

Responsive Reading – For All Who Come to Camp

Commissioning and Blessing of Summer Camp Staff and Campers

Voice 1: In a busy, fragmented world, camp offers people an opportunity to pause, to immerse themselves in the beauty of creation, to open themselves more fully to God, and to experience a Christ-centered, holistic, community life.

People: May our camps be places where people seek and find God's face in creation, receive God's love in Christ, and radiate God's Spirit in the world.

Voice 2: We are so grateful for the many adults and youth who will serve as camp staff this summer. This morning we ask for God's blessing upon them, and we offer them the support and prayers of their church community.

Voice 1: Our camps remind us of the beauty of God's creation and the interconnectedness of all life. God, bless these staff as they learn and teach the importance of living in right relation with all you have created.

Camp Staff: We commit ourselves to honoring the beauty and rhythms of creation, and to teaching others to live with respect and care.

People: We will pray for you in your ministry of caring for all of God's creation.

Voice 2: God, bless the staff as they practice discipleship, as they model Jesus' life and teachings for others. Guide them as they nurture and shepherd the campers this summer.

Camp Staff: As best we can, we will be Christ-like companions to all our campers.

We offer ourselves as God's eyes and hands and feet in our camps, so that God's love and grace may be made known to others on their journey.

People: We will pray for you
in your ministry of mentoring and caring
for all who come to camp this summer.

Voice 1: God, give these camp staff wisdom as they discern the spiritual, emotional and social needs of the campers they work with. By your grace, may these relationships and their relationships with each other be transformative.

Camp Staff: We offer our gifts and talents,
our energy and enthusiasm
to this camping ministry.

We, too, are on journeys of transformation.

As we walk, we will invite others to walk with us,
serving as your disciples.

People: God, bless these women and men
as they accept your call to camping ministry.

May your love be magnified
through the work of their hands.

May they lead and be led
in the journey that awaits them.

Voice 2: We, as a church community, join with these staff to support them during their camping ministry this summer.

People: We will pray for you
and ask God to bless your work and your rest,
the relationships you will build
and the solitude you will need.

May you sense the Spirit's movement
in and around you.

Voice 2: There are also many children and teens from our congregation who will be campers this summer.

Please stand if you will a camper this summer.

May these campers be filled with awe at your creation, may they be nurtured in their journeys of faith, may they experience healthy, strong relationships with each other and with the staff.

**People: Bless these campers, God.
May their weeks at camp be filled
with growth, adventure, faith, and fun.**

Camps with Meaning, adapted by Judith Friesen Epp (Canada), 2015. Home Street Mennonite Church
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