

CAMP PASTOR (CP)

ACCOUNTABILITY

The Camp Pastor is accountable to the Summer Program Director (SPD)

QUALIFICATIONS

- Ability to relate with young adults and campers.
- The Camp Pastor will be either a minister of a Mennonite Church Manitoba congregation or a (lay)person recognized by their congregation as having pastoral gifts.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Contact SPD in advance to discuss suitable devotional topics for week assigned (avoid duplication)
- Reside at camp for the week, providing a ministry of presence.
- Attend staff meetings, Bible Sessions and Firesides.
- Lead worship (devotions) for counselling staff. Suggestions below.
- Lead a separate worship (devotions) for support staff. Ask Manager to help schedule this.
- Connect with the Program Directors daily and pray with them for needs of the staff and campers.
- Provide encouragement to the Bible Instructor daily.
- Pray daily and specifically for the ministry of the camp.
- Provide spiritual and emotional support for staff at all levels through prayer and conversation
- Give additional encouragement to staff who have special needs that week.
- Invite persons to share with their prayer requests for themselves or the ministry
- Share impressions on the effectiveness of the camp's ministry with the leadership team
- Report to Director of Camping Ministries on impressions of the ministry.
- Be available to assist as gifted and upon request with daily Bible Lessons
- Participate in the "Invitation to faith" on Thursday evening – as encourager, prayer, if requested as presenter, or as counsel-giver for both campers and staff
- Be available as a friend also to the year round staff – they are sometimes overlooked.

Optional

- Read the current Bible Curriculum before camp (summary attached)
- Attend the camp pastor orientation session (if provided)
- Talk with the Program Directors about the type of role you'd like to fill (i.e. are you more of an up-front person? Behind-the-scenes helper? Do you enjoy story-telling? Shepherding?)
- Share your faith story with the campers, either at Fireside or cabin devotions (arrange with SPD)
- Offer to help staff answer camper's faith questions

WHAT WE LOVE IN A CAMP PASTOR!

compiled from discussions with and observations by camp staff; updated February 09

Get involved in the program as a way to get to know the staff you are caring for

- Your most important contribution is not devotions – it's the relationships you build.
- Make staff feel special: provide special treats, caring, get to know names.
- Ask where you are needed and then fill in, whether in program or behind the scenes.
- Share your fresh energy! Show the love!
- "Sometimes parental wisdom is what we need"
- Take part in camp activities.
- Supervise a cabin for an afternoon.

- Visit staff at the pool or lake
- Help with daily cleaning routines
- Announce a thought question which you will ask individuals as you encounter them during the week, e.g. relating to faith, vocation, relationships, experiences;
- “Ask camp staff from your church (before you go to camp)! how to be involved.”

Staff are comforted to know that there is somebody there for them as they pour themselves into the lives of the campers. They also welcome and respect a mature presence and perspective.

About your input (Devotions)...

- Plan for a 10-15 minute devotion time. This is not the sermon-style devotions!
- “Tell us things that are tangible and relevant to our day”
- “Tell us stories”
- “Give us “assignments” like “Look for Jesus in someone today””
- “Be creative, make us laugh or think.”
- Help staff rest in God’s care.
- Simple Bible verses or slogans are good.
- “Visual reminders (i.e.: posters, signs) are helpful.”
- “You can play music for us (there’s a CD player where we do devotions)”.
- Facilitate discussion and prayer; you are welcome to suggest partners or groups for these.
- “You are invited to lead some devotions in a contemplative/reflective/worshipful style.”
- “We like hearing about church connections, we should pray for our churches, too!”
- Share experiences or stories related to the summer’s curriculum.
- Reflect on encounters with Jesus (biblical, and then in life today).
- Reflect on living as Christian community.
- Providing a daily blessing and encourage staff to bless each other.
- Reflect on living as a servant.
- Address needs as suggested by summer leaders or as observed.
- Reflect on ending the summer well, and on the transition back into the “real world”.