

Information for Camp Boosters

Those who have a special interest in assisting the ministries of Covenant Harbor, Lake Geneva, WI and Covenant Point, Iron River MI.

What Does a Camp Booster Do?

- Pray for ministries, staff, campers, and guests of our camps.
- Publicize and promote the ministries of both camps by informing children, youth and adults in your church and community of all camping, retreat and conference opportunities.
- Identify potential new campers and give registration information to them. Follow up with those children and their families to make sure they understand the registration process and encourage them to send their registrations in early.
- Distribute and display all informational brochures, posters and registration materials to your congregation and community.
- Follow-up with campers after camp is over to learn about their experience. Ask questions: What was their favorite thing? Did they have any difficulties? What decisions were made? Have campers tell about their camp experience in a church service.
- Communicate to and cooperate with your pastor, youth pastor, church secretary and church leadership. Keep them informed and involved. Let them know how they can support you.
- Recruit church members who are excited about Covenant Point and Covenant Harbor to help you. Get them on your team to help with publicity, fundraising, summer registrations or sponsoring a retreat.
- Pass on the vision! Let your congregation know that Covenant Harbor and Covenant Point belong to them. Every person and every church has the privilege of benefiting from the ministries of our two camps.

Eleven Simple Steps to Keep Your Church Excited About Camp All Year Round

1. From January through March, place weekly reminders in the bulletin and newsletters regarding camp registration.
2. Create a camp bulletin board. Display posters and camp brochures.
3. Ask campers to share pictures of camp that can be put on the bulletin board for others to enjoy.
4. Have a Camp Rally.
5. Put up a list of registered campers and the weeks they are planning to attend.
6. Make announcements during church services. Periodically ask a camper to make the announcement or have some of them tell their stories and testimonies.
7. Visit Sunday School classes and midweek programs to talk about camp.
8. Make calls to families who are new to your church or to families whose children did not go to camp last year.
9. Follow up with campers and families after their week is over. How did they enjoy their time? What decisions did they make?
10. Follow up with groups who attend year round camp events. (Youth retreat, Men's or Women's retreats). Have them tell their stories in a church service.
11. Be sure any information that comes from the camp is distributed to all people who are or may be interested in the ministry of Covenant Harbor and Covenant Point.

Fund Raising

Each year Covenant Point and Covenant Harbor award scholarships to many campers. We want every person to have a chance to go to camp and we do not want money to be the reason that he or she does not attend. Contact either camp for details.

Many churches also provide scholarships funds to help kids go to camp. Some churches even pay the entire amount for anyone who wants to go to camp. Here are some ideas that will help you raise some funds for this purpose:

1. Have an auction. Sell just about anything from pies to items contributed by members of the congregation.
2. Provide a meal (spaghetti, baked potatoes, salad bar, chili etc.) following church. Some churches plan their congregational meetings around meals and this would be a good opportunity. Consider making the payment for the meal a free will offering rather than a set fee. You might end up with more money.
3. Take a special offering. Help people see the value of camp through camper testimonies, provide envelopes and have campers be the ushers.
4. Ask church leadership to give the loose change in the offering baskets to the camp fund. Be sure to put a note in the church bulletin to let people know that this is the plan for building up the camp scholarship fund.
5. Have children collect quarters in 1 inch wide pill bottles. Each bottle holds at least \$10.00.

How to Have a Camp Rally

1. Start with some singing of camp songs
2. Show one segment of the camp DVD
3. Play some games:
 - Snowball fight: Pass out old newspapers and have everyone wad the pages into balls. Divide the room into two halves. At your signal, begin throwing the 'balls' at people on the other side of the room. Stop frequently to count the 'balls' on each side of the room and award a point. At the end of the snowball fight, pick up the papers and see which side can make the biggest 'snowball'. Some masking tape may help hold these snowballs together.
 - Tug of war: Get a long heavy rope and make the sides even. This even works down the center aisle of the church!
 - Pictionary: Play Pictionary using camp images.
 - Name That Tune: Using 10 songs that were sung at camps in the last 50 years, play name that tune. Start with one note, then two, then three until someone is able to identify the song.
 - Volleyball: Divide into two or four groups and play volleyball with a beach ball. Team members must remain seated during the volley.
4. Show another segment of the camp DVD

5. Distribute 3x5 cards and have people write questions about camp along with their name and address. Look through the cards quickly to find questions that are of interest to all and answer them. Follow up on all questions with the askers after the program.
6. Share camp stories. Encourage campers of all ages to tell their favorite camp stories. You could guide this time to begin with light hearted stories then move on to stories of commitment to Christ. Close this time by dividing into small groups to pray for your camps.

Camp Rally Snacks

S'mores on a stick: No roasting required! Place two marshmallows on a popsicle stick, roll the marshmallows in chocolate syrup then in crushed graham crackers. The result is not quite as good as the campfire version but it's not bad!

Mini S'mores: Put a miniature marshmallow on a toothpick and dip it in hot fudge roll in graham cracker crumbs and serve.

Oven S'mores: Lay out graham crackers on a cookie sheet. Put one marshmallow on each and bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees or until slightly brown. Top with two squares of plain Hershey candy bar and another cracker. Serve immediately.

Fresh Baked Cinnamon Rolls: If your rally is in the morning and you can't face S'mores before noon, you might consider buying frozen cinnamon rolls and baking them in the church ovens. Follow instructions on the package and imagine the aroma when the people start to arrive.

Bake Sale Auction: Encourage all campers to bake a treat for the auction that will follow the Rally Program. Instruct them to bring the treats with them to the program. After the program, auction off the goodies for people to enjoy with the coffee and juice you provide. Any proceeds from the auction go to the camp fund.

Your Own Canteen: Buy a few canteen type supplies: small candy bars, pop, bags of chips, etc. Set up a table with a sign that says "CANTEEN" and sell the goodies with either camp dollars or real money that goes to the camp fund.