

# Campership Program Guide For Churches



Live It!

## **“Campership?”**

A Campership is a financial scholarship that aid with cost (in part or in full) of a camp event at Jumonville, Camp Allegheny, or Wesley Woods. Currently, each of the three camps raise money to distribute as Camperships to those who need financial assistance. However, each year there are more individuals that apply for financial assistance than the camp funds can support. As a result there are some youth who are unable to attend camp because of the financial burden to their families.

Your congregation can help us make sure that everyone who wants to attend summer camp and strengthen their walk with Christ, gets the opportunity to do so. You can do this by establishing a Church-level Campership Program. When congregations make an active commitment to give their youth and adults a life-changing adventure at camp, they are showing their dedication to the faith development and spiritual journey of its members.

Beginning a campership program at your church is a simple process that you will be guided through in this document. Soon you will find that this ministry is a part of the DNA of your church.

# Motivating the start of your churches campership program

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## **Determining how camping fits into your churches ministry**

The first thing to establish is WHY your congregation would benefit from having a Campership Program. Like any ministry, if the need for it is not clear, then it will struggle.

SUGGESTION—Start by asking current and previous campers about their camp experience and how their time there impacted their walk with Christ. Also, start conversations with parents about their child's experiences at camp and ask them how the church could support their family's faith goals for their children. And don't forget that your campership fund can extend beyond your church walls and into your community.

## **Creating a passion for this ministry**

A congregation's most fruitful ministries are ones in which every member feels is important and has a passion for.

SUGGESTION—This sense of passion can be ignited by simply informing your congregation on what camping is all about. Invite youth to share their experiences at the beginning of each Sunday morning worship for a month. You could also have a representative from one of the camps come and talk about the camping ministry.

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## **Giving the tools**

There is an unlimited number of ways to fund a campership program. Below are a few of those ways listed for you, but use the gifts of your congregation and encourage members to share their ideas for raising funds and then give them the tools to carry out their ideas!

- Sign-up to be a part of the Clean Closets for Campers project through the conference camping office.
- Many churches will set aside a portion of annual mission budget for this purpose.
- Some churches will have a program that allows individuals to sponsor a particular camper. This can also be set up as part of a larger campership program.
- Many times, small groups within the church will take on this mission. For example - a Sunday School class will hold fundraisers, the fellowship committee will hold a special dinner or event, or the youth group will hold a walk-a-thon, etc. All the funds raised will then go into the campership fund.
- Other churches will dedicate the offerings that are collected during Sunday School, throughout the year, to the campership fund.

These ideas can be combined together or used as supplements to other fund raising ideas that your congregation may have!

# Encouraging Giving

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## Promotion

There are many ways to get the word out about the new Campership Fund that your church has started. A great way to promote donations toward your campership fund is through a brochure. An example of a brochure that you can personalize for your church is available on the camping webpage ([wpaumc.org/camping](http://wpaumc.org/camping)).

When promoting your program remember to add some stories of those who have benefited from your campership program in the past. You may also want to include talks about camping and the campership fund before or after Sunday morning worships. There is also a PowerPoint that you can personalize for your church on the camping webpage.

Along with this information are examples of promotional material that can be downloaded and personalized from the "Church Resources" page of the camping website ([wpaumc.org/camping](http://wpaumc.org/camping)).

## Distributing Campership Funds

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### Qualifications

Deciding how to distribute the funds is usually the most difficult step in this process. All churches have different qualifications for receiving campership funds. Below are a few ideas, but it is up to your church to decide who receives funds and how much is given to each camper.

- Some churches distribute funds to registered campers who are active in their Sunday school program or youth group. (you have to decide what "active" means)
- Some churches distribute to any person who is registered for camp and has their membership at that church.
- You can also use your campership fund as an outreach ministry and encourage community youth to attend camp through the aid of camperships.
- Others will give funds to any person who is registered for camp and is a relative of an active member (grandchildren, etc).
- Most churches try to disperse ALL the funds in that particular account each year, which we recommend.
- Funds can be given out equally (example—every registered camper receives \$150 toward their camp registration fee)
- Funds can also be distributed based on a percentage of the camp fee (example—each camper receives 50% or 100% of their camp registration fee)

Again to whom and how much is distributed is something that each congregation does differently and should be based on the needs and goals of your church.

### Request Forms

No matter what path you decided to take in the qualifications for your campership fund, there is one thing that we suggest should be utilized. That is some sort of request form. Request forms allow you to better keep track of those who are attending camp, which events they are attending, and what their need is. There is an example of a request form that you can personalize for your church on the camping webpage. If you decide to create your own form, we suggest having at least the following information included:

- Name and contact info of the camper and their parent/guardian
- The camp and event they are attending
- The deadline for submitting the request form. Keep in mind—if the full cost of a camper's event is paid by May 1st, you will avoid the \$10 registration fee.

# Getting it where it needs to go!

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The individual camps offer assistance in the administering of your campership fund program by offering a simple streamline option for churches.

- Inform the camper of the amount of the campership. He/she then subtracts that amount from the total registration cost of the camp.
- The church can at any time send the following directly to the camp that the campers is registered at:
  - A list containing the first and last names of the campers receiving a campership and the amount each camper is receiving.
  - A single check for the total amount of camperships that are being awarded.
- At the end of the summer each church will receive a list of all the campers who attended summer camp from that church, and an indication of the balance due for each one. At that time, you can send in a campership check if one was not already sent. This also verifies the actual attendance of the campers.

