



Camp Helps

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ABBREVIATIONS USED

HS—Hymns of the Saints, Herald House, 1981
NS—Sing a New Song, Herald House, 1999
SP—Sing for Peace, Herald House, 1994

NRSV—New Revised Standard Version
NIRV—New International Reader’s Version

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Introduction to Camp

Outdoor ministry for youth in the Community of Christ is an invaluable resource around the world. Many young people have come to understand their personal calling to discipleship while participating in a camping experience. The power of camping was expressed quite well by those who worked to bring together that first youth camp in 1928 at Camp Nauvoo.

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.

—World Church Archives, 1928 Camp Planning Communications

The camp theme “Spiritual Motion” builds on the concept that the Spirit is in constant motion if we just take the time to notice. Throughout the week make references to the testimony of “Spiritual Motion” all around:

- The Spirit guides and comforts.
- The Spirit is present in creation.
- The Spirit is reflected and present in each person.
- The Spirit goes before us and is present after we leave.

An important piece of this theme comes from the scripture study for the week from the book of James. If people are aware of the presence and grace of the Spirit working with and among them, then the only real response they can make is to put their discipleship into “motion.” When disciples embrace the Spirit, their actions reflect God’s Spirit in a powerful testimony of kindness and service.

The positive and encouraging actions of the camp staff can make an amazing difference as campers venture into a deeper understanding of their personal recognition of the Spirit in their lives. May the Spirit that has touched and changed the lives of young people throughout the history of camping in the Community of Christ, touch your experiences this year.



Sample Camp Schedule

Opening Day

3:00 p.m.	Camp registration Cabin assignments and move-in Free time activities
4:30	Sister/brother cabins meet Small-group mixers
6:00	Dinner
7:00	All-Camp Opening
8:30	Campfire
9:30	Late night swim
10:15	Cabin Devotions
11:00	Lights out

Full-Day Schedule

7:00 a.m.	Early Risers: swim, run, hike, fish
7:45	KPs report for duty
8:15	Breakfast
9:00	Morning Devotions
9:45	Nature Classes
11:00	Leadership Classes
Noon	KPs report for duty
12:30 p.m.	Prayer for Peace
12:35	Lunch
1:15	Rest Time
2:30	Free Time Options: swimming, boating, fishing, crafts, service projects, recreation, adventures
4:30	KPs report for duty
5:00	Dinner
6:00	Theme Class: A Study of James
7:30	All-camp Events and/or Projects
9:15	Campfire
10:15	Cabin devotions
10:45	Lights Out



Closing Day

7:00 a.m.	Early Risers: swim, run, hike, fish
7:45	KPs report for duty
8:15	Breakfast
9:00	Cabin and camp cleanup
10:15	Closing Assembly
11:30	Camper Pickup

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 with one another in their cabin groups as well as in 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 pickup
- class sign-up
- cabin assignments and move-in

Move-in Activities

(During registration)

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

Cabin Activities

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

Camp Orientation

- welcome
- leader introductions
- songs
- expectation explanations
- theme introduction

Campfire

Use this time to continue introducing campers to camp staff. Let staff present skits, lead favorite songs, and connect with their cabin groups. Campfire on the following nights should be planned by campers during leadership class.

Cabin Devotions

The first night sets the stage for camper 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 the activity!



Nature's Motion

Adventures and Classes

Copy and use the Planning Worksheet (Camp Planning, page 13) to plan classes and adventures.



To help campers discover and recognize the presence of the Spirit is a major goal of this camp. What better place to begin than observing the awe and wonder of nature that surrounds them in the camp setting! The types of activities listed below are important at any camp, but are especially so in the development of this theme. Let these opportunities fill your days through classes, worship experiences, whole-camp events, and adventures.

A list of possible activities follows. Use these ideas to spur your imagination for ways campers can discover the unique and awesome testimony of God and the Spirit found in and around your area. At times the wonder of our own landscape can be taken for granted, but through new eyes the knowledge and understanding of the everyday presence of God can be renewed.

Adventures in Nature

Sunrise Walk

Provide daily opportunity for early risers to discover the beauty of the earth as it awakens each day. The awe and wonder of nature is at its purest before humankind interrupts it: spiderwebs sparkle, birds are singing, and animals are feeding. Emphasize the importance of respecting nature.

Observation Events

- sunrise or sunset watch
- cloud watching (lay on ground, find shapes in the clouds)
- star gazing

Hikes with a Purpose

Set up planned hikes with a specific purpose. Bird watching, plant and tree identification, animal tracking, insect treasure hunting, orienteering (cross-country navigation with map and compass), and nature's sound identification are all possibilities.

High-Adventure Opportunities

Some campgrounds and/or nearby areas provide opportunity for high-adventure activities under the supervision of trained, certified professionals. With proper instruction and leadership these experiences can be valuable for older campers. If these types of opportunities are offered, make sure alternate activities for those not interested are also available. High adventure is not for everyone!

