

Service of Commissioning for Church Camp Staff and Campers

Consider doing this in your service the week before the children or youth leave for camp or at your early service as the camp registration time begins at 3pm.

Leader to Congregation:

Today our young people will begin a week of camp at _____ in _____. They will pray, read scripture, play, worship, study, hike, and participate in service to the church. These activities will foster a sense of community and belonging and will allow all to know the awesomeness that is our God. We gather today, to give thanks for the gift of community, the gift of church as the Body of Christ, and we praise God with thankful hearts.

I invite all those who

will be attending camp this week to come forward.

Leader to Campers:

As you leave for Camp, it is our prayer that it will be one of the most exciting experiences of your life. From the time of Abraham, Ruth, and Jesus, people have lived in the outdoors, searching for God. As you enter the camp experience you will develop friendships that may last for many years to come. But allow time also to be still, to listen, to be open to God's presence with you.

Your congregation sends you out with their love and we charge you with these responsibilities:

- to participate fully and openly in the life of the camp
- to listen gently for the word of God to be found and renewed in you
- to allow God to work through you to touch others and
- to bring back your learnings, feelings, and experiences to not only share with us, but to enrich your spiritual journey in life

Campers response: With God's help, we will.

Leader to Congregation:

I now commission all of you, as church family, with these responsibilities:

- to pray for the young people and their counselors by name each day they are at camp
- to accept with joy, their new learnings and excitement on their return to us
- and to allow them to nourish your spiritual lives

Congregations response: With God's help, we will.

Leader in Prayer:

Let us pray...

O God, your will is that all your children to grow into fullness of life, and so today, we offer these people to you.

We offer up blessings upon their ministry and their lives.

We offer you thanks for camping,

to teach us that the world is our great home;

for study and work, to build character;

for service, to see our responsibility to those in need;

for encouragement, so that we may remember that we are never alone;

for play, so that we may live into being your children.

Bless the work of the counselors and the directors this week and bless the campers, that they may be renewed and lifted up in your love.

May we share the gifts of your goodness with one another.

We pray all of this in your name. Amen

Congregation in song:

"Spirit of the Living God", "Blest Be the Tie that Binds", "Thy Will Know We are Christians", or "Sanctuary".

Benediction:

In our learning and our teaching, may we grow in service to others and in love for your world, through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen

(As people leave the sanctuary or parking lot, it might be a good time to give out **postcards** with the camp address already on it, and encourage the congregation to drop each camper a note!)