

# Camping Director's Manual

**NEMC 2011**

The power of camping was expressed quite well by those who worked to bring together the first youth camp in 1928 at Camp Nauvoo.

*In camp, as perhaps in no other place, our boys and girls may learn to give and take in order that as a group they may successfully live together. The value of out-of-door life can hardly be overestimated. Away from the everyday life to which they are accustomed, in the new surroundings with new interests, and in different company, most boys and girls are usually sensitive to the finer things in life. Under these conditions a leader is able to get closer to the boys and girls than at almost any other time. A summer camp brims with realities. Artificialities seem to just drop away. Social barriers dissolve. Distinctions in dress, in financial status, and in personal importance cease to exist. There are real and satisfying experiences and sensations which soothe tired nerves and awaken new and unthought-of interests.*

—World Church Archives, 1928 Camp Planning Communications  
(<http://cofchrist.org/camphelps/default.asp>, accessed 11/30/11)

## **Table of Contents**

**Introduction and Acknowledgements.....p. 2**

**Philosophy.....p. 3-7**

Development of Spirituality at Camp, 3  
 The Purpose of Camping Ministry, 3  
 The Basics of Camping, 4  
 Allowing One's Best Self to Show, 4-5  
 Attitude, 6  
 Shaping Our Relationships, 6-7

**Planning Camp.....p. 8-19**

Your Campers: Who are They?, 8-9  
 Camp Planning Countdown, 10  
 Staff Roles and Responsibilities, 11 (Under construction ☺)  
 Budgeting for Camp, 11-13  
 Expense Reports, 13  
 Elective Class Suggestions, 13  
 Online Resources for Camping Ideas, 14  
 Sample Schedule, 15  
 Thinking About Staff Worship, 16  
 Camp Start-Up, 16  
 Sunday Night-A Bonding Time, 17  
 Closing Camp on Friday, 17  
 Closing Worship, 17-18  
 Camper Input, 18-19

**Risk Management/Safety.....p.20-23**

The Do's and Don'ts of Risk Management, 20  
 Guidelines for Higher-Risk Activities, 20-22  
 Youth Worker Registration-Introduction, 23  
 Youth Worker Application-Separate document

**Camp Winniaugwamauk Policies** (Under Construction)

**Camp Muddy Cove Status** (Under Construction)

**Introduction:**

Camping as a part of the ministry provided by the Community of Christ has faced many challenges over the years. One of these challenges has been providing adequate resources and training for directors and staff.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide a resource to guide directors in their preparation, planning, and delegation of responsibilities for camp. We know as a volunteer you do not have unlimited time to prepare, but every minute dedicated to camp before it actually begins will enhance your ministry and the blessings brought to the camp. By planning ahead, we provide intentional pathways for the Spirit to move and breathe... anything else done by God alone is a bonus! Not only will the youth benefit but also the precious staff.

Thank you for your dedication to the youth in the New England Mission Center. May God bless you and may your efforts be magnified in this adventure.

**Acknowledgements:**

Many of the thoughts and the contents included in this Director's Book have been copied from the Eastern Great Lakes Mission Center Camp Director's Manual that was assembled by Youth Minister Kevin Williams in 2010. This material has been copied with his consent and approval.

I have modified some wording, added sections that pertain directly to the New England Mission Center, and updated information provided by the Community of Christ headquarters offices. I thank Kevin for his hard work and vision in producing this manual.

# Philosophy of Camping

## **Development of Spirituality at Camp:**

Camping ministry has a rich history in the Community of Christ. We have traditions that have shaped our family and molded our children. The reason we participate in camping is to provide the opportunity for youth to experience Jesus Christ in a Zion, natural community. Each of us may choose to express this in our unique manner.

As we look at our participation in camp, we should keep in mind that our focus should be on the camper. The camper is number one. Our own desires and needs are secondary to the needs and wants of the camper. As staff and counselors, we should look at our role as that of a *servant minister* while at camp. As a *servant minister* we should be spiritually preparing for what the will of God may be for the camp and the campers.

Opportunities for spiritual development at camp are endless. Camp provides a unique opportunity for youth to learn how to pray, focus on prayer, find God, worship, make friends, and explore/experience the value and worth of community.

## **The Purpose of Camping Ministry:**

New England Mission Center Camping Program Purpose and Goals-

### **Purpose Statement:**

To provide an environment in which the teachings of Jesus are lived out and serve as the basis for a community where each person experiences love, acceptance, respect, and safety.

