

Camp Sunday Talking Points

Preparation:

- Be sure to have enough brochures to hand out.
- Decide what camps to encourage if you want to attend as a group.
- Print Camper Registration pages and Campership Applications from the website to have available.
- Be certain that you understand how to register on the website so you can offer help if needed.
- Know how much the church will help to pay for each camper to attend camp – a dollar amount or percentage of cost.
- Know your church code if you are offering one. (Call the Central Camping Office at 855-622-1973 if you need a reminder – it will be the same as previous years.)
- **Plan to make it a fun day and presentation: Wear camp clothes, set up a tent/pretend campfire, serve camping food, etc. (See the *Decoration Ideas* on the Camp Sunday page on the website)**

During your spot in the Church Service:

1. Introduce yourself.

Include your connection to Dakotas United Methodist Camps - as an ambassador and camper, etc.

2. Why Camp?

- Camp connects people to Christ, Creation and Community
- Camp changes lives by helping people see and experience God in new ways.

3. Share *why* camp is important to you.

“Camp is important to me because...”

“I’ve always enjoyed camp because...”

“I can’t wait to get back to camp because...”

“One of the most important things I learned at camp was...”

Tell the group that all campers get to:

- Make new friends by meeting and having fun with lots of other kids from all over.
- Worship God, sing around a campfire and do fun camp activities like swimming, canoeing, archery, high ropes courses and more.
- Learn that God is always with them and loves them no matter what.

4. Hold up a brochure.

Tell the congregation that:

- There are multiple campsites run by the Dakotas-Minnesota Area United Methodist Camps:
 - **In Minnesota:** Northern Pines Camp in Park Rapids and Koronis Ministries in Paynesville, and KoWaKan Adventures near Ely.
 - **In the Dakotas:** Lake Poinsett Camp in Arlington, SD, Storm Mountain Center in Rapid City, SD, and Wesley Acres Camp in Dazey, ND.

- There are camps for all age levels, pre-kindergarten through high school, and there are even family and grandparents' camps, and events for older adults.
- There are specialty camps that focus on waterskiing, horseback riding, archery, sleeping in tree houses, music, drama, art, wizarding, gaming, rock-climbing, hiking, and wilderness survival. Different campsites offer different specialties.
- All our camps in the Dakotas and Minnesota are accredited by the American Camp Association, meaning that they meet standards for operation, quality, health, and safety. Only one in five camps nationwide achieves this distinction.
- Make sure that they get a Camp brochure before leaving church today – for yourself, and to pass on to friends.
- Let people know you'll be available after the service to answer questions, pass out brochures, and help with registration.

5. Funding is available for camp

(Be sure to have talked to your pastor and other church leaders about this in advance.) Let families know that the church understands that attending camp is important—so important that the church has money to help everyone go to camp.

Say: *“This year, each child can receive \$_____ to go to camp. And if families need additional financial assistance for the remaining cost, talk to me or the pastor and we’ll come up with a solution.”*

Camperships: Dakotas-Minnesota Area United Methodist Camps are committed to allowing anyone who wants to attend camp to do so, and that no camper will be turned away because they can't afford to pay. We provide scholarship funds, or “camperships”, to campers who need them most, based on individual and family needs. Our hope is that the individual's local church, personal funds, and other sources of support will combine with campership support to cover the registration cost for one Dakotas United Methodist Camp event of the camper's choice. Please allow enough time for this application to be reviewed prior to your camp experience. Don't lose your spot at camp! Please register before completing your campership application! [Here is the direct link to the campership application](#). More information can also be found on the [camp website](#) under the *Camp and Events* tab.

6. After Service:

Be available to hand out brochures, answer questions and help register for camp. Note that you can request a “Hang Ten” 10% discount for each new camper (*one that has not attended camp in the last three years) that registers from your church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Talking Points

1. Introduce yourself.

Say: *“Good morning, my name is _____.”* (Include your relationship to the church, your connection to Dakotas United Methodist Camps—as an ambassador and camper, etc.)

