

Philosophy of Camping Ministry

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Our purpose is to glorify God through Christ-centered camping programs in connection with local churches. In unique out-of-door settings, the reconciling love of God is proclaimed that people may respond with commitment, demonstrate Christ's Lordship in their daily lives, be prepared for local and worldwide service, build relationships that cut across barriers, and heighten appreciation of their role as stewards in the created order.

OBJECTIVES OF MINISTRY

TO GLORIFY GOD THROUGH CHRIST-CENTERED CAMPING PROGRAMS

- To develop, promote, and conduct camping programs which attempt to have Christ at the center of everything.
- To view all activities as opportunities to learn Christian principles and demonstrate Christ-centered daily living.
- To provide camping programs without denying any person the opportunity to participate.
- To provide a concentrated experience with fewer distractions.
- To be excellent in all that we do for Jesus.

IN CONNECTION WITH LOCAL CHURCHES

- To utilize volunteers in order to involve an ever-expanding number of the body of Christ in ministry.
- To train volunteers from local churches in order to better enable them as ministers.
- To provide a mission which supplements that of the local church, which they might not be able to provide for themselves.
- To affirm local churches as crucial, and facilitate in the promotion, support and follow-up of camping programs.

IN UNIQUE OUT-OF-DOOR SETTINGS

- To experience the beauty and natural surroundings of our Lord's creation.

- To experience a new environment, away from one's normal setting.
- To meet people's need for adventure and challenge.
- To provide a wholesome and fun environment.

THE RECONCILING LOVE OF GOD IS PROCLAIMED

- To reflect a biblical base in all programs and teachings.
- To ensure that each camper becomes aware of Jesus Christ and what it means to be a Christian.
- To proclaim a personal message of reconciliation, reflecting the need for a personal response.
- To encourage creativity and relevance in the proclamation of the Gospel.

THAT PEOPLE MAY RESPOND WITH COMMITMENT

- To give the invitation of Christ (at each camp) and offer opportunities for response.
- To encourage personal commitment and response, in dependence on the work of the Holy Spirit, and not on human pressure.

DEMONSTRATE CHRIST'S LORDSHIP IN THEIR DAILY LIVES

- To provide opportunities for growth and application of Christ's lordship in their daily living and decision making.
- To present a realistic picture of Christ's Lordship; i.e. the cost of discipleship.
- To seek camp staff, paid and volunteer, who model Christ's Lordship in their daily lives and work.
- To help campers identify support systems and follow-up support away from camp.

BE PREPARED FOR LOCAL AND WORLDWIDE SERVICE

- To help campers discover and implement an attitude of servanthood: seeing needs and doing this in a Christ-like manner.
- To develop the desire to fulfill the great Commission.
- To develop confidence in God's support of those who serve Him.
- To help campers discover their unique skills and talents, and develop them to God's glory and service.

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS THAT CUT ACROSS BARRIERS

- To foster family unity and communication through play, worship, learning, and being together.
- To offer opportunities for intergenerational experiences, relationships, and interaction.
- To provide relational alternatives based on Christian principles in contrast to societal norms of sex, culture, race, and physical ability.

HEIGHTEN APPRECIATION OF THEIR ROLE AS STEWARDS IN THE CREATED ORDER

- To develop awareness of the grandeur of God's creation
- To examine our impact on God's creation.
- To develop an understanding of the meaning of Christian stewardship.
- To develop and maintain the camp as a visual and practical demonstration of stewardly management.
- To offer programs and activities which themselves model stewardly conduct.