### **Goals:**

*To accomplish this purpose, the camping program will provide age appropriate activities, both formal and informal, to meet the following goals:*

1. Help the camper develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This will be accomplished through classes and worship experiences that stress connection to the spiritual aspects of life within each person, in the natural order, and through introduction to the worldwide nature of God's love.
2. Help the camper recognize and strengthen a self-image of worth and giftedness. This will be accomplished through activities that develop new skills and enhance skills already present and that provide opportunities for recognition and success.
3. Help the camper recognize and strengthen a sense of the worth of others and what it means to live in harmony with them. This will be accomplished through activities that stress teamwork and help build interpersonal relationships.

## **The Basics of Camping:**

Aside from the development of one's spirituality in a community of faith, there are many components that make a good camp. Like any good recipe, adding herbs and spices to the meal make it a more flavorful experience, yet, without the basics, we've got no meal. The purpose of camping is to provide an environment in which the basics are covered—anything we add after that just adds flavor!

The basics of camp are: to provide a safe environment, to encourage personal growth, to explore group building, and to pursue a clear goal together. Each of these basics is like legs under a table—to use another food-related metaphor. Without considering and planning for each of these legs, camp may be less stable than we wish and diminish the opportunity for spiritual development of both campers and staff.

**Safety-** A safe environment is the only environment that is acceptable at camp. Safety includes physical and emotional aspects. Rules, guidelines, and procedures are in place at camp that seek to protect, value, and respect youth and staff alike. This is our number one priority. Ensure staff realize the importance of protecting themselves by following all Registered Youth Worker guidelines. We hold precious lives in our hands.

**Personal Growth-** Discovering oneself as a person--one's unique gifts, strengths, and weaknesses; one's spiritual and intellectual formation, etc... In short, to come to terms with oneself as an individual: to be a "whole" person.

**Group Building-** Becoming a team. A community of love, trust, and acceptance becomes a place where you feel a part of each other and can minister to each other as the body of Christ. Discover the meaning of "koinonia" (fellowship). A camp does not become a camp merely by people occupying a campground together. It takes caring, sharing, forgiving, and affirming.

**Pursuing a clear goal together-** Staff and campers must understand quickly the goal of camp—to build community. Once understood, everyone can begin the more intentional and sometimes difficult task of building that community. Articulating this goal with conviction and clarity gives everyone equal opportunity to take responsible action toward sharing one's life with others. A clear goal also provides a stable and potentially successful camping experience.

## **Allowing One's Best Self to Show:**

The purpose of this portion of the director's manual is to get staff thinking about helping each camper to reach his/her full potential. Enabling means to pull forth from, to call forth, to allow to emerge, and to realize the potential of. By enabling, we can increase the chances of allowing one's best self to show.

If we consider a camper's potential to be an iceberg, we see that only a small portion of one's potential is seen at any given time. For many campers and staff, the rest

of the potential remains “under water”, hidden beneath fears, failures, broken dreams, painful memories, and guilt. This is where a camping program can be most successful.

In the company of sympathetic, caring, loving people, we are able to open up and talk about our hang-ups and fears as well as our hopes and dreams for the future. Instead of getting negative feedback from others, we get positive feedback—affirmation and enabling. Before we know it, the negative feelings we have begin to diminish and are overcome by love and trust through affirming and accepting one another.

All of us yearn for fellowship where we can feel oneness—wholeness of self and togetherness of Spirit in community—and call forth the best in each other. As we do this, we soon find we have to run the risk of being known. We often are afraid that if people find out too much about us, they will quickly reject us. This leads to showing a face that is not ours—engaging in small talk, telling jokes we don’t care about, filling the conversation with information that doesn’t matter. All the while, deep down inside, we are crying out for love.

Love is *a* result of trust we have in another. It comes when we are willing to let another person know us as we really are. Camp provides a truly unique opportunity for trust and intimacy. One of the best ways to bring a group face to face with their level of commitment to each others is to ask them to evaluate their experience according to the three levels of sharing: mouth-to-mouth, face-to-face, and heart-to-heart. The mouth-to-mouth sharing is simple conversations such as weather, sports, hobbies, books, sports, friends, etc... The face-to-face sharing is serious in that it is exchanging ideas and concepts. The heart-to-heart sharing lets the other person know where you stand in relation to ideas and how you feel about them on the inside. This is also referred to as communing.