- boating, canoeing
- mountain hiking
- float trips, rafting
- river hiking
- horseback riding
- following a ropes course

Nature Classes

- paint landscapes with watercolor or acrylics
- nature sketching
- nature photography
- video documentary of nature
- audio recordings of the sounds of nature
- Bible study: Jesus' Parables of Nature
- amazing science experiments
- astronomy
- study of weather
- study of light
- water activities
- animal tracking
- trail blazing
- creative writing: stories, poems, and songs about nature
- plant, animal, rock, and/or insect identification
- nature crafts

More Craft Ideas

KIDSDOMAIN CRAFTS

<http://www.kidsdomain.com/craft/>

CRAFT PROJECTS

(GREAT IDEAS FOR OLDER CAMPERS)

<http://www.i-craft.com>

SCOUTING THE NET CRAFTS

<http://www.scoutingthenet.com/Resources/Crafts/>

ENCHANTED LEARNING NATURE CRAFTS

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/nature/>

CRAFTS FOR TEENS

http://www.kidsdomain.com/craft/_teen.html

http://www.makingfriends.com/teen_crafts.htm

Craft Ideas from Nature

NATURE DISPLAY BOXES

Collect items from nature (seed pods, sea shells, sticks, stones, pine cones, flowers) to display in a shadow box.

WREATHS

Create and/or decorate wreaths using items available from the environment:

- grape-vine wreaths
- grasses
- spanish moss
- flowers—fresh and dried
- pine cones
- seeds and seed pods
- lotus pods
- dried berries

NATURE'S INSTRUMENTS

Create musical instruments using items from nature:

- dried gourd shakers
- wind chimes
- sticks and drums
- sea shells

NATURE'S IMPRESSIONS

- pressed flower projects
- chalk or crayon rubbings of nature on paper
- pounded-flower/leaf designs
- plant stamps with acrylic paints: mushroom halves, apple halves, carrots, potatoes, leaves, flowers.
- plant paintbrushes create different textures
- plants/flowers/seeds/feathers on paper or fabric to create silhouetted designs
- solar prints
- potpourri

WEAVINGS

Use grasses, vines, cattail leaves, and/or reeds to create placemats, baskets, and other weaving projects.

NATURE SCULPTURES

Use items like sticks, rocks, and seed pods to create unique sculptures.

Leadership Classes

Camp is a place where everyone is equal, and possibilities are endless. It is the perfect setting for campers to try their hand at various leadership opportunities they might never otherwise try. "Spiritual Motion" is all about putting discipleship into action. Leadership classes will be an extremely important part of reinforcing this theme.

The more involved campers are, the more meaningful their camp experience will be. Leadership classes are a way of facilitating this involvement on a daily basis. These classes will help campers recognize the many different areas of leadership that go into ministry.

By requiring campers to take a leadership class each day, leadership opportunities will evolve.

Some classes will be more effective if they are taken by the same campers each day. Others classes will be better suited for campers who wish to take a different leadership class each day. Copy and use the Planning Worksheet to help plan the leadership classes for this year's camp.

CAMP LOG

Design and create the camp log to be sent home with campers at the end of the week.

CAMP PHOTOGRAPHER

Take digital photos that can be used in the camp log as well as in slide-show diaries each day.

CAMPFIRE

Learn about campfire leadership; plan and lead the evening campfires.

CHOIR AND/OR BAND

Practice and participate musically several times during the week.

COOKING

Help the cooks prepare meals.

DRAMA

Prepare for dramas and skits used throughout the week.

FIRE BUILDING

Learn about different types of campfires. The class will build the campfires for each night.

MORNING DEVOTIONS

Prepare for morning devotions: plan music, assign leadership responsibilities, create each day's worshiper's path.

MOVIE MAKING

Create a movie that reflects the theme, Spiritual Motion. Writers, directors, actors, camera operators, costume and set designers, and sound designers are all needed.

MUSIC

Practice and learn songs to teach and lead during camp.

POWER POINT MEDIA

Design and create the PowerPoint slides to use with camp music and/or classes.



PRAYERS

Pray for the other campers, learn about prayer, and later serve as persons who pray publicly during whole-camp events.

SERVICE PLANNING

Help to plan and execute the closing service of camp.

SHARING THE MESSAGE

Prepare and share for the campfire challenges each night.

SOUND SYSTEMS

Learn how to run the equipment that keeps the sound systems up and running for services, classes, and other activities.

SPIRITUAL MOTION

Create ways to praise and affirm each camper throughout the week.

Camp Songs

BECKY'S CAMPFIRE SONGBOOK

http://dragon.sleepdeprived.ca/songbook/songbook_index.htm

MALAYSIAN EVERGREEN SCOUTS' CAMPFIRE SONGS

<http://www.geocities.com/yosemite/rapids/2013/>

SCOUTWEB SOUTH AFRICA CAMPFIRE SONG BOOK

<http://www.scouting.org.za/songs/>

FLYING PIGS

http://www.flyingpigs.org.uk/song_index.shtml

SCOUTING RESOURCES

http://www.scoutingresources.org.uk/song_index.html

SCOUTSONGS.COM VIRTUAL SONGBOOK

<http://www.scoutsongs.com/>

THE MACSCOUTER SONGBOOKS ONLINE

<http://www.macscouter.com/Songs/>

All-Camp Service Projects

Books

Building Partnerships for Service Learning
by Barbara Jacoby and Associates,
Search Institute

The Big Book of Service Projects

The Kid's Guide to Service Projects: Over
500 Service Ideas for Young People
Who Want to Make a Difference by
Barbara A. Lewis, Pamela Espeland; Free
Spirit Publishing

The Kid's Guide to Social Action by
Barbara A. Lewis, Free Spirit Publishing

Tween Time: Fellowship and Service
Projects for Preteens by James Wrede,
Leigh Gregg, Mark Bushor, James Ritchie
Jr.

