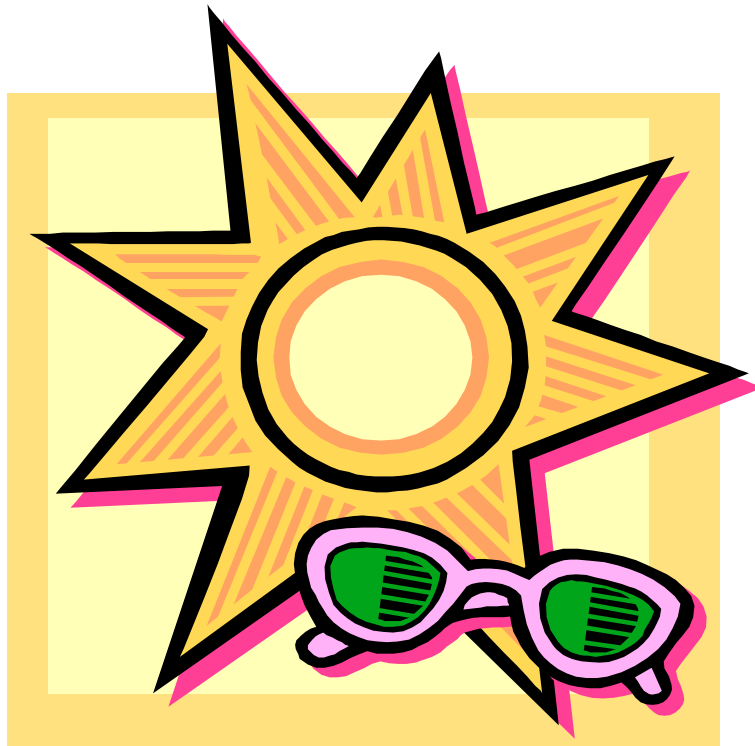


Camp Omega
Day Camp Program
2005



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Day Camp Program 2005

Our Mission

To partner with congregations in leading a congregation-based, five-day Day Camp program for children that enables participants to experience **God's Grace, Love and Guidance** through hands-on Bible Study, devotions, interaction with energetic camp staff, skits, games and other camp related activities.

Making an Impact Today!

1. Share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

One of our key goals is to clearly share the Gospel through all of our Day Camp activities. As a response to this Gospel, we will look at how God calls us to action and compassion. Worship, study, arts and crafts and recreation are all designed to make God's love come alive for children.

2. Work with the local congregation in reaching out to children during the summer months.

Strong encouragement is given to include neighborhood children and friends of members as well as children of the congregation. Day Camp can be an effective tool for Christian outreach.

3. Strengthen the congregation's ministry of Christian Education

Day Camp helps keep enthusiasm alive for learning and offers new ideas and leadership. Our hope is to help congregations more fully serve the children within their communities.

4. Meet the basic needs of young children by providing an opportunity to hear the good news of God's love, grow in Christian community, get to know committed Christian role models in the life of faith, and participate in healthy activities during the week of Day Camp.

Day Camp gives children a safe, loving environment for nurturing their lives in faith. The children are able to be strengthened in faith and knowledge of their Savior, Jesus Christ.

5. Build community among the youth and adults at your congregation

Day Camp volunteers are a great way to get adults and older youth involved with your congregation. The shared experiences of Day Camp are a fun and exciting way to build stronger friendships and communities

6. Introduce young children to Camp Omega.

A positive experience may influence children to participate in camp and church activities as they grow older, possibly as future church workers in the Lutheran Church.

What is Day Camp?

Schedule

Camp Omega Day Camp sessions are Monday through Friday. A typical session operates from 9:00am to 3:00pm Monday through Thursday, Friday 9:00am to Noon.

Staff

Camp Omega provides a four person Day Camp team of college-aged young adults who have been trained in how to effectively work with children, lead camping programs, and share their Christian faith.

