

CAMP SUNDAY

Thanks so much for taking the opportunity of doing a Camp Sunday at your church! Camp is an amazingly influential opportunity that has proven to be a hugely successful way to reach out with an evangelical focus to young campers and to provide a great discipleship launch and steps for older campers.

Select from any of the features and elements below to create an experience at your church whether it's just a few brief minutes or a complete event.

Choose a Good Date – when planning the date consider the following:

- Local Spring Break schedules.
- The Early Bird Deadline for Camp (after May 1, price goes up).
- Easter April 5, 2015
- Other local factors that could impact attendance by your congregation or community.

Prepare the Space – no matter where your event is, be sure to provide some decorations that get people thinking and excited. The more exciting and unique you can make the space the deeper the impression upon those who are there.

- Have students/adults wear camp shirts and bring sleeping bags and luggage.
- Hang up camp posters and photos plus fill your video screens with camp photos and videos.
- Put a theme to your day such as the 2013 Camp Theme “Radically Different” that invites everyone to be involved regardless of their age.
- Place students as greeters welcoming everyone to the day.
- Have hand-out materials (camp brochures, registration forms, personalized materials, etc.).
- You can even have a clever little snack for everyone like, s'mores, as part of the day.

Plan Ahead – Start early in working on details for your Camp Sunday. If you're setting things in place last minute important things might be missed or have to be dropped. Work on your supply list way in advance. Make your copies of bulletin inserts. Get video equipment set and ready to show the Camping Video. Get photos from campers to share with others.

Plan Multiple Speakers – Different voices and perspectives will greatly enhance your effect and clarity. Personal stories of those who have been impacted by a week of camp through their experience either as a camper, counselor, staff person, or dean strengthen the experience. You may want to see if you have any donors in your congregation who may want to share their stories.

Call to Action – It's crucial to everything we do in the church; don't forget to put an action step into your day. We are an active society. We forget things if we don't address them right now. SO:

- Challenge the students to bring a friend with them to camp.
- Ask mom and dad to sign a camper up right there.
- Ask for a special scholarship offering.
- Ask those without children to give a brochure to a grandchild or neighbor.
- Ask everyone in the congregation to put a piece of paper in the offering plate with a number of how many students they want to send to camp to be introduced to Christ.
- Ask people to pray for all the campers, volunteers, staff, and deans.

Place Information in their Hands - No matter how you're getting students to camp, you'll just simply want to help put the information in their hand that can match your goals.

- Camping Brochure – provides introductory information for those unfamiliar with Camps or Christian camping. It gives a listing of camps-at-glance with calendar, location and cost details.
- Registration Forms – Form to sign up via paper or online
- Scholarship Forms – apply for tuition assistance from your church or the Camp & Retreat Ministries Camper Scholarship Fund.
- Create a Custom Flyer – If you're looking to promote a specific event, it may be best to create a custom bulletin insert or flyer.

Visuals on the Big Screen -

- Slides – have a slide projected on the screen each week until camp comes reminding people to register, dates, scholarship info, etc.
- Photos – download some camp photos to give a good idea of what happens at camp.
- Videos – Play the camp video to help introduce, create interest, explain, wow, or to display a single element of camp.

Camp Display - Set up a display area that lets your families know where to go and look for details as well as to ask questions (if you are capable of staffing it with a volunteer).

The Keys to Scholarship Fundraising -Many things today seem to cost too much. Utility prices are crazy, food costs are exponential, extracurricular activity costs keep expanding...Running a church costs money and camp operates just like a church. Stewardship is key and the camp staffs do everything they can with the minimal amount of resources necessary to make quality and effective ministry happen.

- The Camper Scholarship Fund provides from 5 to 50% tuition.
- Our partnering churches provide over \$25,000 in tuition assistance to campers.

If your church is looking to encourage people to attend camp, fundraising is an essential part. Check out some of the following fundraising ideas.

- Selling sub-sandwiches
- Having a car wash
- Having youth involved in a Bowl-a-thon
- Dinners
- Cookies by Design Fundraiser
- Sale of a variety of goods and/or services
- Auctions
- Community Car Wash
- Drive-in Movie Night
- Golf Tournament
- Recycle
- Flamingo Insurance (keep from getting Pink Flamingos in front yard)