

The Value of Christian Camping

By Jim Burns, Ph.D.

I have a passion for Christian camping! Over the years, I have seen first-hand, the incredible impact that Christian camping can have on the lives of young people. Frankly, the value of sending kids away to be involved in camping experiences is incalculable. In my experience, more often than not, it is at camps that students make major spiritual and life decisions. So, all of the time, effort and energy that goes into selecting, financing and preparing to send your kids to camp is well used. There is just something about getting kids out of their normal surroundings and into a camping environment that God uses so that our kids can encounter Him in a special way. I encourage parents everywhere to send their kids to a Christian camp!

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

Going to 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.

Camps Get Kids Out of the Ordinary Routines of Life.

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.

Camps are Highly 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.

Camps Open Kids Up Spiritually.

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.

Camps Build 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 everyday. These experiences turn into memories that God uses to profoundly impact kids' lives.

Portions of this tip sheet were adapted from The YouthBuilder by Jim Burns and Mike DeVries.