

WHY CAMP?

It would be negligent not to highlight the value of Christian Camping. One should never underestimate the benefit the camp experience can have in the lives of those who attend camp. Many churches have put a lot of effort into making sure that as many can go to camp get the opportunity to do so. While the summer months provide some freedom from the regular school year routine, parents and youth leaders should work together to provide creative options for those youth who have a little more unscheduled time.

During the summer months, many worldly allurements draw our youth from focusing on God to focusing on entertainment, fun, and recreation. While summer is a time of relaxation and general enjoyment for teens and children, spiritual training must not cease during these crucial months. Every church should make it a priority to get all their youth to camp. It is also necessary to make sure every adult understands the importance of placing in the way of their children opportunities that challenge their spiritual walk with Christ.

There are several convincing reasons why teens and children should go to camp each summer.

1. Young people enjoy the opportunity to get away from home every once in a while. One can accomplish this goal by allowing them to attend an approved camp that will give a “break” from home but won’t return that young person worse than when he or she came.
2. Young people love to have a good time and really enjoy exciting programs. Camps can offer unique activities that can’t be done at home and offer programs that teens generally appreciate and find amusing.
3. Young people have a strong desire to develop relationships with their peers, and camp can be a good setting for these relationships to be encouraged. It’s good when young people see their peers operate in a Christian camp setting.
4. Young people need clean fun and recreation. (1 Timothy 4:12)
5. Young people are encouraged to respond appropriately as they live together in small group settings.
6. Young people need opportunities to get away from all the distractions of the world. As the minds and hearts of children are being attacked through the mediums of TV, music, magazines, computers, friends, newspapers, etc., we need to guard the eyes and ears of our youth by providing an occasional break from the barrage of negative influences.
7. It is the responsibility of every parent to place in the way of their children opportunities that will positively impact them for good and godliness. Camp has become a valuable tool families and churches have used in the lives of their young people.

8. When it comes to recruiting, hiring, and training summer staff, camps provide strong leaders for young people to pattern their lives after.
9. Young people need to be placed under the ministry of solid, reliable, and relevant Bible preaching that builds upon the previous messages heard the day before.
10. It is important to allow your young people to be under the care of individuals who are reinforcing the same values and truths they receive at home.
11. Young people need to experience unity in their youth group, and a week of camp helps accomplish this goal. A youth group is usually much stronger after a camp experience.
12. The youth pastor can have larger amounts of dedicated time to develop relationships with the youth from his church. As the week progresses, the youth leader can follow up with any decisions made by the teens and use the decisions as a basic for future discipleship activities.