It is easy for a small group to easily sit down and have a generic, typical conversation. There is nothing wrong with this; however, don’t expect real Christian community in this atmosphere. Koinonia happens when one person dares to say, “This is the way I feel, in all honesty. This is where I am... This is me... See me... Know me... I want to be a part of you and I want you to know me. I want to know you—deeply.” When this starts to happen in a group, watch out.

TIP!!! When one person in a group takes the leap and decides to share as described above, the group is under a real obligation as the Body of Christ to be the ministering servants to this person.

*Don’t interrupt.*

*Don’t probe.*

*Don’t give advice.*

*Don’t judge.*

Remember, to enable is to call forth the best in another person, to see the best in them, to affirm the best in the.

## **Attitude:**

Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference. A staff members responsibility is to remember at all times their direct influence on the campers' experience of camp. This includes a direct influence on the opportunity for campers to develop their own spirituality.

We should be enthusiastic.

We should be supportive.

We should work as a team.

We should lead by example.

We should focus on the camper.

## **Shaping our Relationships:**

One of the most impactful moments during camp is when a camper finds a friend. The development of quality personal relationships while at camp can be a huge indicator of success for staff, campers, and director(s).

One of the keys to a successful relationship is to understand the role of a camp counselor, even that of a youth minister. This involves representing God to campers and taking responsibility for campers in a manner similar to being their parents. Furthermore, it includes being a friend, but not a peer. Quality relationship involves keeping in balance these roles and knowing how and when to set limits and communicate that with campers.

### **The 1<sup>st</sup> Day Begins Shaping Our Relationships:**

Remember when you were a camper and you got butterflies when you were driven to camp. You were nervous, maybe excited to see your friends or to meet new ones. Perhaps you were scared. Those first few hours when the camper arrives at the grounds and meets the staff and other young people are critical for the success of the camp. Try to greet each camper individually as they arrive to register. Ensure they have assistance carrying their gear to the cabin. Greet and visit their parents or another adult who brings them to camp. Sometimes, a short visit with a camper's parents can tell you a lot about a camper and put a parent's mind at ease.

Try to learn the names of campers within hours, if possible. If possible, try spending some one-on-one time in conversation with each camper within the first day or two of camp.

Establishing the shape of the community- **SETTING THE RULES**- impacts how relationships are able to emerge and grow. Do this one the first day. Rules are non-negotiable items with specific consequences. Rules that effect the entire camp are usually provided by the camp director. Enforcement of rules within the cabin are often ties the responsibility of the camp counselor. A sample set of rules is provided in this document. Always be clear about the rules.

As best as possible, make a good first impression. The more prepared we are for camp, the more settled, calm, and composed we are when the campers begin to arrive. Good first impressions foster trust, and trust allows us to bring more effective ministry.

### **The Rest of the Week:**

Setting the rules, meeting new people, and making a good impression can be tough for everyone, campers and staff alike, but as we're doing this, we want to remind campers that we are at camp to have fun.

The week is going to be wonderfully hectic and planned chaos. This seems to be the most popular brand of summer camping, and we love it. Another important aspect of maintaining quality relationships is to catch kids doing something right. Reinforce positive behavior by telling the camper you're proud of him or her. When undesirable incidents occur, try to decipher between accidents and a pattern. We don't ignore any bad conduct, but there are situations in which we deal lightly in order to enable young people when more desirable behaviors occur. A pattern of unacceptable behavior becomes a matter of greater concern and interest. When helping youth take responsibility for their actions, let them know you're interested in how they behaved and what they did. Your job is to help the camper discover other ways they can handle themselves.

If the situation arises in which mediation is required, it can be difficult to know what to do. If campers are fighting or breaking the rules, set them aside and discuss the problem. There is not replacement for talking with a young person before doling out some extra KP or Bathroom Duty. Your counselors should be involved in many of these conversations. (Never be alone with a camper unless in plain sight.) It is important to remember that positioning counselors in the crowd at meals, classes, campfires, etc... will reduce the opportunity for conflicts to arise. This also creates a heightened sense of community as opposed to counselors in one circle and campers in another.

