

Promoting Church Camp in the Local Congregation

A "Time Line" of Events

February: Choose a liaison person to promote and recruit youth to attend camp as campers, and adults to attend as counselors. This liaison person might be the Pastor, someone on the Christian Education Committee, or it could be a youth sponsor, a Youth Director, Sunday School teacher, Associate Minister, someone who has counseled at camp or anyone who is truly excited about youth and what camp can do for them. As soon as camp schedule arrives, print in the bulletin or newsletter that the camp schedules are available. Also send a letter to parents of all youth who are "camp age," including camp dates and scholarship information. If local church has camp scholarship fund, consider enlarging it! If local church does not yet have camp scholarship fund, initiate one ASAP! Local church scholarships are first line of assistance. Regional camp scholarship assistance can be requested to complement local church assistance; contact regional office early.



Nominate a camp counselor! You may know an adult who is maturing in her/his faith, loves children and/or young people, is a good role model, and enjoys having fun, as well as helping others grow in Christian faith. That person might be a fine camp counselor! Please feel free to copy the enclosed Counselor Application Form, give to the person whom you'd like to see become a camp counselor... and ask that person to please complete the form ASAP and send to Carolyn Reed at the regional office. Sometimes first-time campers find comfort in having an adult from their home church on staff. Camp counseling is also good leadership education! Call if you have questions. Thank you for helping to "call" someone into this vital summer ministry! Show new "prospective counselor" VIDEO "Planting Seeds"; order from regional office.



March: Design and place a bulletin board about camp. Pinned to the board might be a brochure with a "please take one" sign. Have a "camp promoting" event at a youth meeting, with a campfire, singing, skits, games, cook-outs, vespers, and "testimonies" about camp or invite all the "camp-age" youth to attend a meeting on church camp. Invite parents to attend as well. Have those who have been to camp tell of their experiences and sing camp songs. **Show the camp promo PowerPoint on the CD.** Share with parents what percentage the local congregation will pay. During morning worship, at time of announcements, have a youth, who has been to camp, make an appeal to youth to attend camp. Show camp video!



April and May: Take the youth group on a picnic to Barbee Christian Camp or Bedford Christian Camp. Arrangements will need to be made with the Camp

Managers at Barbee, Terry and Jill Best, 574.834.4190, to attend Barbee Christian Camp or with First Christian Church, Bedford, 812.275.4497, to attend Bedford Christian Camp. Have a Camp Registration Sunday.

List different "blurbs" in the newsletter or articles by youth who have gone to camp. Use camp logo: see various sizes of "camera-ready" logos in this packet. Set a local congregation deadline for registrations to be in. There, of course, will be exceptions and some registrations may need to go in later. Many parents find it helpful to be aware of a registration date. Near the end of the month, contact those youth who have shared an interest in going to camp but have not turned in a registration. **IMPORTANT REMINDER:** **There is an "early bird" registration deadline for ALL camps on May 15. After that day, registration fees will be increased by \$25.**



June-July-August: Before camp, have a Commissioning Service during morning worship for all going to camp, whether campers or counselors. The week that youth are going to camp, list their names in the bulletin, along with the camp address. See if the liaison or pastor might write the youth while they are in camp: Barbee Christian Camp, 27 EMS Lane B-2, Leesburg, Indiana, 46538; Bedford Christian Camp, 33 Church Camp Road, Bedford, Indiana, 47421. Congregation members, including homebound, can be invited to pray for campers, staff, and experience!

Invite retired and/or home-bound church members to write letters to campers from your church. Writers can enjoy doing significant, appreciated ministry of "caring connection" with younger generation - who also enjoy, appreciate contact with adults other than parents!

Invite church members to pray for camps, conferences, and special opportunities, especially for campers, conferees, participants, counselors, directors, and camp staff members.

After Camp: After all youth have gone to camp, honor those who attended in some special way. Some churches present their youth with a special certificate from their church. Some congregations have a "camp recognition Sunday," which those who attended camp participate in the service and a few youth share some of their experiences. Sharing of camp experiences can also be done in classes or groups.