

# Effective Youth Ministry Free Resource

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Regards,

*Ken and Julie Moser*

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# Camp Preparation

Written by  
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# Camp Preparation

## Timeline

### **3-6 MONTHS BEFORE CAMP:**

- Choose and book campsite including mailing in the deposit.
- Book buses/transport if necessary.
- Organize people to cook (if the site is un-catered)
- Organize special leaders: speaker, camp parents, first aid, 'safety' staff for special activities (if necessary).
- Give dates to parents and the youth in your group.

### **2-3 MONTHS BEFORE CAMP**

- Confirm leadership team
- Send a reminder to parents of camp dates
- Begin to advertise
- Camp forms available to youth and parents.

### **4-6 WEEKS BEFORE CAMP**

- Have a leaders' meeting to set goals, provide any training (e.g. how to run a discussion group), allocate tasks, answer questions, pray.
- Organize any funds necessary for camp cooks.
- Confirm specialized leaders are organized and still available. Make sure they have everything they need (directions to camp, list of what to bring, times to meet).

### **1-2 WEEKS BEFORE CAMP**

- Confirm buses, campsite arrival times
- Camp forms and money collected from youth/parents
- Deposit all registration money or give it to church treasurer etc.
- Prepare discussion group questions

### **THE DAY/WEEK BEFORE CAMP**

- Print all material needed (these may include: registration list, booklets, schedules, discussion group information, nametags (if needed) etc.
- Provide list of names and emergency contact numbers to a church staff member.
- Last minute purchases.

# Preparing your leaders for the camp

## **Setting goals and desired outcomes for the camp.**

Spend some time together setting goals. A helpful way is to do two goal setting exercises:

1. Set some general goals (e.g. get to know youth better, grow in the faith, , unity, have fun etc.)
2. Set some specific goals (teach new songs, talking with specific youth, helping a new person settle into the group etc.)

## **Design a program to meet these goals.**

As you plan the camp, make sure your program actually meets the goals/outcomes you have set.

Spend some time learning how to run a discussion group.

Give camp parents instructions etc., on their role on camp.

Give cooks guidelines on cooking including number of meals, any special dietary needs, special events that may affect the type of dinner (i.e., you may want a pack lunch for a day hike).

Brief your speaker/chaplain about the group (including: age range of youth, spiritual maturity, helpful topics to cover, time limits and schedule for talks etc.)  
Also be specific on what you may need from the guest speaker: discussion questions, talk outlines.

*NOTE: Always give your speaker a private room on camp and do not give them any other role other than speaker/chaplain duties (i.e., they are not there to judge the 'talent show').*

## CHECKLIST OF ITEMS YOU MAY NEED TO BRING:

- Bibles
- Pens
- Flashlight
- Megaphone
- List of emergency family contact numbers for campers
- Printed notes (these may include: booklets, talk outlines, devotion sheets, discussion group sheets, cabin allocation list, discussion group list).
- List of names and family emergency contact phone numbers
- Food
- Equipment for activities
- Equipment for group meetings (these may include: computer and data projector, screen, white board markers, sheets of paper)
- First aid kit

Other items not listed:

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## OTHER RESOURCES FOR CAMPING:

See also, "Camp schedule" in "Free Resources" [effectivelyouthministry.com](http://effectivelyouthministry.com)

See also, "Hot tips for camp cooks" in "Free Resources" [effectivelyouthministry.com](http://effectivelyouthministry.com)

See also, "Tips for running a discussion group" in "Free Resources" [effectivelyouthministry.com](http://effectivelyouthministry.com)

See also "Powerpoint: End of day Compline" in "Free Resources" [effectivelyouthministry.com](http://effectivelyouthministry.com)

See also, "Instructions for camp parents" in "Free Resources" [effectivelyouthministry.com](http://effectivelyouthministry.com)