The role of a camp director is different than the role of a camp counselor. Your job as director is to keep a pulse on the heartbeat of camp. Accomplish this by frequently checking in with counselors, campers, and other staff. Find ways to enable your staff so that they can, in turn, enable their campers. Be a supporter and a cheerleader. Make yourself visible. Your role at camp is a serious one with a lot of responsibility, but there is still room for the development of relationships at camp. Prior preparation and delegation will give you the opportunity to enjoy the chaos of camp. Your relationship to campers will not be the same. You now have more authority than your counselors. Wear this responsibility and Own it. You are creating the framework for all of the wonderful benefits of camp!

Have fun and let it show! Make no mistake, the campers will absorb what they see, hear, and do. They will take it home. If you are enthusiastic from the first minute, the chance for their success is heightened. If you're having fun, you communicate that camp is fun and your campers will have fun, too.



# Planning Your Camp

## **Your Campers: Who Are They?**

With any camp, it is important to know your audience. While planning classes, activities, and worship experiences you should take into consideration the characteristics, abilities, needs, and desires of the specific age group with whom you are working. A brief look at each age group can be helpful as you plan your camp.

### **Junior Campers (Grades 3-5)**

Concrete Thinkers

Need non-symbolic objects in object lessons

Think in terms of facts, not feelings

Memorization skills heightened

Enjoy humor

Are energetic and active!!

Express awareness of sexuality

Prefer to be with members of the same sex

Eager to please whomever they are with

Like competition, team games, clubs and mysterious activities

Express affection through attention, positive and negative

Want Christian heroes

Make spiritual decisions based on facts only

Are able to understand and participate in personal relationships with God

Beginning to understand that God loves all people

### **Jr. High Campers (Grades 6-8)**

Enjoy non-verbal creative expression

Beginning to think more abstractly

Need structure and limits

Cannot handle too many choices

May have odd sense of humor

Like to explore what is funny

Have mood swings

Need successful experiences and achievements

Experiencing rapid, uneven growth

Increased independence

Self-conscious about appearance

Enjoy vigorous activity but are sometimes lethargic

Express confusion over sexuality

Experience is what counts

Developing sense of “right” and “wrong”  
 Like competition, team games, clubs, and mysterious activities  
 Express affection through attention, positive and negative  
 Increasing in ability to understand God as creator  
 Able to participate and plan in prayer and worship  
 Becoming more aware of God

### **Sr. High Campers (Grades 9-12)**

Can organize, evaluate, and make choices  
 Can verbalize and talk well in small groups  
 Want to use their talents and imaginations  
 Curious and want to know “why?”  
 Enjoy oddball ideas  
 Seeking recognition  
 Independent and can be rebellious  
 Intense and can have emotional outbursts  
 Seek acceptance from peers  
 May try on new identities or values  
 Experiencing rapid growth  
 Easily exhausted and need rest  
 Want more freedom  
 Want to share and develop friendships  
 Loyal  
 Need to practice Christian principles in a non-threatening environment  
 May reach out to others on their own  
 Can apply ideas from scripture study  
 Defining beliefs and convictions  
 May challenge beliefs of parents and others in authority

When you understand what each age group is capable of then planning camp can become easier. It is important to keep in mind the abilities, characteristics, needs, interests, and potential of the campers from age to age.

## **Camp Planning Countdown**

### **9 months out:**

- Determine the theme of camp—what is its purpose, objective, and/or goal?
- Begin selecting staff

### **6 months out:**

- Finalize staff selection—make sure all staff are registered youth workers
- Determine classes/activities for the week
- Establish camp budget with youth ministry coordinator
- Create a Facebook group or other social networking opportunity to communicate with staff and campers

### **3 months out:**

- Communicate duties/responsibilities to staff
- Gather information about any supplies that staff will need; Determine who will be in charge of purchasing any new materials

### **2 months out:**

- Youth ministry coordinator sends out registration information to campers
- Talk with your camp cook about purchasing food and determining a menu

### **1 month out:**

- Send letter to campers about your camp—communicate any special items they need to bring
- Send letter to staff—communicate your vision, goals, and hopes for camp. Empower and enable them. DELEGATE responsibilities. Staff is ready to work. Utilize their gifts and talents.
- Finalize all classes, activities.
- Make sure supplies for classes are in place or are being purchased/brought

### **2 weeks out:**

- Communicate again with staff, this time more individually—arrival times, expectations of the week, clarify any questions
- Plan staff worship and begin plans for 1<sup>st</sup> staff meeting

