

## HOW TO RUN SUCCESSFUL CAMPS

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### WHY CAMPING?

- Camps give you added time to interact with young people at greater breadth and at greater depth than what is possible meeting only once per week.
- Camps allow you to engage in “life” together with young people. They see you as more than someone who runs a weekly programme and you can interact accordingly.
- Camps allow young people focussed time to reflect on life and faith without the usual responsibilities and distractions.
- Camps allow young people to experience a greater sense of belonging and community than is possible when you’re only meeting weekly.

### PLANNING

- **Pray:** Look to God for help with programming and pray for individuals, firstly that they will attend and secondly that God would impact their lives through the camp.
- **Book a venue:** Find your nearest campsite here: <https://www.cccnz.nz/shop/#category=6569> or the Christian Camping site: <https://www.christiancamping.org.nz/find-a-camp-location>
- **Prepare a budget:** Set a price that balances expenditure with income. Fundraise and invite church members to assist those whose families will struggle to pay.
- **Choose a theme:** A camp allows you to explore this single theme from several angles which leads to greater impact and retention.
- **Set goals:** What do you want to see happen in your youth group and in young people’s lives through your camp?
- **Publicise:** Let young people and their parents know what is planned using a variety of means: electronic, written and spoken.
- **Plan a programme:** Start well with an activity that creates a sense of community and security. Find a balance between Christian input, fun and free time that suits your group and your goals. Consider inviting a speaker and allow time in small discussion groups for conversation and prayer. Plan a meaningful and appropriate way to finish your time together.
- **Enhance relationships:** Give careful thought to the makeup of cabins, small groups and duty groups. At times you’ll want to keep friends together but you may also want to make it easier for new friendships to be formed.
- **Evaluate:** When the camp is over, assess its effectiveness and make notes for future use.

### RESOURCES – HOW WE CAN HELP

- Check our CCCNZ resources page (<http://youth.cccnz.nz/page/other-links/>) for Bible study material you can use while on camp.
- Contact us about a camp speaker. Camps are a good opportunity for your young people to hear a different voice than yours.
- Finding camping is expensive? CCCNZ is partnering with Lichfield Lands to make money available to you for camps involving more than one CCCNZ youth group. Email us.