Age-Range

Camp Omega Day Camp is designed for children who are entering the 1st through the 6th grade. It is not intended for pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten students. Some congregations have decided to lead their own programs for children at these age levels.

Activities

The daily program includes worship, music, Bible study, arts & crafts, and many different recreational activities. Whenever feasible the activities are held outside. The emphasis is on learning through doing and living – rather than just words. We believe that learning can take place through all types of activities – formal and informal.

Safety

One key to the success of Day Camp lies in Camp Omega's commitment to safety and quality programming. The camp's accreditation by the American Camping Association (ACA) and adherence to its standards helps the camp fulfill this commitment. The ACA requires Camp Omega to maintain a **ratio of 1:10**, that is, one counselor/Adult Volunteer to every ten campers.

Partnership with You

We want to work with your congregation to make Day Camp work. Our first link to your congregation is through your appointed Congregational Contact Person. The Congregational Contact Person is in direct contact with the Camp Omega staff and the congregation in planning and implementing Day Camp.

Field Trip Option

Many congregations have taken a field trip to Camp Omega! A day at camp typically includes swimming, games, pontoon rides, and lots more. Transportation arrangements for all field trips are the responsibility of the congregation.

Youth Night Program Option

Camp Omega offers the team of Counselors to the junior and senior high youth of the congregation on one of the evenings of the week (typically Wednesday). An hour program led by the counselors will consist of games, songs, Bible Study and campfire devotions. Minimum of 10 youth required to hold program – though we are flexible!

Family Night Program Option

Camp Omega also offers a Family Night Program to the congregations. The program is scheduled for Thursday, but is flexible to the needs of the congregation. Thursday evening could consist of a dinner potluck before the “Day Camp Evening Program”, put on by the Camp Omega staff and the Day Campers, or a dessert potluck afterwards, or whatever route you decide to take. These plans would need to be made in advance with the Camp Omega staff.

Responsibilities of the Congregation:

Congregational Contact Person The Congregational Contact Person works with the Camp Omega staff and the congregation to plan and help implement the Day Camp Program. The Congregational Contact Person is asked to be at the day camp site at all parts of the day and also line up any adult volunteers that may help out the Day Camp staff. They may also recruit adult or youth volunteers to provide snacks and help serve snacks and lunch.

Housing Secure housing for Camp Omega staff. We recommend that all counselors be housed in pairs or foursomes. Host families are asked to provide meals for the staff. This would be supper on Sunday night, three meals Monday - Thursday and Friday breakfast and lunch. The congregation will provide snacks and beverages for snack time and lunch.

Day Camp Site The day camp staff prefers a large, grassy outdoor area, so that the program runs and feels more like camp. A city park or playground within walking distance from the church works well if church is unable to provide an area. Bathrooms and shelter need to be readily available if not within walking distance from church. Immediate access to storm shelter, emergency phones, and drinking water are also necessary.

Adult Volunteers Congregations with more than 40 campers will need to recruit Adult volunteers to assist with Day Camp. The Camp Omega Staff will orient adult volunteers on Sunday night after their arrival. No experience necessary, only a love for children is required.

Youth Volunteers We Recommend Youth Volunteers! Older youth group members often make the best volunteers because they have a great connection with the children. We recommend one volunteer per 10 campers. **Volunteers should at least be High School age or older.** The key to good volunteers is maturity. Younger volunteers can be in charge of snacks in the morning and help with drinks for lunch.

Arts and Crafts The Day Camp team will be bringing all materials needed for arts & crafts projects, but may need additional **white tacky & Elmer glue, scissors and crayons**. We also recommend that the tables being used for Arts & Crafts time are covered with plastic if needed. If your congregation is unable to provide Day Camp with these materials, please call and we will prepare as needed.

Publicize Day Camp. To assure a full Day Camp, publicity is the key! When you sign up we will send a poster you can display at your congregation or in the community as well as a bulletin insert designed specifically for your church!

