

WORLD SPORT MINISTRIES

CHILDREN'S CAMPS OVERVIEW MANUAL



'By sharing the Gospel with children, you inadvertently share the Gospel with the whole family.'

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OVERVIEW

Sports camps are a wonderful way to reach out to and engage with children and teens who love to play sport and are keen to learn new skills. A sports camp can be sport specific or multi sport based as well as including additional activities such as dance, drama, arts & crafts if desired. A good sports camp often includes a balance of sports coaching, character development and Bible based 'team talks' delivered in small groups.

VISION

IMAGINE... many children enjoying a multi sports activity event that occurs for a whole day or a number of days during school holidays. Picture trained volunteers from local churches and sports coaches engaging with the children and their families as they spend quality contact time with them. Children hearing about and receiving Jesus as well developing important character qualities as sports drills are linked to life skills.

What it can achieve:

A sports camp can reach and help disciple children like very few other projects. The quality and variety of sports to play and be coached in are appealing to children and parents, but unlike secular sports camps on offer, this type of camp, holistically develops the whole child causing many not yet Christian parents to be attracted to the love and care on offer from organisers as well the activities themselves. A child's sports skills can improve as well as effective experiential learning to develop character qualities such as courage, self control and confidence which are linked into written curriculums which fuel the sports coaching and the small group team talks where relationships between small group leaders and the children develop wonderfully over the allotted days.

MISSION

To reach children for Jesus and disciple them through a fun filled sports camp that also develops their social skills, sports skills and personal character.

LOGISTICS TO GET STARTED

Before any event, key planning and logistics must be figured out.

REMEMBER:

For a sports camp to be EFFECTIVE it must be RELEVANT to the culture that will be run in. There is NOT one camp that suits all.

(For example a sports camp run in Kenya will look very different to one run in the UK, which will look very different to one run in India.)



These are some key logistics that are good to resolve. You may wish to spend some prayerful time making notes in the space below or elsewhere.

1. Consider your VISION

(what you want to achieve) through running a camp.

2. Consider WHO you want to reach

(often children from 5-12 years old or teenagers from 13-17)

3. Consider WHERE you would run it

(A SUITABLE, SAFE and SECURE venue)

4. Consider WHEN you would run it

(School holidays are usually best, also consider the times of the day)

5. Consider WHAT a day/time on camp will look like

(What activities you will offer, daily curriculums/themes - SEE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, timetable, age groups for the children etc)

6. Consider making a TEAM

It is very hard to run a camp on your own. Who could you get to help? Consider local churches and individuals.

7. Consider HEALTH & SAFETY

This will look different from culture to culture, however in all cultures children are classified as a 'vulnerable people group' therefore appropriate measures must be taken to keep children safe. (Please note not all of the below will be relevant to you)

Things to think about: DBS/Police checks/working with children checks, First aid qualified individuals, coach qualifications, Public Liability insurance, staff training, child:adult ratios.

8. Consider the RESOURCES you will need

Remember you can run a camp with surplus resources and with the bare minimum. Here are some ideas:

Sports equipment (ideally age appropriate), goals, hoops or stumps for relevant sports, Plastic Cones, whistle

Admin equipment, Clipboards, pencils/pens First aid kit (in case of injury) Water & plastic cups for children

Ministry Resources: Camp curriculums, coaching curriculum, bibles, Sports ministry tracts, children's Gospel booklets, posters (Contact us for more information)

8. Consider DISCIPLESHIP

Have clear and intentional next steps to continue to disciple the children (and their families) after the camp.

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Sharing the Gospel of Jesus is (and should be) a consistent thread on any sports camp. The curriculums featuring daily character values' are focused around bible stories or biblical text. The 'theme' or 'daily character value' are introduced from the beginning of the day.

There are various ways in which the Gospel is shared on camp:

TOTAL COACHING: The character value is weaved into sports coaching and activity sessions. (e.g. theming a coaching session that integrates teaching character as well as a sports skill for example coaching passing and also the character value of generosity) *See Total Coaching manual for more information.

TEAM TALKS: Small-group based team talks or water break talks should be timetabled throughout the day, usually during or after a sport to give time to do a short bible study, prayer and discussions for children to go deeper. These work best in small groups of less than 10 children and work best if kept short/concise and interactive.

CONVERSATIONS: Through individual conversations with children and parents on arrival/departure to camp, at the edge of activities or at lunch time etc. DO NOT think any conversation is insignificant.



CONTINUED DISCIPLESHIP

Camps should have a great blend of Christian children and not yet believers, so every aspect of camp is a part of the disciple making process, whether it's towards Jesus or deeper into friendship with Him.

It is important to build strong links with local churches to help bridge children and their families. In addition the link straight into church maybe too big a step for some, so other discipleship 'events' should be considered to help bridge the gap between camp-church. Consider running after school clubs, community clubs, weekly/monthly sport sessions etc.

GROWING UP - An important area to also consider is what happens to children when they grow up and get 'too old' for camp. Consider having teenagers serving on camp as 'Young Leaders.' A brilliant partnership in which they are a helping hand on camp and they get coaching and 'working with children' experience.

TESTIMONIES

'5 of my team gave their lives to Jesus today. It was an incredible moment.' - Leader

'An 8 year old girl just told me how she had read the Sports New Testament she had been given to her on the previous camp, four and a half times since the last camp.' - Coach

'My child came home and seemed almost like a different child. There were more confident and seemed so much more peaceful.' - parent

'I wish my school could be like this...' - Child (age 6)

'A mother of one of the children spoke to me in the car park. She subsequently gave her life to Jesus and prayed the prayer of salvation. She recently got baptised with one of her sons at a partnering local church.' - Leader

'I wish more people knew about Jesus' love. I'm going to tell my friends at school about Him...' Child (aged 7)

ACCESSIBLE RESOURCES

As well as this information pack World Sport Ministries have many others available. Check them out in the 'RESOURCES' section on the website.

- Youth Sport Leadership
- Sports Tournaments
- Detached Sports Ministry
- Total coaching
- Festivals & Family games
- Sports events (quiz, breakfasts, screening)
- Health & fitness
- Proclaiming the Gospel in Sport

In addition, we can provide accompanying resources to run a sports camp such as: curriculums, score sheets, team sheets, activity sheets and ideas and much more.

WHAT NEXT

Pray!

Nothing good can be achieved unless it is in-line with God's will and he is part of it.

Team!

Form a team of sports-minded people around you who share a common vision, can spread the workload and can increase your network and impact in your community.

Training!

Get help and training - World Sport Ministries can also provide you with any help and training (face-to-face or online) to run any number of events.

Please contact us if you would like more information or to receive training.

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