

The Values of Christian Camping

Rev. Michael Harvey – Executive Director, Seneca Hills Bible Camp

I have a passion for Christian camping! Over the years, I have seen first-hand, the incredible impact that Christian camping has on the lives of young people. Frankly, the value of sending kids away to be involved in camping experiences is incalculable. In my experience, it is at camp that students make major spiritual and life decisions. There is just something about getting kids out of their normal surroundings and into a camp environment that God uses so that kids can encounter Him in a special way.

Let me share with you some of the big reasons why I value Christian camping as much as I do.

Camp is Exciting

Camps are high-water marks in young people's lives. There's a sense of excitement as kids arrive, discover and experience their new surroundings.

Camp Removes Kids from the Rut of the Routine

Camping allows kids to break out of the usual routines and surroundings of life. Camps are usually found in beautiful locations, ones that have a more relaxed environment. Camps get kids away from the normal distractions that are part of everyday life. In a camp setting, kids tend to be more relaxed and feel at ease to open up and they can hear the voice of God more clearly.

Camp is Relational

Camps provide the setting where kids can develop new relationships as well as deepen existing friendships. Time can be spent away from the regular distractions of life—away from television, phones, Internet, schedules and meetings—just time to be together and interact and connect with one another.

Camp Opens Kids Up to Spiritual Reality.

In a camp environment, kids can be brought face-to-face with God Almighty. Over the years, tremendous numbers of students have made first-time commitments to Jesus Christ while at camp. I've seen it happen! At camps, I've watched countless kids make life-altering decisions—to surrender their lives to Christ, to get out of bad relationships, to turn over areas of their lives that they have been holding onto, and more. It's not that God speaks louder at camps; it's that kids place themselves in a position to hear his voice more clearly.

Camp Builds Leaders

Camp is an ideal nurturing environment for developing leaders for church and society. To build leadership skills, people must be given responsibility for others and be mentored in the process of ministering and leading. Camp provides an ideal crucible to test capabilities and expose weaknesses, and to sort out and prove a Biblical worldview.

Camp Builds Lasting Memories

Whether it is a life-altering decision, a significant conversation, or a certain activity, rich lasting memories are created at camps. Camps are full of new and varying experiences every day. These experiences turn into memories that God uses to profoundly impact kids' lives.



Seneca Hills

Bible Camp and Retreat Center