Weekly Schedule Summary

Sunday Evening:

The Camp Omega staff will arrive in town before supper (5:30pm). They will meet with the Congregational Contact person and Host families and settle into their living quarters. At this time until 7:00, families can provide supper for the staff. At 7:00pm until 8:00, the staff will meet with the Adult and Youth volunteers at the church and discuss the schedule for the Day Camp week.

Monday - Thursday:

Day Camp is held Monday through Thursday, 9:00 - 3:00 (and Friday, 9:00 - 12:00). Each day has a theme that relates to the main theme of the week. There are a variety of activities from worships, Bible Studies, songs, games, Arts and Crafts, nature activities, and other events.

Tuesday Evening:

Tuesday evening is set aside as the "night out" for the Day Camp team. This gives the team an opportunity to relax, see the sights, and spend time together. The team should not be expected for supper at host homes Tuesday night. Teams will be expected to return to host homes by 10:00 pm (they can return earlier if necessary).

Wednesday Evening Option

This is the preferred night to have an optional Junior/Senior High program. The program gives Junior and Senior High kids offers a night of fun and fellowship, with opportunities to participate and get involved in activities led by the Day Camp team.

Thursday Evening Option:

This is an optional time for the whole Day Camp to present a program for families, friends, and congregation members. The program is scheduled to run from 7:00 to 7:30. The campers and staff will share what they have learned and done throughout the week through songs, skits, etc. This event can also include a potluck supper, ice cream social, coffee and punch hour, dessert potluck, etc, arranged by the congregation.

Friday Morning:

The Day Camp program will run from 9:00 - 12:00 noon on Friday. This will be a time to wrap up the week, share a last Bible study time and have a final celebration and Worship. The Day Camp Staff will then be returning to Camp Omega Friday afternoon.

Planning Guidelines and Policies

Supervision The Day Camp Counselors will actively supervise each child during the Day Camp program.

Camper Pick-up Children are allowed to be picked up at the end of the daily session only by those authorized to do so. On the day of registration, the parents will fill out a camper pick-up form. This form will contain the names of authorized person(s) to pick up the child(ren). If a child is walking home, they can sign themselves out. This form will be kept by the Counselors during the camp week, and signed each close the day by the authorized person. T

Health Concerns All health concerns must be signed and submitted by parent or guardian for each child attending Day Camp. The Camp Omega staff provides health history forms. A FIRST-AID KIT must be on hand at all times, which Camp Omega will provide. We also have a medications box to place the medications in that need to be distributed during the actual day of camp. This box is locked at all times. All counselors are required to be both First Aid and child and adult CPR certified by the American Red Cross.

Field Trips Field trip arrangements are the sole responsibility of the Congregational Contact Person on behalf of the congregation. The Congregational Contact Person, in coordination with the camp staff, will arrange transportation for all campers. No camper may be transported without written consent from a parent or guardian prior to the field trip. Camp Omega will provide an authorization form.

Lifeguards Any field trip involving swimming or waterfront activities must be approved by Camp Omega's Day Camp Coordinator. One certified lifeguard or Water Safety Instructor is required for every 20 participants.

Severe Weather Plan A severe weather or storm and fire emergency plans must be in writing for each Day Camp site prior to the week of Day Camp. The plan shall be given to all staff (Camp Omega and all adult volunteers). The camp can help with developing these plans.

Fees

The cost for a Camp Omega Day Camp team is \$1625.00. This price includes 4 counselors, Art supplies, and all programming. Please remember that congregations with more than 40 campers must remain with the ratio of one counselor/adult volunteer per 10 campers.

How To Register

Here's how to register:

1. Review the material in this packet (responsibilities, costs, etc..)
2. Mail in the 2005 Day Camp Reservation Sheet as soon as you can.
3. Enclose a \$250 deposit
4. If you must cancel, the deposit is non-refundable after March 1.

After we receive your reservation sheet we will send out a:

- ? Confirmation Letter
- ? Covenant for Camp Omega Day Camp
- ? Camper forms and a variety of other necessary information!