



Throughout the North American Division, Seventh-day Adventist Summer Camps provide an integral building block in the spiritual development of children and families. Through the summer camp ministry, individuals are given opportunities to learn new activities, make new friends, and develop a closer walk with Jesus. Each summer, thousands come to our camps and make lifelong decisions to follow Christ or to be baptized.

But what happens when they leave camp? How are these decisions that were made at camp followed up with once the camper returns home? How are these decisions followed up with while the camper is still at camp? Given the important nature of following up with spiritual decisions made at camp, below are a series of questions we hope and pray will aid in your planning. As you think of ways to be intentional regarding camper follow up, please know that this list is in no way comprehensive.

While these considerations are designed with summer camp in mind, they can also be applied to other year-round camp ministry events. It is our prayer, that through our efforts and only through Christ's grace, many will be in Heaven as a result of summer camp ministry when He returns.

### **Questions to consider when you're developing your follow up process**

#### **Pre-Camp Planning**

1. Do you have a goal/mission statement for your summer camp ministry?
2. How will you develop a week-long intentional programming that will lead to the desired decision of the camper?
3. What decisions will you have your campers make at summer camp? Some examples would be:
  - a. Bible study
  - b. Prayer
  - c. Baptism
4. Have you created a plan for the follow up process with decisions made at camp?
5. Which decisions that are made at camp, will be followed up during the camp season?
6. How will you or your summer camp staff be involved in your follow up strategy, to lead campers in making a decision?
7. How will a camper indicate their desire to be baptized?
8. What requirements, if any, will you establish that will need to be met before a baptism will be performed at camp?
  - a. Completed Bible studies
  - b. Parental/Guardian permission
  - c. Pastoral approval
  - d. Others
9. How would you communicate and encourage collaboration in this process with:
  - a. Pastors
  - b. Parents
  - c. Administration

**Camper follow-up on decisions made at camp:**

1. How will campers express their decisions (card, altar call, raised hand, etc.)?
2. Who will be involved in the decision process? Camp Director? Counselor? Program Director?
3. How would you organize the follow up? (e.g. Jotform, UltraCamp, Google doc, paper system, etc.)
4. What is an appropriate turnaround time to get the cards into the hands of either the pastors and/or parents?
5. Do you have a dedicated staff member during or after camp that can follow up on the decisions made at camp (Summer camp staff or year-round staff)?
  - a. How often will the follow process happen?
  - b. Are you keeping track on when you have reached out to either the pastor/parents-guardian?
  - c. Are you keeping track of if/when the camper becomes a baptized member?
6. Will you celebrate when a camper becomes baptized?
  - a. How will you celebrate if it happens at camp?
  - b. At the local church?
7. Who will be able to participate in a camper's baptism that happens while at camp?
  - a. Camper
  - b. Parent/Guardian
  - c. Pastor
  - d. Church family
  - e. Staff and other Campers
  - f. Others
8. Do the campers/parents have a resource list such as baptismal studies/bible studies to continue their spiritual growth?
9. How will parents be greeted upon their arrival with those campers who were baptized at camp?
  - a. Picture of their child's baptism?
  - b. Flowers?
  - c. Baptismal certificate
  - d. Written congratulatory letter from director of next steps to welcome camper into membership within the world-wide church of the Seventh-day Adventists.
10. How will a camper's decision be celebrated while at camp? How about once they leave camp?
  - a. Will you have a care package for those who make decisions for Christ at camp? Bible?
  - b. Will you have the local church help in celebrating a camper's decision once they leave camp?

**Campers who decide to be baptized at camp and seek membership within the Seventh-day Adventist Church:**

1. How have the parents (guardians) and pastor been involved in the camper's decision for baptism?
2. What is the process for baptismal preparation?
3. Have you checked with your administration regarding procedures for baptism at camp?
4. How will the newly baptized camper be voted in to their local church? Will there be follow up to ascertain that it happened?
5. How do you plan on keeping the baptismal process of summer camp in front of the pastor?
6. How do you make intentional the parent's/pastor's/church's interaction with the camper's decision for baptism at camp?
7. How do campers/parents let the camp know that they are wanting to be baptized at camp?
8. How will you measure the local church's involvement in the camper's decision for baptism? Both directly after camp as well as follow up throughout the year?

**Campers who are baptized at camp but not pursuing membership within the Adventist Church:**

1. Have you checked with your administration regarding procedures for baptism at camp for a non-Adventist?
2. How have the parents/guardians and pastors been involved in the campers' decision for baptism?
3. What is the process for baptismal preparation?
4. Is the camper able to be plugged in to a local church within their faith group?
  - a. Do they have a congregation?
  - b. If no, is it possible to have a camp staff keep in touch with the camper periodically throughout the year?
5. Does the camper have spiritual support when they go home?