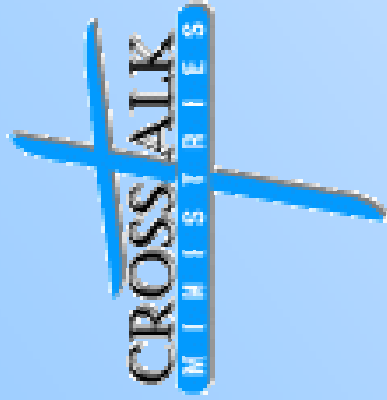


Day Camp Follow-Up



What Now?

Here are some ideas and suggestions for Day Camp Follow-up.

The following ideas have been collected together in this brochure to help you both in the immediate follow-up to the Day Camp Program and also to offer suggestions for achieving more long-term goals for Children's Ministry in your community:

- To maintain an ongoing awareness of God in the lives of His children;
- To reach out to the un-churched through creative forms of ministry;
- To continue a specific interest and excitement around the subject of Summer Day Camps.

We hope that parishes will use these guidelines, fitting them to the particular needs of individual communities.

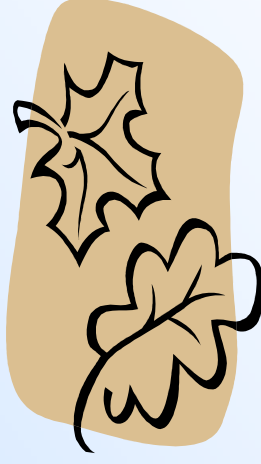
Right after Day Camp:

- Hold an evaluation meeting for all adults/youth who were involved in your camp. Make sure that you have an accurate phone/address, e-mail list of all those who participated in your Day Camp. The Coordinator should go over the list either with the committee and/or with those who work with the children of your Parish throughout the year e.g. Clergy/Sunday School Superintendent.

Junior Youth Group Leader etc... Decide whether follow-up information should go to all families on your list or only to those who appear to be un-churched.

- What is your aim in Follow-Up? Are you looking for ways to encourage children to come to Sunday School, new Church members, a strengthening of ecumenical ties through children's ministry, a deeper commitment of peripheral families who only resurface around Day Camp time, or all the above?

Choices will need to be made at your church before Follow-Up of any kind can be effectively directed.



Once you have decided upon your constituency, you can move ahead with the right kind of Follow-Up for your community.

- Send invitations/ or telephone families inviting them to Church the Sunday after Day Camp closing.
- Do you run a summer children's program every Sunday or are your summer services geared to whole family involvement? How about having a bag lunch picnic on the Sunday after Day Camp?
- Pair up families to contact each other.
- Currently active families could each be responsible for phone contact with potential newcomers.
- If you do not encourage children to come to church all summer it may be necessary to wait until your Sunday School re-opens in the Fall to make the initial Follow-Up. However, it still should be done as soon as possible.

In the Fall

The Day Camp Coordinator should be a part of the ongoing plans for Children's Ministry in your church. Usually there is some overlap between those involved in Day Camp and those involved in Sunday Schools/Children's Ministry. Plan to meet as one committee and look at the year as a whole.

Some events/activities to which you can invite new families need not be planned

as part of the Sunday School Ministry. Throughout the year there are so many opportunities for Intergenerational or Children's Events.

- ◆ Harvest Thanksgiving Celebration
- ◆ All Saints Party
- ◆ Jesse Tree Workshop
- ◆ Christmas Drama/ Pageant
- ◆ Jesus' Birthday Party
- ◆ Three Kings' workshop
- ◆ Ash Wednesday
(From Ashes to Hope)
- ◆ Lenten Programs
- ◆ Good Friday Walk
- ◆ Easter Egg Decorating
(Easter Saturday)
- ◆ Ascension Party
- ◆ "Welcome to Summer" Barbecue

Many of these events can take place on Saturdays, Sundays Afternoons, Weekday Afternoons or evenings and tend to be more "user-friendly" for those who are un-churched.

Throughout the Year on Sundays

Take a hard look at your regular worship services. Are they welcoming to children and new families? It's no use expecting Day Camps to bring new Christians into your community if your community is not willing to make some conscious changes to welcome children and young families into the Body.

Use children; use the gifts they have to widen your regular worship experience. The Creative Connection is designed especially to connect children into a



worship service. You can follow the creative connection plan as a model for ongoing worship services.

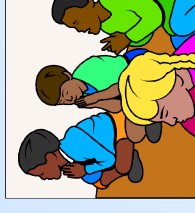
Plan to have a Day Camp Sunday at other times during the year. You can use your parish team members to lead in a Main Presentation for the whole Sunday School or think about inviting a Travelling Team Leader as a guest visitor (call the Crosstalk Office to find out more about this possibility).

Final Suggestions

- ◆ Have you thought of starting a Parent's Fellowship for parents of Sunday School and Day Camp children? A group like this meets several times a year for an evening program to support each other, worship together through singing and a short bible study, talk about upcoming activities which involve children and families, pray together and relax over refreshments. This group could meet at your church or in people's homes depending on numbers and logistics.

- ◆ Set up a birthday card list and send cards to all the campers on their birthdays.

- ◆ Divide the list of campers up among those in your congregation who have a specific ministry of prayer.



- ◆ Pray for those children by name, whether you ever see them again or not, those prayers will be answered in unexpected and often surprising ways.
- ◆ For more crafty suggestions, we encourage you to check out the Messy Church's Website: messychurch.org.uk



In preparing this leaflet, The Day Camp Planning Committee hopes that we have offered you a spring board from which to take off, in new ways as we continue,

"Helping people of all ages become strong disciples of Jesus Christ."