2. Tell kids about Camp Sunday.

Say: *“Today is Camp Sunday, and that means we get to talk about camp!”*

Ask: *“What is your favorite thing to do in the summer?”* (Wait for kids to share things like swimming, boating, camping, staying up late, sleepovers with friends, etc.)

Say: *“Well, there is a place where you can do ALL of these things...at camp!”*

Ask whole group: *“Who has been to camp before?”*

Ask kids who have been to camp to share with the group: *“What were your favorite things about camp? What did you learn at camp? What are you most looking forward to next summer at camp?”*

3. Share WHY camp is important to you.

“Camp is important to me because...”

“What I enjoy most about camp is...”

“I can’t wait to get back to camp because...”

“One of the things I learned at camp was...”

(Share some specific things campers get to experience where they sleep, activities available, the great food, the camp counselors, etc.)

Tell the group that campers get to:

- Make new friends by meeting and having fun with lots of other kids from all over.
- Worship God, sing around a campfire and do fun camp activities like swimming, canoeing, archery, high ropes courses and more.
- Spend time with fun adults who really care about you.
- Learn that God is always with you and loves you no matter what.

4. Pass out brochures.

Tell the group that:

- There are lots of different camping events throughout the summer; each event offers fun activities and an opportunity to learn about God and grow in faith!
- There are camping events for all age levels, pre-kindergarten through high school, and there are even family and grandparents’ camps!
- There are specialty camps that focus on waterskiing, horseback riding, archery, sleeping in tree houses, music, drama, art, wizarding, gaming, rock-climbing, hiking, and wilderness survival. Different campsites offer different specialties.
- Invite a friend or classmate to come to camp with you. Remember to request a \$25 Bring a Friend discount for bringing new campers who have not been to camp before.

5. Highlight some camps available next summer.

- Let them know which 2-3 camps the church suggests they attend.
- Make sure children know that ALL events include swimming, crafts, great food, s'mores, Bible study, campfires, and music.

6. Funding is available for camp. (Be sure to have talked to your pastor and other church leaders about this in advance.) Let the kids know that their church understands that attending camp is important—so important that the church has money to help everyone go to camp. Say: *“This year, each child can receive \$_____ to go to camp. If the amount left is still too much for the family to pay, let your Sunday School teacher, pastor, or someone else at church know. We’ll make sure ALL kids can go to camp.”*

Camperships: Money is also available through the Camping Office for those who can’t afford to go to camp. Applications can be found on the website in a drop-down from “Camps & Events”. Dakotas United Methodist Camps believes that every child should have a Christian camping experience, and no camper will be turned away due to a personal lack of funds.

7. Answer questions that kids have. If pre-planned, pass out your camp related snack, such as S’mores fixings, granola, trail mix, gummy worms for fishing, etc.

8. Remind children to take their camping information home to show their parents and share with their friends. Encourage them to go through the brochure with their families.

See you this summer at camp!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dakotas-Minnesota Area United Methodist Camps

Central Camping Office

122 W. Franklin Ave., Suite 400
Minneapolis, MN 55404
Phone: (855) 622-1973 (toll-free)
E-mail: info@dakcamps.org
Website: dakcamps.org

STORM MOUNTAIN CENTER

23740 Storm Mountain Rd.
Rapid City, SD 57702
Phone: (605) 343-4391
smc@dakcamps.org
www.dakcamps.org/storm-mountain

LAKE POINSETT CAMP

40 South Lake Dr.
Arlington, SD 57212
Phone: (605) 983-5547
lpc@dakcamps.org
www.dakcamps.org/lake-poinsett

WESLEY ACRES CAMP

1821 115th Ave. SE
Dazey, ND 58429
Phone: (701) 733-2413
wac@dakcamps.org
www.dakcamps.org/wesley-acres