoing policies for all camps on all camp-related issues. Included in these issues are camping philosophy, expectations for individual camps, and general administrative rules regarding age grouping, costs, and health and safety standards.

### **Camp Director**

The camp director should possess emotional and spiritual maturity. As a living example of his/her faith, it is important for the camp 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 preparation experience. It is also important for a camp director to be sensitive and committed towards the physical, social, psychological, and emotional needs of the campers. The camp director is asked to be organized, enthusiastic, personable, and knowledgeable of camp policies and must be willing to support them.

### **Business Manager**

The business manager is responsible for keeping accurate financial records, paying the bills, and purchasing food and supplies as needed. The business manager must work closely with the camp director and the jurisdictional financial officer to make sure necessary records and

reports are made in a timely fashion.

### **Camp Cooks**

Camp cooks should have a knowledge of quality and quantity cooking. They should also be sensitive to the eating habits of young people. Cooks should work with the director in planning menus and they should check with the campground's personnel concerning food ordering procedures.

### **Camp Nurse**

Every camp must have a registered nurse or certified paramedic and a well-equipped first-aid station. The nurse must check with campers at registration and document any and all medication, illnesses, allergies, and medical concerns. The nurse is also asked to be available to give help in injuries and illnesses during camp. It is important for the camp nurse to keep accurate records of all medication administered to each camper.

### **Counselors**

The cabin counselor is a key person in assuring that each individual camper will have a positive experience. Their responsibilities include the following:

- Help create a cabin community
- Monitor cabin member attendance in classes, campfires, recreation, evening chats, and special events.
- Be sensitive to the needs of individual cabin members
- Lead cabin members in cabin activities such as skits, cleanup, cabin devotions, and classes.

Counselors may also carry other responsibilities such as teaching a class or leading a campfire.

### **Camp Pastor**

The camp pastor should have qualifications to serve as a religious leader and counselor to camp staff and campers. He or she may be available for consultation and camper participation in

worship services and classes as needed.

**Waterfront Personnel**

If water activities are to be included as a part of camp, personnel trained in water safety should be in charge during waterfront hours. Please check with local jurisdictions for waterfront safety requirements.

**Counselor-in-Training**

CIT's are older youth and young adults assigned to share responsibility in leadership roles with an experienced adult camper as a mentor. CIT's are trained to encourage youth in their camping experience.

# **I Am A Junior High Camper**

*Who am I? I am usually 12-14 years old I can be everybody's dream or I can bring about worry lines on the face of a camp director I am developing intellectually, socially, emotionally, physically, and spiritually*

## *My Intellectual Development*

*I am capable of thinking independently I like to discuss issues informally. Making my own decisions is very important to me. I know I cannot always make the right decisions. However they are my decisions and I am learning the consequences of those decisions.*

## *My Social Development*

*It is possible for me to be very quiet one moment and loud and boisterous the next. I want to be grown up although I am not always sure what that means. I am greatly influenced by my peers. There is a great need for me to be accepted I am starting the separation of actions from my family, especially my parents. I am becoming more aware of my sexuality. I like them, I think. I find my family values and personal values are not always in agreement. There are times when I do not understand my parents. They probably do not always understand me, too.*

## *My Emotional Development*

*I am learning new skills and work habits. People around me think I am moody I am not moody! I can be happy and sad at the same time. I love to day dream. My judgments are sometimes based on how I feel about things rather than being objective. I am filled with humor.*

## *My Physical Development*

*My body is developing at an amazing rate. I find myself tripping over my ankles. I am filling out and growing and I cannot always keep up with myself I am entering puberty! I am becoming physically coordinated and I am learning to enjoy sports. Some of my friends are better coordinated than I am, but I do not think it is a serious problem. Personal health and hygiene are very important to me, especially when I am around persons of the opposite gender. I can be very energetic one moment and very tired the next.*

## *My Spiritual Development*

*I am aware of my responsibility as a Christian. I am learning an awareness of morals and values. It is possible for me to confuse emotion and spirituality. However; I am also capable of understanding a spiritual experience. Sometimes it overwhelms me. I do have my questions about my faith. Why? Why? Why? Although I will not always admit it, I do need guidance and encouragement that I am an okay person.*

*I am at camp because I want to be. Thank you for your time and efforts in making camp happen. Let & do it together!*

*Yours in Christ,  
A Junior High Camper*

# Sample 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 other activities	
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	

## Daily Schedule

7:00 a.m.	Rise and Shine
7:30 a.m.	Devotions
7:45 a.m.	Breakfast and KP clean-up
8 :30 a.m.	Cabin and Camp Clean-up
9:00 a.m.	Class #1
10:00 a.m.	Class #2
11:00 a.m.	Class #3
11:50 a.m.	KP Report
12:00 noon	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Rest Period
2:15 p.m.	Canteen
2:45 p.m.	Swimming, Recreation, and Stuff
4:30 p.m.	Free Time
4:45 p.m.	KP Report
5:00 p.m.	Dinner
6:15 p.m.	Discover Time
7:00 p.m.	Evening Activity
9:00 p.m.	Campfire
10:15 p.m.	Cabin Devotions
10:30 p.m.	Lights Out!

## Last day of camp:

7:00 a.m.	Rise and Shine
7:30 a.m.	KP Report
7:45 a.m.	Breakfast
8:45 a.m.	Camp Clean-up and Checkout
10:00 a.m.	Closing Service
11:30 a.m.	Camp Departure—See you next year!