

Why Church Camp?

by Gene McCoy

Every summer we urge young people to participate in church camp. Every summer we are disappointed when some parents allow their children to participate in every other kind of camp program (sports, 4H, cheerleading, etc.) to the exclusion of church camp. Why should church camp be at the top of the list of summer activities?



1. It communicates in real terms to your child that you really do mean it when you say that the Lord and His church are more important than anything else.
2. Your child will be in an environment where the Bible and its prescribed attitudes, behaviors, and disciplines are reinforced in every activity.
3. Bible memorization and knowledge gained there will forever influence your child's life.
4. Lifelong friends are sometimes made that may result in marriage, and will extend into eternity.
5. Many Bible college students make their decision at church camp to serve the Lord.
6. Personal interaction with missionaries gives young people a real appreciation for other cultures, for Christians who sacrificially serve there, and for worldwide evangelism in general.
7. There is no better value for your money than to send your child to church camp.
8. What your child learns at church camp will have a greater and more lasting benefit than what is learned at any other kind of camp.
9. In terms of serving the Lord and His church, church camp offers more practical instruction and experience.
10. There seems to be a definite correlation between attending church camp as a youngster and faithful service for the Lord in adulthood.
11. Your child is more likely to hear God's call upon his life and respond favorably to that call while at church camp.
12. Your congregation's youth ministry is strengthened as the young people share the camp experience and return home mutually challenged and accountable.
13. Your preacher and youth minister agree it is the most important investment of your child's time during the summer.

Are we suggesting that you should require your child to attend church camp, even if he would rather go to soccer camp? Of course not. Not any more than we would expect you to require him to

- eat nutritious food instead of the candy he wants
- attend school instead of going to the lake to fish or the woods to hunt
- brush his teeth and practice personal hygiene
- go to bed at a decent time on school nights
- learn good manners and practice common courtesy
- learn a good work ethic instead of sitting around playing video games all day
- read good books, watch wholesome shows, and occupy his time in activities with redeeming qualities instead of filling his mind with trash

Well, I suppose you get the point. Send your kids to church camp!