

Camp Commissioning Service Example #1

⌘ The Experience of Camp

⌘ Address to Campers and Volunteer Camp Staffs

⌘ Charge from the Congregation

We, the congregation of (church name), commission you with these responsibilities:

To participate fully and openly in the life of the camp!

To gently listen for the Good News of God to take form and be renewed within you!

To allow God to work through you during the week!

To bring back your new knowledge, feelings and experiences and share them with

us in forms of worship, service and leadership!

⌘ Camper's Commitment

We, the campers and staff going forth from (church name) to Summer Camp, commit ourselves:

To participate fully in the gift of camp!

To look for new ways God will be working through us!

To join with others in Christian Community!

To learn about the kingdom of God and our call to be peacemakers!

To celebrate and live in God's gift of nature!

To come back ready to share our new and renewed faith with others!

⌘ Charge from Pastor to Congregation

⌘ Unison Prayer for Campers

O Creator and creating God, we lift up all those going to camp. As our young people and our volunteer staff venture into the out of doors, let each one feel your touch and understand your spirit in new ways. Be with them as they experience your creation in the wind, the water, the trees, grass, and all the animals and bugs that live there. Give them openness and insight as they reach out to you and one another as they come together as your community of faith. Bless these campers with new friends, a closer relationship with you, and new understandings of their growing faith. Go with them, as you did Jesus, into the wilderness. Amen!

Camp Commissioning Service Example #2

PASTOR: (Addressing the congregation)

Each year as the summer approaches the excitement about participating in camp with other youth from around the region grows. The camps our young people go to are provided through the Central Rocky Mountain Region. This year we will have (# of campers) youth going out from our congregation to learn more about their faith in an outdoor setting. They will join a history of others like Abraham, Moses and Jesus who have gone to the outdoors in their search for God.

Will the young people who will attend camp this summer please stand? Now will the adults who are volunteering as directors, counselors or medical staff please stand and join them? The names of all participants are listed in your bulletin.

(Addressing the campers and counselors)

You will be going to camp this summer for one of the most exciting experiences of your life. You go to experience Christian community and to encounter God in new ways. This will be a time of fellowship and fun, but it will also be a significant time for growth and commitment to Christ. Allow yourself time to be still, to listen, to be open for understanding when God is ready to work through you to reach someone or for God to work through another to reach you.

LEADER: We the congregation of (name of church) charge our campers with these responsibilities. Would the campers join me in reading them?

CAMPERS: We will participate fully and openly in camp events.
We will listen for God's messages to us.
We will let the Spirit of God renew us during the week.
We will be committed to growing in and sharing our faith, and loving our neighbors.
We will seek to learn and grow as peacemakers in God's creation.

LEADER: Will the adult participants now join with the campers and read?

ALL CAMP PARTICIPANTS:

We will allow God to work through us during this week. We will bring back new ideas, feelings and experiences and share them with the church in forms of worship, service, and leadership. We will be open to the Spirit of God!

PASTOR: (Addressing everyone):

Because we believe in the value of the camping experience, we provide part of the camp fees for each camper who goes from our congregation. As we send you off, we the congregation promise to pray a blessing for each of you that you may find this camp a faith-growing experience.

Would you join me in prayer?

O, Loving God, creator of the outdoors and author of all life, be with these people during camp this summer. Know that our concern and love is with them. May their lives be enriched with new friends, new ways of relating and with new knowledge of You. In Christ's name. Amen.