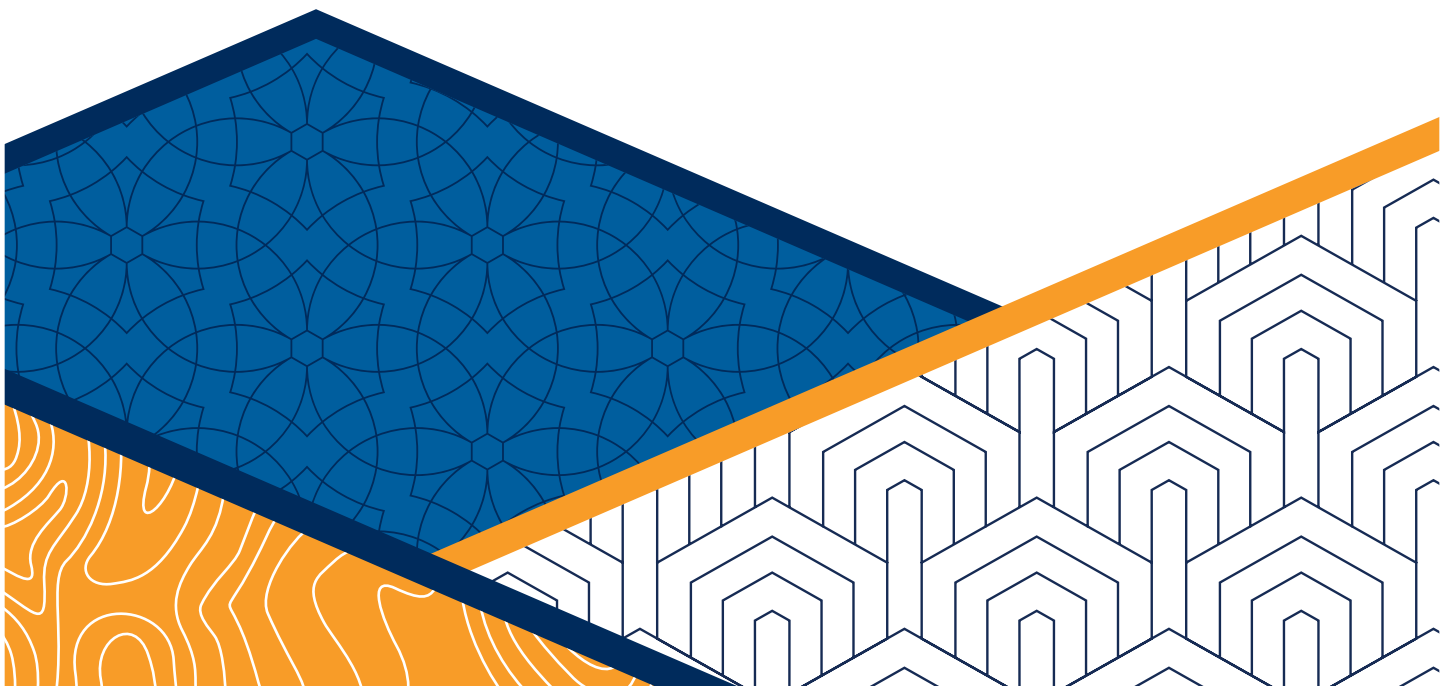




CAMPER COMMISSIONING SERVICE

By setting aside time in the service to recognize the youth and young adults who are going to camp, you're helping them mark the start of the transition to a strong faith experience.

Below are some ideas for ways that you can incorporate various rhythms into your sending service.





CALL TO WORSHIP

You can use this call to worship or tweak your own church's call to worship to acknowledge campers' experience.

LEADER: God calls us to embark on incredible voyages in order to live out our faith.

CONGREGANTS: Thanks be to God...

L: Our God is the all knowing I AM, and invites us to spend sacred time together.

C: Thanks be to God...

L: Our God is creative, and calls us to find our place within the diverse creation.

C: Thanks be to God...

L: Our God is present, and makes a faithful promise to be with us always.

C: Thanks be to God...

