

Why Go To Camp?

To parents and youth leaders:

Camping is simple and basic outdoor living. It attempts to bring the camper into first-hand experience with nature, people - and through them - God.

Camping removes persons from their normal living patterns. It offers a change from regular life pressures, and at the same time, new challenges and adventure. For many, this adventure is spelled f-u-n! New places, new friends, and new ideas make room for fresh discovery and, again, for free-flowing fun.

Camps provide excellent educational settings. In camp, learning can be continuous and free from the many interruptions faced in daily life. The camp program surrounds a series of experiences that flow into one another and that build upon each other. Best use can be made of the rich resources of the environment and people involved.

What is unique about church camp?

Camping is an experience in Christian living, an opportunity to "live out" the Christian faith, rather than an experience of learning words or concepts alone. Church camping gives opportunity to discover the kind of natural setting of which the Bible speaks, and which was part of the experience of the biblical writers.

Church camping, whether "on-site" or special mission/travel/project "off-site," gives opportunity to experience a variety of the facets of living for a stated length of time in Christian community. But what do we mean by Christian community? Congregations are Christian communities and other kinds like camps can be as well. In fact, church camping is an integral part of the Church's ministry and therefore is essentially the same, in many respects, as other forms of Christian community. Here are some good reasons for going to Christian Church Camp:

Persons are provided with a living experience in a "place apart" over an extended period of time, and are enabled to explore God's story, to experience the vitality of Christian community, and to grow in the faith.

Church camping helps bring about the reconciliation, through Christ of oneself, to God, one's neighbor, and the environment. Through its program, persons are encouraged to discover who they are and why they are responsible for their communities and the world in which has placed them. With the leadership of responsible Christians, this community is challenged to experience lifestyles that serve as prophetic models for all God's people.

And so church camps are at their best within a close relationship with congregations and with the whole church.

"Why go to New Beginnings Camp?" (Completing Grades 2,3)

Because you'll only be away from home two nights and parts of three days! And while you are at this kind of church camp, you will meet a lot of new friends--and maybe some of your friends from your home church will be there, also! It will be lots of fun! And you can tell Mom and Dad that this will be a safe place.....and a good place to learn more about God, Jesus, and the Bible and what they mean to your everyday life!

"Why go to Young Disciples Camp?" (Completing Grades 4,5)

Because there will be a lot of other boys and girls there your age. Whether anyone else goes from your church or not, this can be a great time to meet new friends! Camp is a lot of fun; ask someone who has been there! And you can tell Mom and Dad that this will be a safe place... and a good place to learn more about who God and Jesus are....and what the Bible is.....and what all of this can mean in your daily life. There will be caring adults there, willing to listen to your questions.

"Why go to Chi Rho Camp?" (Completing Grades 6,7)

Because you can have a lot of fun with other young people your age, away from your "usual place and routine," in a different and special place called church camp! Camp will be a lot of fun...just ask anyone who has been there! There will be caring adults there, willing to listen to your questions. We'll read the Bible, talk about things most important to us, and learn more about who God and Jesus are... and how all this helps us deal with life and decisions.

"Why go to C.Y.F. Conference?" (Completing Grades 9-12)

Because you can have a lot of fun and enjoy the gift of this very special Christian community. You and your camp friends will have some responsibility for some of the activities, especially worship. Camp is a good place to ask questions really important to you, learn more about God and Jesus, explore the Bible, and see how this all fits together for your own Christian life... now and in the future. You will have both quiet time and lively time! Find out more about who you are!!