101 Simple Service Projects Kids Can Do
by Susan Lingo, Standard Publishing

Since putting discipleship into motion is an emphasis of the camp theme Spiritual Motion, an all-camp service project would be a great way to live out this message. Such a project will require proper preparations! This may include permissions, supplies, and even transportation to another site.

Online Links

SERVICE AND EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS

<http://www.scoutorama.com/project/>

GOOD TURN FOR AMERICA PROJECT IDEAS & OPPORTUNITIES

<http://www.goodturnforamerica.org/ideas/>

SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECT IDEAS

<http://www.mssa.sailorsite.net/ideas.html>

YOUTH SERVICE AMERICA PROJECT IDEAS

http://www.ysa.org/nysd/nysd_projectidea_parent.cfml

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT IDEAS

http://www.downtoothers.net/teachers_corner/community_service_project_ideas.htm

1-800-VOLUNTEER.ORG

<http://www.1-800-volunteer.org>



NOTE:

All Internet Resources Subject to Change!

Games & All-Camp Events

Books

Everyone Wins by Sambhava Luvmour, New Society Publishers

Games for Change: Group Activities with Creative Spiritual Concepts on the Side by Tim Dodds and Lisa Prosser-Dodds, Wood 'N' Barnes Publishing

More New Games by Andrew Fluegelman, Shoshana Tembeck; Doubleday

More Team-Building Activities for Every Group by Alanna Jones, Rec Room Publishing

Quicksilver by Karl Rohnke, Steve Butler; Kendall/Hunt Publishing.

Second Cooperative Sports and Games Book by Terry Orlick, Pantheon

Silver Bullets by Karl Rohnke, Project Adventure

Team-Building Activities for Every Group by Alanna Jones, Rec Room Publishing

The New Games Book by Andrew Fluegelman, Shoshana Tembeck; Doubleday

Online Links

IDEAS FOR SUMMER CAMP ACTIVITIES & GAMES

<http://www.wilderdom.com/games/IdeasSummerCampActivities.html>

CAMP RESOURCES: MAKING CAMP EASIER

<http://www.campresources.co.uk/activities/Evening-Programs.html>

FUN-ATTIC YOUTH GROUP GAMES & IDEAS

http://www.funattic.com/game_youthgroup.htm

INDEX TO GROUP ACTIVITIES, GAMES, EXERCISES & INITIATIVES

<http://www.wilderdom.com/games/gamespecific.html>

JONATHAN'S, THE SOURCE FOR YOUTH MINISTRY—GAMES & ICEBREAKERS

<http://www.thesource4ym.com/games/>

NOTE:

All Internet Resources
Subject to Change!



COOPERATIVE GAMES

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/oxfordtours/games>

<http://www.coopsports.com/index.shtml>

<http://www.geocities.com/gsgreenneck/coopgames.html>

<http://www.gameskidsplay.net>

More Links for Camp Planning

Remember—
Youth Worker
Registration is
REQUIRED
for all adults
working with
children and
youth!

Copyright Issues for Movie and Music Use

MUSIC
www.ccli.com/

DVD/VIDEOS
www.ccli.com/
www.mplc.com/



Community of Christ
www.CofChrist.org

YOUTH-WORKER REGISTRATION
<http://www.cofchrist.org/legal/youth-worker.asp>

EVENT RELEASE FORM
http://www.cofchrist.org/child_youth/event-release.asp

American Camp Association
www.acacamps.org/

Canadian Camping Association
www.ccamping.org/

CAMP MANAGEMENT
www.acacamps.org/knowledge/

FOOD SERVICE
www.acacamps.org/knowledge/food/index.htm

HEALTH AND WELLNESS
www.acacamps.org/knowledge/health/index.htm

RISK MANAGEMENT
www.acacamps.org/knowledge/risk/index.htm

TRANSPORTATION
www.acacamps.org/knowledge/transportation/index.htm

CAMP HOT TOPICS
www.acacamps.org/hottopics.htm

CAMP STANDARDS AND ACCREDITATION
www.acacamps.org/accreditation/
www.ccamping.org/about/accreditation.php

PROGRAM DESIGN AND ACTIVITIES
www.acacamps.org/knowledge/program/index.htm
www.ccamping.org/staff/program_ideas.php

Planning Worksheet

Class or Event:

Leadership in Charge:

Day(s):

Time(s):

Location:

Supplies Needed:

Special Notes:

Class or Event:

Leadership in Charge:

Day(s):

Time(s):

Location:

Supplies Needed:

Special Notes: