



Ideas to Promote Camping in Your Church



Celebrate Camp Sunday

- ❖ Have fun promoting this life-transforming ministry.
- ❖ When a pastor or key lay leader shares their commitment to church camp, it can be very effective.
- ❖ Focus on the goals and values of Christian camping during worship. Music, responsive readings, and sermons can all be effective tools for this.
- ❖ Invite a current or former staff member, youth leader, or board member to share the story of Camp Owaissi
- ❖ Involve past campers!
 - Select one or two enthusiastic campers from past summers to share their experiences at camp with your congregation.
 - Campers and parishioners could wear their camp t-shirts to church.
 - Campers could create posters, collages, banners, etc.
- ❖ Make a special appeal for individuals who would be willing to volunteer as youth leaders, camp parents, or camp nurses, and those who would help with other projects at camp.
- ❖ Call Camp Owaissi to request an ambassador to come for a Camp Sunday. Jessica will come as time allows.
- ❖ Form a special committee for your Camp Sunday. Help this group brainstorm a list of creative possibilities, then turn them loose to implement the best ideas.
- ❖ Designate a couple Sundays when people are at a table, before & after worship, accepting registrations. Make announcements and use bright signs.
- ❖ Involve experienced campers, counselors, program staff and directors in the Children's Message or a special Sunday School event.
- ❖ Personal testimonies, special camp stories and songs are especially helpful.
- ❖ Call the Camp Office for music and worship ideas
- ❖ Recognize those who have been involved with Camp Owaissi in the past: volunteers, summer staff, directors, board members, campers, etc.

Bulletin Board Displays

- ❖ Post the summer camp promotion flyers around the community in areas where children and families frequent.
- ❖ If your church had children, youth or adults participating last year, get photos from them to use for your display. You might also add notes, pictures, or craft projects, etc.
- ❖ Use the brochures to make copies of camping opportunities available by age.
- ❖ Display the camp brochures and event schedule in a prominent place.
- ❖ Make additional camping brochures available (Extras can be requested from the camp office).
- ❖ Post the Camp Schedule & Poster on bulletin boards throughout the church.

Use Your Church's Weekly Bulletin and Newsletters

- ❖ Give 2010 Camp Bulletin Blips to person in charge of Sunday bulletins.
- ❖ Give the 2010 Newsletter Articles to your newsletter editor.
- ❖ Have past campers write a short article, make a picture, or share a story about their camping experience and what a week of camp means to them.
- ❖ Promote camp opportunities to a different age-group each week.
- ❖ Provide information about scholarships and how to request or how to provide support.
- ❖ Develop your own promotional display.
- ❖ Promote the Camp Owaissi website, www.campoac.com , and Facebook Fan Page.

Talk to People

- ❖ Person-to-person is best! Talk with a prospective camper and/or parent. They tend to delay acting. Continue to encourage them!
- ❖ Personally invite campers and their parents to participate in the camp program.
- ❖ Encourage Grandparents to send their Grandchildren to camp.
- ❖ Visit your church's Sunday school classes, youth groups, etc.
- ❖ Ask your priest for a few minutes for you or a camper to speak during one or more Sunday worship services.
- ❖ Coordinate car-pooling for camps sessions to help working parents and to save gas.

Fundraising

- ❖ Provide information about bursaries and how to request or how to provide support. (Contact Camp Owaissi for more information)
- ❖ Consider planning a meal for your church to share on Camp Sunday to raise money for camp bursaries. Instead of Coffee Hour, have a bar-b-que and camp sing-a-long.
- ❖ Consider taking a special offering on Camp Sunday for bursaries or can be given to the camp for new supplies and equipment. Advertise and insert a special offering envelope in bulletins, designated for such purpose.

Special Events

- ❖ Plan a camp sign-up day. Invite parents and potential campers.
- ❖ Set a goal of how many campers you want your church to send to camp this summer – make a “thermometer” to show the progress being made toward your goal of camper sign-ups. (These campers do not have to be a part of your church. You can also send kids from the community)
- ❖ Pick a week (or weeks) for children and youth in your church or community to attend camp at the same time.
- ❖ Organize a trip to Camp Owaissi for a meal or worship service.
- ❖ Make a church goal for number of participants in Walk Owaissi
- ❖ Encourage parishioners, campers, and parents to attend the Strawberry Tea
- ❖ Gather a group of parishioners to help with the annual camp clean-up
- ❖ Plan a family camp weekend at Camp Owaissi to help acquaint the people in your church with the camp.