### **1 day out:**

- Staff meeting
- Staff worship
- Finalize cabin assignments as much as possible
- Set up for camp—all set up/physical preparation for the week should be completed prior to the arrival of campers

### **Day 1 of Camp:**

- Smile and Breathe. You've done your preparation. Prepare to enjoy and work.
- Pray!!
- Be available to greet each camper and their family as they arrive

## **Staff Roles and Responsibilities** Descriptions forth-coming! 😊

A successful camping program depends first and foremost on people. Camp is for the camper, but it is only as good as its staff. Dedicated and gifted individuals make the difference between a mediocre week and a great experience that makes youth want to return next summer! Or never leave this summer...

Camp Director:

Registrar:

Nurse:

Pastor:

Cabin Counselors:

Counselor-in-Training:

Camp Pray-er:

Camp Grandparent, Aunt/Uncle:

Class Teachers:

Camp Story-Teller:

## **Budgeting for a Camp**

Budgeting for a camp or retreat can be difficult and tricky at times. Our goal is to always run “in the black”. Always, the mission center fundraises in order to make this possible. It is important to remember that we NEVER turn away a camper because he/she cannot afford to come. We find a way. This often involves tapping into the generosity of our church community. Your friendly youth ministry coordinator can help with this.

The budget for camp is completely dependant upon the number of campers and the fundraising from the previous year. Camp registrations are \$130 or \$150 (Jr. High/Sr. High) and \$80 or \$100 (Junior) depending on when campers register. It is wise to work in coordination with your registrar in order to determine budgeting freedom and restraints for the camp. Knowing who is planning to come to camp, even if they have not sent in their registrations, assists substantially.

**Food** is the largest percentage of the budget by far.

**Campgrounds** have a fee for each camper. In 2011 this was \$5 per camper per day. For example, each camper cost \$30 at Jr. High/Sr. High camp. Each camper cost \$20 at Junior camp.

**T-shirts** are the 2<sup>nd</sup> most expensive budget item. These were about \$450 for Jr/Sr. High camp in 2011.

Generally speaking, ***each class can have a small budget.***

We want each teacher to feel free to ask for and have the items that will make for the most beneficial class experience. At the same time, teachers need to know we run on a tight budget.

Crafts generally gets up to \$75.

Recreation already has some supplies. They might get another \$100.

Other classes, like kayaking, drama, and drumming, have not required extra money.

***General supplies for camp*** (paper, markers/pens/crayons/whiteboard markers/etc..., glue, tape, name-tags, play-dough, etc... ) can be upwards of \$200.

***Canteen*** is included in expenses for camp. This is generally about \$200-\$300.

***What should we buy for Canteen?***

Here is a list of items that sold well... followed by a list of items that were left-over. These lists are from the end of camp 2011.

Be aware of peanut allergies when shopping.  
Also, get items that are individually packed.

#### Hot Items

- ✓ Vitamin Water
- ✓ Lipton Iced Tea
- ✓ Yoohoo
- ✓ Fuze (this is a drink)
- ✓ Chips (Get 2 boxes of Lays, 36 bags each)
- ✓ Goldfish (2 boxes, 5 packs each)
- ✓ Gum (5 3-packs, all sold)
- ✓ Tootsie Pops (1 bag)
- ✓ Blow Pops (1 bag)
- ✓ Kit Kat (4 4-packs... two sticks in each pack)
- ✓ Skittles, BIG TIME
- ✓ Starburst
- ✓ M & Ms (NOT peanut)
- ✓ Nerds
- ✓ Freeze Pops... to give away

#### Items that didn't sell well

- ❖ Gatorade
- ❖ Water (buy some anyway)
- ❖ Lipton Iced Tea
- ❖ Juice Boxes (Are these kids nuts? Juice boxes are awesome!)

- ❖ Capri Sun
- ❖ Trail mix bars
- ❖ Nature's Valley Granola Bars
- ❖ Smarties and Laffy Taffy
- ❖ Fruit Snacks
- ❖ Chocolate Chip Cookies
- ❖ Chocolate bars (these sell OK... not as well as the candy listed above.)

### **Expense Reports:**

Each camp needs to have a final income and expense report. In order to do this, your registrar will need all registration checks and cash and all receipts from purchases for the week. Expense reports should be finalized within one week of the end of camp. As director, you need to remind staff frequently to always provide you with receipts for their purchases. You may also need to track down those receipts to get them to your registrar.

### **Elective Class Suggestions:**

Below are a few suggestions for classes. Be creative. Work with your staff. Have fun.

- Crafts
- Camp log
- Cooking
- Campfire
- CPR
- Guitar
- Nature/Hiking
- Swimming
- Canoeing
- Knitting/Crocheting
- Service Projects
- Jewelry Making
- Basketball/Volleyball/Recreation
- Multi-Media
- Movie Making
- Scrapbooking
- Fishing
- Yoga

**Online Resources for Camping Ideas:**

[www.cofchrist.org/camphelps](http://www.cofchrist.org/camphelps)

[www.egadideas.com](http://www.egadideas.com)

[www.youthspecialties.com](http://www.youthspecialties.com)

[http://www.funattic.com/game\\_list.htm](http://www.funattic.com/game_list.htm)

<http://www.ultimatecampresource.com/games.htm>

When planning your camp, be creative. Have fun. Think of new ideas and implement traditions that have been around for years and continue to provide meaning and relevance and a sense of fun in community. Activities should be non-competitive and suited to any and all skill levels. If you have any doubts or questions about the safety of any activity please consult the Risk Management section of this manual or contact the youth ministry specialists.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE



## Thinking About Staff Worship

The intention of staff worship is to provide an opportunity to solidly ground staff at camp and in the Spirit of God so inherently resident on our sacred campgrounds. We remind one another that “where 2 or 3 are gathered”, God will be there. It is always important to acknowledge that each of us has come to camp with baggage of one sort or another. We use staff worship to either set this aside or give it over to God in a trusted community. The importance of staff worship cannot be overstated.

When planning a staff worship, consider the environment in which the staff gathers. Camp life is not intended to be fancy or over-done. Neither is this worship experience. Yes, be creative if that is your worship style, but above all, trust God to do the work. Finally, it is frequently beneficial to ask your camp pastor or theme class teacher to lead this worship. Here are some simple suggestions that have proven beneficial over the years.

- Opening Prayer
- Songs
- Opportunity to Share in some way and under an important theme
- A Focus Moment Object and/or
  - A Focused and/or Guiding sermon-ette
- Meditation
- Closing Prayer

## Camp Start-up- Once campers arrive

In order to make a great first impression, set up the guidelines of behavior, and put into words/practice your vision and hopes for the week on the *first day*, consider these aspects of a camp Start-Up gathering. Obviously, this gathering is mandatory for ALL staff and campers, perhaps with the exception of cooks who are making your first meal! It is important that the camp director’s voice is heard at this meeting. This will inspire confidence in your leadership. If you are uncomfortable with public speaking, ask others to help you, but make no mistake, you are in charge. Make this clear in your own way. It will pay repeated dividends. Here are some important elements in a Camp Start-Up.

- Welcome- Use this word “welcome”! Begin to Build Excitement
- Staff Introductions- Give them an opportunity to speak
- Class introduction and sign-up- Let class teachers intro their classes
- Rules\*- Sample list follows
- T-shirt Signing or camp-wide picture (depending on format of camp t-shirt)
- Chat: Remind them to “Make New Friends but Keep the Old”
- Swim Test

## **Sunday Night-A Bonding Time**

Sunday is the first day of camp. It is a day with great opportunity to set a tone for camp. We have always tried to set a tone of closeness and respect for one another. We try to set a tone in which everyone is listened to and for. We always introduce the theme on Sunday night so the campers and staff begin preparing for an experience that is spiritual as well as fun.

One way we promote closeness is through cabin groups. Developing closeness in cabins increases the likelihood of sharing with one another. This paves the way for intimacy and growth throughout the week. Do something on Sunday night that will foster this type of spirit at camp. The past couple of years we have had an Opening Ceremonies. You might want to consider something like this, but do not feel bound to this. Make it your own and the camps, whatever you do, for the good of all involved.

### *What have we included in Opening Ceremonies?*

- In Cabin groups, create a cabin name, flag, and song
- Present this to the entire camp
- Plan a camp-wide game/activity/friendly competition in which campers work with their cabin-mates.

## **Closing Camp on Friday**

Here is a sample Friday schedule... stick VERY closely to this in order to get cleaned up in time for a closing worship.

- 7:45 Polar Bearing (for the Junior age)
- 8:10 Morning Devotions (Sweep grounds and waterfront at this time)
- 8:30 Breakfast
- 9:00 Campwide cleaning Continues BEFORE cabin cleaning
  - Kitchen, Dining Hall, Bathrooms
- 9:30 Tabernacle, Craft hall, canteen
  - Depending on your cabins/work ethic make these assignments as you see fit.
- 10:00 Clean Cabins, Put “stuff” on deck
  - Directors MUST inspect each cabin with care-taker before the morning schedule moves along—i.e. before the closing worship begins.
  - Directors MUST look at other buildings as well before closing worship.
- 10:30 Closing Worship
- 12:00 Camp Closes, Parents Pick-up Campers

## **What does Closing Worship generally consist of?**

- 3 songs (Campers or Staff may choose these)
- Opening Prayer
- Slideshow of pictures from week / Camp video
- A question for campers to share with the group

- What makes you want to come back to this place?
- What has been the best part of this week?
- What is the most memorable part of the week?
- Is there anything you'd like to change about your life when you return home?
- What have you learned about God, friends, Jesus, church, life... you'll take from here?
- Who do you want to invite next year?
- Other...
- Signing camp logs/signature cards
- Hand-out camp t-shirt
  - Time for t-shirt signing if applicable
- Closing Prayer/Pastoral Prayer

## **Camper Input**

Campers nearly always get to provide input for camp, especially in this age of social networking and ease of communication and idea sharing.

There have been many opportunities for campers to give input into their camp experience. Sometimes this has happened with entire groups of youth, at retreats for example. Other times, select groups have been polled. Occasionally, individual campers/leaders have been asked. It's pretty safe to say that over the last three years, campers have been involved in EVERY aspect of planning and promoting camp.

At a Jr. High/Sr. High retreat in the winter/spring of 2010 in Freeport, the youth made a list of camp events/activities they like. Here is that list.

What "oldies" stay?

- Counselor Hide-and-Seek
- Greased Watermelon Relays
- Waterslide
- Shaving Cream Wars
- Airband
- Dance
- Talent Show
- Cook-Out
- Treasure Clue Hunt
- Water Slingshot
- Egg Toss
- Flashlight Tag
- Water-balloon Volleyball
- Pie the Counselors... perhaps based on points tallied for the week
- Canteen
- Mafia
- Dodgeball

- Recreation
- Community Service
- Camp-wide Capture-the-Flag

What are some “new” ideas?

- Laser Tag
- German Spotlight
- Raising money by promoting a dance for people in nearby town
- St. Bald-ricks’ Day
- Concert—Invite others

Some ideas from Summer 2011:

- At Reunion, a field day afternoon was suggested. If this were to happen at camp, it would be a natural/easy carry-over to Reunion. The youth could lead it at Reunion.

# Risk Management/Safety

## **The Do's and Don'ts of Risk Management!**

What kind of activities are allowed or not allowed while directing a camp? The Community of Christ has assembled, through the risk management program, a guideline that minimizes accidental loss. The guideline consists of both potential risks and techniques that better protect the church and its affiliates.

Some may think this is an optional guideline, however, we in the New England Mission Center do not. The youth are valuable to their families, their communities, and to us. Therefore, the church/we must make sure they are well taken care of.

From cofchrist.org:

### Guidelines for Higher-Risk Activities United States

Guidelines are presented here for church-sponsored activities that are deemed higher-risk. The expectation is that leadership will assume the needed responsibility to understand and implement these guidelines with wisdom and effectiveness. It is important that youth as well as adults have fun if it is provided in the context of care and safety.

### Activities that are Approved with Qualified Supervision

These activities are to be supervised by responsible, focused adults. Attempts should be made to anticipate negative behavior and try to prevent its occurrence.

- Canoeing
- Cycling (must wear helmet)
- Low Ropes Courses
- Pool Slides
- Rowing
- Slip and Slides
- Unenclosed Inflatable Obstacle Courses
- Water Trampolines

## Activities to be Contracted with Professional Companies

*Release and Waiver of Liability document is required for these activities*

To engage in the following activities, you must contract with a professional company that must provide a certificate of insurance evidencing general liability insurance covering their operations and **provide on-site supervision**. Their limits of liability coverage shall be at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 in the aggregate. Their insurance coverage will name the COMMUNITY OF CHRIST as an Additional Insured.

Note: An extension to this guideline would be when the group participates in one of these activities at the provider's place of business where the site has been carefully prepared to minimize injury and supervision and training is available from their staff.

If these guidelines are not followed and an accident occurs, the sponsoring jurisdiction will be responsible for the first \$10,000 of any loss paid or defense and claims handling expenses paid. Jurisdictions are NOT permitted to purchase an outside insurance policy to cover this potential exposure. Insurance coverage for any purpose within Community of Christ is acquired exclusively through the Risk Management department.

- Carnival Rides
- Dunk Tanks
- Fireworks
- Gyroscopes
- Horseback Riding/Pony Rides/Petting Zoo
- Judo/Karate/Martial Arts
- Kayaking
- Moon Walk and other enclosed inflatables
- Paint Ball Games
- Rock Climbing
- Scuba Diving
- White Water Rafting

## Activities Requiring Specific Expertise

Some higher-risk activities require participants to possess a significant degree of expertise and preparation before they safely participate in them. For these activities each group must be supervised by someone holding a current instructor's rating from a nationally recognized certifying body and/or have documented experience indicating specific knowledge and skill in teaching the activity.

Where it is difficult to supervise each participant, the instructor must prequalify each one who has sufficient experience to perform the activity independently. General supervision is to be provided these participants. All others must be directly under the watchful guidance of the instructor.

### (Activities Requiring Specific Expertise- cont'd.)

If these guidelines are not followed and an accident occurs, the sponsoring jurisdiction will be responsible for the first \$10,000 of any loss paid, or defense and claims handling expenses paid. Jurisdictions are NOT permitted to purchase an insurance policy to cover this potential exposure. Insurance coverage for any purpose within Community of Christ is acquired exclusively through the [Risk Management](#) department.

- Archery
- Cave Exploring
- Rappelling
- Sailing
- Snorkeling
- Snow Skiing/Snowboarding
- Water Skiing/Tubing
- Windsurfing

### Activities NOT Permitted

**The following higher-risk activities are NOT permitted on church property nor to be sponsored at any location by church jurisdictions.**

- ATV (four wheelers), Motorcycling
- Bungee Jumping
- Fencing
- Firearms Usage or Classes (including pellet guns, BB guns, and air guns)
- Hang Gliding
- Hot Air Ballooning
- Hunting with firearms, bow and arrows, traps, etc.
- Jet Skiing
- Jumping/Diving from Rocks/Cliffs (Rocks are defined as large stones in excess of 6 feet in height from the ground or water. Cliffs are defined as a high steep face of rock or soil in excess of 6 feet height from the ground or water.)
- Lawn Darts
- Nighttime Lake Swimming
- Nighttime Pool Swimming (without pool lights)
- Pool Diving (Diving boards are not permitted; existing ones MUST be removed.)
- Skate Boarding/Skate Board Ramps
- Skydiving
- Small Plane Riding
- Snow Mobiling
- Trampolines
- Ultra-Light Flying
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If a jurisdiction, camp, or congregation sponsors an activity listed in the [Activities NOT Permitted](#) section and an accident occurs, the sponsoring jurisdiction, camp, or congregation will be responsible for the first **\$50,000** of any loss paid, or defense and claims handling expense paid.

# Youth Worker Registration

## Introduction

Community of Christ is called to be a people who promote communities of joy, hope, love, and peace. As a church we continue to explore how this definition of faith translates into effective ministry in people's lives.

Contemporary scripture reminds us to support the most vulnerable, to live out justice, and to find ways to minister across cultures and generations. Within our Enduring Principles we find reference to valuing all (including children), receiving God's blessing in community, making responsible choices, pursuing peace, and understanding the sacredness of creation.

Since the 1980s faith communities have striven to come to terms with more and more allegations of abuse. Statistically child abuse is part of our church. As such it must be approached professionally and in all seriousness, with a rigor that should not be undermined or compromised. Standards must be in place within Community of Christ to protect ministry from allegations and the institution from legal action. But much, much more important is ensuring that children who come through our doors are safe. We must approach these matters with a compassion that expresses God's love and that allows healing in ways we have yet to explore

We intend that this policy will grow as we learn more about how we can protect our children further.

Protecting our children is not an optional code of conduct. **It is** an opportunity to live out our Christian stewardship in a practical way. By protecting those most vulnerable in our society, it becomes an opportunity to live out those principles of joy, hope, love, and peace.