



# **CAMP MINISTRY SABBATH**

## **A Planning Template**

North American Division  
of Seventh-day Adventists

### **PLANNING THE SABBATH EXPERIENCE**

#### **PURPOSE**

To tell the 100-year-old story of “Jesus and Camp Ministry” throughout the North American Division...where it has been, where it is now, and where it is heading.

#### **PREFACE**

Each church family will want to determine the amount of emphasis they wish to place on this event celebrating 100 years of what God has done through the ministry that takes place at camp each year. Below are a few ideas that could be considered in planning for your special Camp Sabbath. Some may choose to have a short emphasis between Sabbath School and the Worship Service while others will do more, even choosing to make it a weekend experience at their camp. The choice is yours.

#### **SABBATH SCHOOL**

- Sing “Camp Songs”
- Tell about favorite camp memories, camp activities, and why

#### **WORSHIP SERVICE**

- Sing “Camp Songs”
- Include testimonies from former (or current) campers and camp staff
- Special Offering for “Campership Funds” (to assist young people in attending summer camp) or “Special Projects” at camp
- Hold the worship service outside (if good weather and at an appropriate location)
- Relate the history of camp ministry in your conference
- Make this a Special Baptism Sabbath for those who made decisions at camp – or – for those who were baptized at camp, make it a Special Baptism Recognition Sabbath
- Invite a special guest (maybe a year-round or summer camp staff) to have the sermon
- Show the 100th anniversary Camp Video

#### **FELLOWSHIP LUNCH**

- Serve camp food (haystacks, burgers and fries, cinnamon rolls, special camp dessert, etc.)

#### **SABBATH AFTERNOON**

- Intergenerational Conversations – Share “what was camp like when we were young” stories and memories of camp
- Go on an Outdoor Church Family Hike
- Have a special nature hunt (nature bingo, scavenger hunt, etc.)
- Do a Bible Quiz... ‘campers (children of that age) vs. Adults
- Table Talk:
  - What was your favorite activity at camp?
  - Where did you attend camp?
  - How much did camp cost, etc.

### **SATURDAY NIGHT CAMPFIRE**

- If foul weather, build a model campfire (with flickering lights covered with cellophane)
- Have S'mores & Hot Chocolate
- Sing campfire songs
- Tell campfire stories
- Have a game night or skit night
- Show movies, videos, slides, photos of when "you/they attended camp"

### **WEEKEND EVENT**

- Incorporate the above ideas into a weekend experience at your camp
- Participate in camp activities as family groups (archery, climbing wall, canoeing, etc.)

### **RESOURCES**

- NAD Camp Ministry Video – <https://adventistcamps.org/camp-history/>
- Guide Magazine 100 Years of Adventist Camps Commemorative Edition - <https://adventistcamps.org/camp-history/>
- Summer Camp Songs Through the Years – <https://adventistcamps.org/camp-history/>
- Local Conference Youth Department – Camp Ministries
  - *Statistics Page*: History of the camp, when camp began
  - How many campers have attended?
  - How many young adults have served as summer camp staff?
  - How many decisions for baptism have been made?
  - Any other interesting statistics
- Summer Camp Brochures

You will likely find some members of your church who have attended summer camp as a camper or served as a summer camp staff member.