L: Our God is loving, and readily chooses to forgive us and encourage us in our faith journeys.

C: Thanks be to God...

L: Our God is holy and set apart from us, yet provides us with guidance and spiritual fulfilment.

C: Thanks be to God...

L: Our God is active, and sends us into the world equipped to respond to its needs.

C: Thanks be to God and We Will!

LITANY

You can use litany to pray for your campers' experience. Note how in the first line, you're naming the specific camps that the youth are attending.

LEADER: Holy God, we pray this morning for all of the camps of [Insert Camp Name(s)]. May they be ready.

CONGREGANTS: You call them to go!

L: We pray for the staff who work to be examples of your welcoming, gracious, unconditional love.
May they be ready.

C: You call them to go!

L: We pray for the youth who will grow closer to you with their questions and play. May they be ready.

C: You call them to go!

L: We pray for the adults who will have their faith journey strengthened. May they be ready.

C: You call them to go!

L: We pray for the faith-filled friendships that will be made and strengthened. May they be ready.

C: You call them to go!

L: Our God is holy and set apart from us, yet provides us with guidance and spiritual fulfilment.

C: You call them to go!

L: We give you thanks to you God.

C: Amen



SCRIPTURE READINGS

If you have a closer relationship with your campers' camps, find out their summer themes and/or key scriptures and incorporate them in the service as readings:

This summer at [Insert Name of Camp(s)], our Bible study is focusing on [Insert the themes of the camp session(s)]. These are some of the texts we will be using in our Bible study:

- Exodus 3:1-15
- Exodus 16:4-16
- Genesis 1:11-13, 1:20-2:3
- Mark 4:35-41
- Luke 15:1-7
- John 14:15-21
- List the bible study verses

BLESSING YOUR CAMPERS

Invite all who are planning to attend camp this summer to come forward during worship. Here is an example script you can adjust for your church:

Today we are excited to be sending these campers to [Insert Name of Camp(s)] for camp. We want to send them off with a blessing and prayer so that they know we support them.

You have each heard God's call to attend camp this summer. At camp you will experience God's love in amazing new ways by living in God's creation, meeting new friends and worshiping daily. As the Holy Spirit prepares your hearts and minds for this camp experience we want to pray with and for you.

Awesome, Ever Present God, You are with us wherever we go and send us to do fun, important, and life-changing things with you.

Today, we are celebrating and asking for your blessing over our campers. They are about to embark on a journey filled with adventure, fun, and faith formation that will help them grow closer to you.

Bless them this week so that all of their questions and seeking might be explored with your guidance.

Bless them this week so that all of their excitement and energy might be met with your joy.

(Here, name each camper individually): Bless these campers that they might adventure with you this week. Help them feel you close by as they explore who you are, and remind them that we are here, back home, praying for their week ahead. Help them know our love and our hopes for them this week. Bless our church, too, God. Bless us as we wait for our campers to return home prayerfully and patiently. Bless us so that we might be changed, just as they are, because of their week at camp and the stories they will share.



Do you, the members of _____ promise to pray for these campers while they are away and to support them as they return?

CONGREGANTS: We will!

Do you campers of _____ promise to be open to seeing and sharing God at camp?

CAMPERS: We will!

Then let all of us, campers and congregation, get ready to learn and share, as we go in peace and serve the Lord in the coming week. Thanks be to God as we respond all together...

PRAYER

Incorporate a simple prayer into your service:

God who creates and calls us, be with our campers as they learn about your calling to live out our faith. Let them be bold in their prayer and their play. May they learn new things from your Word and bring them back to share with us. May they know you are always with them. Amen.

OFFERING

Consider taking a special offering to give as a gift to camp or to contribute to a scholarship fund for campers.

SING "CAMP" SONGS

Ask your campers what songs they loved at camp and work to incorporate these into your service. Over 70% of campers come home singing the songs they sang at camp—it's one of the most "sticky" elements of camp and can help campers reengage with their camp experience.



EXPLORE MORE RESOURCES:
wheaton.edu/gftresources



This resource was created
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