

VLM Camp Sundays At-A-Glance

Remember, the suggestions below are not set in stone. We realize that each congregation has their own Sunday flow and space needs. Our hope is to partner with your staff and volunteers to provide your church with the materials and the support to make an informed (and energized) decision to be part of your Outdoor Ministry.

Please use the suggestions below to put together your Camp Sunday!

Prior to Services

VLM Staff will arrive early to set up the camp display. It is our hope that we would be ready and available to greet people as they come into church. It is ideal to have one or two of the VLM Delegates and/or former campers also around the display at that time.

During Services

Unless we are meeting with the youth in a separate location, the VLM staff will worship with the community. The lead staff member (Executive Dir. or Program Dir.) will be available for any combination of the following during the service:

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| Announcements | Quick introduction of the staff, thank you for the partnership and support and recognition of Delegates. (2-3 Min) |
| Temple Talk | During the service, we will bring greetings and update the community as to what is happening at the camps and how they can be involved. The goal of the Temple Talk is to re-affirm the partnership and inform the families about what opportunities we are offering. (5-7 Min) |
| Children's Sermon | VLM staff lead the regular Children's sermon up in front before the Pastor's sermon. (4-5 Min) |
| Preaching on Text | VLM Lead Staff will deliver the message, based on the Lectionary and connect that message to the congregations partnership with Outdoor Ministries. |
| Communion | VLM staff are not ordained and will not be able to preside over communion without special permission from the Bishop of the Synod. |

After the Services

The VLM Staff will be around the narthex and fellowship areas to meet with members share brochures and information and answer family's questions.

Sunday school Presentation

2-4 VLM Staff will be available to lead the youth of the congregation in a presentation about camp. We are flexible and can adapt to the time constraints in place. The specific focus of the presentation will vary depending on the age of the youth involved, and may include:

Camp Songs (5-10 Min) more if needed

Camp Video (8 Min) (DVD Player and T.V. required)

Program Introduction (Geared toward ages present – May include a human sculpture presentation of the activities at camp, we also like to ask campers from the audience what they have enjoyed at camp.) (10-15 Min)

Questions from campers and parents about camp (5-10 Min)

If needed, all of this can be run by church volunteers if, for some reason VLM Staff would not be available.

Display Set Up

Location The intent is to have **a permanent VLM display** that provides good information and is in a good location, but does not take up the whole space. Narthex/Fellowship Area/Sunday School Gathering area – wherever it would get the most exposure. **During the camp Sunday**, the VLM Staff and Congregational Delegates would have additional information out and be present at the display.

Equipment For the Camp Sunday display: 1- 6' Table, w/ a 3-pronged plug nearby - with an optional space for a tent to be set up. We have an LCD projector that we use inside the tent to display photos of camp as people walk by.

Information

- Summer Brochures
- Who to contact at the church for details about programs or signing up
- Any information about specific dates that the congregation will be going together to camp.
- Forms and deadlines.
- Photos from past campers from your church.

If the congregation is running a camp Sunday themselves with no VLM Staff presence it is ideal to have as much of this information available in clear and concise packets so the families can collect and review the complete information, and then contact the VLM office to register.

CAMP SUNDAY CHECKLIST:

- Identify parts of Service/Day that VLM will be responsible for:
 - a. Announcements
 - b. Temple Talk
 - c. Children's Sermon
 - d. Preaching
 - e. Music
 - f. Sunday School
 - g. Meals
 - h. Other _____

- Contact VLM and get on the books **by Jan 15th** to secure your date and assure that we are available.

- Contact Pastor, Youth Director, past camper families and Camp Delegates from your church and discuss who will be able to help during the Camp Sunday.

- Announce the camp Sunday at Sunday school, in the bulletins and newsletter, during the service and with posters.

- REMEMBER – The purpose of the Camp Sunday is to get kids not only interested in camp but to get them signed up, or at least thinking about it. Having good information about which programs your are wanting to attend and the required forms available makes all the difference in getting them to sign up. PLUS THE BEST SALESPEOPLE FOR CAMP ARE THE CAMPER'S THEMSELVES.

Though it is our intent to have a personal presence at all Camp Sundays, if VLM is unable to be present at your Camp Sunday, we would be happy to sit down with your lead volunteers/VLM Delegates or Staff to help put together an effective plan. We will also be happy to help you put together a sermon if needed.

To receive more brochures, set a date for a camp Sunday, inquire about program specifics, or to schedule a week for your campers to come, please contact the VLM office in Cook, MN. We look forward to welcoming your kids, families, adults and staff to camp!

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