

# Camp Omega Day Camp Program 2010



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# Day Camp Program 2010

## **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, arts and crafts, as well as 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 and 9:00am to Noon on Friday.

#### **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.

#### **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. For the campers' safety and effective program implementation, we require a **ratio of 1:10, that is one Adult volunteer for every ten campers** for any Day Camps over 40 participants. Student leaders, whether junior high and high school aged, **do not** count as part of this ratio.

#### **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. We welcome the kindergarten students to participate in our opening and closing songs for each day.

Any 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are welcomed and encouraged to participate as a student leader, but do not count as the 10:1 ration mentioned above.

### **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.

### **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 Coordinator. The Congregational Coordinator 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, archery, 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

### **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. These plans would need to be made in advance with the Camp Omega staff.

## **Responsibilities of the Congregation:**

**Congregational Coordinator** The Congregational Coordinator works with the Camp Omega staff and the congregation to plan and implement the Day Camp Program. The Congregational Coordinator is required to be at the day camp site at all parts of the day. They are also responsible for coordinating the following:

- Recruiting Adult volunteers
- Recruiting Student Leaders who aid the Adults and Day Camp Staff
- Securing housing for the Day Camp Staff
- Organizing the materials and site for the week’s program
- Promotion

**Adult Volunteers** Congregations with more than 40 campers are required to provide Adult volunteers to assist the Day Camp at the safety ratio of one adult volunteer for every 10 campers if your Day Camp has more than 40 students. Camp Omega Staff will orient volunteers on Sunday night after their arrival.

**Youth Volunteers** We Recommend Youth Involvement! 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 but please note; youth are not included in the 10:1 supervision ratio.

Volunteers are needed in these three main categories:

1. **Registration Volunteers-** These adult leaders are responsible for registration and check in/out at the start and end of each day. They will also collect health forms.
2. **Snack Prep and Distribution-** These volunteers are in charge of making or preparing food for snack time. This may include food prep, distribution, and clean up. They will also organize lunch if provided.
3. **Supervision/Program aid-** These volunteers are readily available and integrate closely with the activities of the program. With larger day camps, they are required to help in discipline, encouraging listening skills, and leading groups to and from activities. Depending on their comfort level, they also are encouraged to participate or facilitate Bible study with the Camp Omega Staff.

We encourage youth groups and junior high/high school students to help in any of these areas. It is a great way to encourage community and build relationships across all age levels.

**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** There are a number of activities and games offered by the camp staff that requires a large open area. 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 with in walking distance from church. Immediate access to storm shelter, emergency phones, and drinking water are also necessary.

**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:**

Camp Omega staff members will arrive at your church at the time that you set for them (preferably around 5pm). At this time they can meet with the Congregational Contact Person, and, if possible, their youth and adult volunteers. Churches also have the option of having a Sunday night program in which a potluck could be held for the parents and children participating in Day Camp. The counselors could introduce themselves and possibly do some camp songs with the congregation.

### **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. Some congregations have invited parents and had a family closing celebration in place of Thursday night's program. The Day Camp Staff will then be returning to Camp Omega Friday afternoon.

## Planning Guidelines and Policies

**Supervision** The Camp Omega counselors can supervise up to 40 children during the Day Camp Program. Day Camps larger than 40 kids require Adult volunteers to assist in supervision for safety at a 10:1 ratio. Adult volunteers will need to be present to offer assistance to effectively implement the program..

**Camper Drop off/Pick-up** Children are allowed to be picked up at the end of the daily session only by those authorized. On the day of registration, the parents are required to complete a camper pick-up form at the registration table. 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 at the registration table. While the counselors supervise children as they arrive, it is helpful for the congregation to provide Adult volunteers to check in children at the registration table each day. At the end of each day, the counselors will continue leading activities until campers are picked up through the same process. This makes it possible for parents to efficiently check-in/check-out their children at one location.

**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 First Aid and 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 \$1725.00. 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.
2. Contact camp, by phone with your desired date.
3. Mail in the 2010 Day Camp Reservation with a \$300 deposit.

If you must cancel, the deposit is non-refundable after March 31, 2010.

4. Begin recruiting volunteers!

After we receive your reservation sheet and deposit we will send out the following items:

- Confirmation Letter
- Covenant for Camp Omega Day Camp
- Camper forms
- Promotional Material
- Volunteer Handbook