

Ten Ways to Jump-Start Your Faith through Camping

Are the children you know fired up about God and excited to participate in worship? Are there adults in your church stuck in a spiritual rut? Your Michigan Area United Methodist Camps immerse campers in a Christian community that nurtures faith, while exploring the outdoors, making friends and growing as individuals. Camp offers a special and valuable way to grow disciples of Jesus Christ.

You want to support camp and send campers? Try these ideas. We'd love to hear your ideas, too!

1. **Target a Sunday School Class or Youth Group.** Meet with teachers, children's/youth ministry leaders. They'll want to help when they understand that campers bring their spiritual growth and excitement home to their church! Together encourage the children to make a year-long goal to go to camp. Help them pick a camp to attend together, bring the parents in early so it gets on their calendars.
2. **Have a Camp Sunday.** Show our video to the congregation. Sing camp songs. Have past campers give a short testimonial about how their faith and confidence grew at camp. Serve camp-like snacks (who doesn't love trail mix?). Use our bulletin insert to give more information. Ask for contributions to a camp scholarship or sponsor a specific need a camp. Our ongoing Changing Lives Scholarship fund helps keep camp affordable and enjoyable for everyone. Donate online at www.umcamping.org.
3. **Involve potential campers in a fundraiser.** Pancake breakfast, sloppy joe dinner, talent show, chili cook-off, rake-a-thon, get creative! While younger campers might not be able to organize big events, use their helping hands to pull it off. Their reward is a full or partial camp scholarship!
4. **Offer camp scholarship incentives.** Once camp is established as a common goal in your church, give scholarship "points" for participation, such as Sunday School and worship attendance, volunteering and doing community service.
5. **Look to the community.** We're called to be in relationship with others. Are you connected to a local school, youth club or other organization? Invite them to camp and offer to sponsor them.
6. **Gather adventurous adults.** Identify one of our adult trip camps (kayaking, canoeing, etc.) and find a small group of outdoorsy folks who want to try something new without investing in a lot of equipment. We had a small group travel from Oregon last year to go on our Adult Pictured Rocks Kayak trip!
7. **Create family traditions together.** Several camp locations offer 3-4 day family camp experiences, often over a holiday (Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day). All the fun and adventure of camp (swimming, hiking, campfires) without the fuss (we supply cabins and in many cases cook the meals)!
8. **Organize your own Family Camp experience.** Use our traditional RV/tent/cabin campgrounds or rent space at any of our camps and use their cabins. Bring your own programming or ask us for help. Cook for yourselves or have us do it.
9. **Bring a friend discount.** First-time campers get a \$50 rebate. For every first-time friend, classmate, neighbor, sibling that a returning camper recruits, both the first-timer and the returning camper get a \$50 instant rebate (up to the cost of camp). How cool is that? There is no church relationship requirement. Everyone is welcome at camp!
10. **Volunteer!** Consider adopting one of our sites for a mini mission trip in the spring and fall or see if you can make items they need like curtains or a small construction project.

CAMP CHANGES LIVES!