

YOUR HANDY GUIDE TO BEING A LEADER AT
Christian Youth Camps

JANUARY 2025



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WELCOME TO THE CYC LEADERS MANUAL!

This Leaders Manual is designed to help you prepare for CYC Holiday Camps and understand your roles and responsibilities.

To lead effectively, you must read and follow the guidelines in this manual. It provides helpful ideas and instructions to make you an excellent leader. While camp is fun, following safety rules is essential for the well-being of everyone.

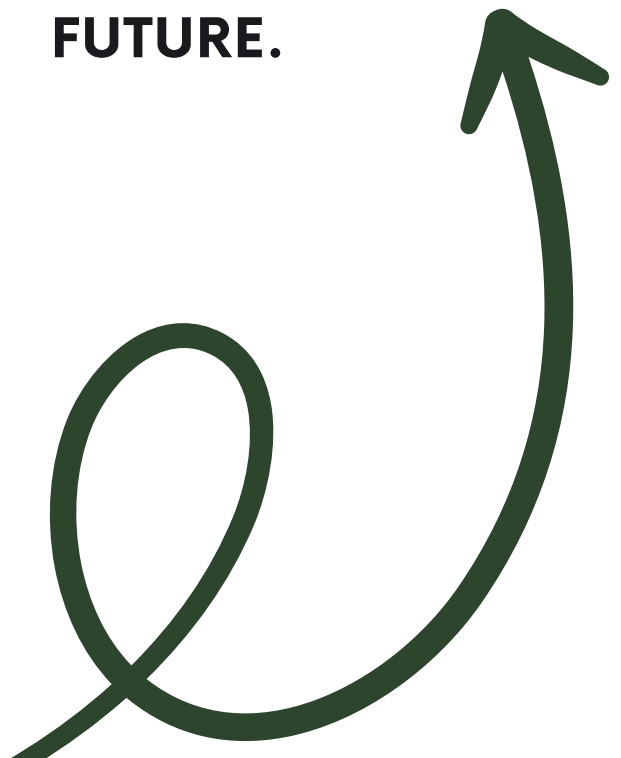
CYC Holiday Camps can be challenging, but they're also rewarding and a great opportunity to share Christ's love with children. For one week, we get to serve as God's hands and voice to the next generation.

If you have any questions or feedback, feel free to reach out.

Blessings,
Steven, Monique, Jaz & the CYC Team



**TRAINING FOR LIFE,
SKILLS FOR THE
FUTURE.**



NOT YOUR ORDINARY CAMP

In 1956 a farm property was given to Christian Youth Camps (Inc.) '...to the glory of God and for the children of New Zealand.' A Christian family gifted the land for FREEEEEEEE for the purpose that it would be used to show the Gospel to the young people of New Zealand!

Since then, every school holidays, camps have been held for children and young people.

Our campsite consists of 38 hectares of native bush, pastures, and camp facilities.

Each year, thousands of kiwi kids get to enjoy our facilities!
Now you get to be a part of the legacy of what God is doing at CYC!

GOALS OF CAMP

To inspire campers to build their own relationship with Jesus.

To be a role model, like Jesus is to us.

To show campers they are important to God, and to build up their self-esteem.

To recognise that each child has individual talents and abilities, and foster an environment that helps them grow in them.

To love people, because they may not receive love at home.

To give young people opportunities to serve the Lord.



**LET THE CHILDREN
COME TO ME, DO
NOT TRY TO STOP
THEM, FOR THE
KINGDOM OF
HEAVEN BELONGS
TO SUCH AS
THESE
MATTHEW 19:14**



STAFF ROLES

01.

CAMP DIRECTOR

The Camp Director oversees the entire camp, including Holiday Camps, other camps using the facilities, and day-to-day office duties. They have many varied roles during Holiday Camps and is always approachable.

02.

MINISTRY COORDINATOR

The Ministry Coordinator manages all leaders and helpers for Holiday Camps, serving as the main contact before camp. They are responsible for leader training, including weekends, and provides ongoing support and encouragement during camp. If you have concerns or need to talk, this is the person to reach out to.



03.

PROGRAM COORDINATORS

The Program Coordinators (P.C's) are in charge of the overall running of a Holiday Camp. This includes the running of the programs, places and people.

Please make an effort to do the best that you can as the P.C's are busy. However, they will endeavour to support and encourage you as best they can. Feel free to approach them to ask them questions.

BLITZ (BABY LIT)

All new leaders begin in the BLITZ or LIT program, which runs alongside the kids holiday camp. BLITZ is for year 9 and up who have not led before or who staff believe need more training before being assigned to a cabin. They spend the mornings at the BLITZ program and afternoons in the LIT program. The beginning of their servant-hearted leadership journey.

LEADERS IN TRAINING (LIT)

LITs are assigned to a cabin to assist cabin leaders. They spend afternoons in the LIT program. They are expected to help out just like the other Helper Leaders.

JUNIOR CABIN LEADERS

15+ - Junior leaders are former LITs who assist senior leaders in managing a cabin. They work alongside senior leaders to learn and gain experience. If staff feel additional training is needed, they may return to the LIT program until they're ready to lead a cabin.

VOLUNTEER ROLES

SENIOR CABIN LEADERS

Senior leaders are directly responsible for 6-8 campers, always with the assistance of one other senior/junior cabin leader. This includes (but is not limited to) making the campers feel at home, hanging out with them, helping supervise activities, being actively involved in Chapel time, leading a devotional time, overseeing duties, monitoring meal times, general care of the campers, and most importantly showing those campers Jesus' love.

Being a senior leader is both extremely exhausting and rewarding!

AREA HEADS

Someone over 18, oversees either the boy or girl campers & leaders. They are the first point of contact for any issues, from small matters like locating someone or supervising bedtime, to larger concerns like bullying.

MORE VOLUNTEER ROLES



HELPER LEADERS 16+

There is always a need for leaders to work in other areas of Camp, not just as a cabin leader. Some of these areas include being responsible for activities, running games, helping with canteen, helping in the kitchen, conducting cabin inspections, running meal times, and all sorts of other responsibilities. Whilst a lot of the information in this Leaders' Manual is relevant for both Cabin Leaders and Non-Cabin Leaders, Non-Cabin Leaders will be exempt from some of the information.

CAMP FIRST AID

The camp first aid is responsible for the supervision of medication, medical attention, and general first aid of campers.

CAMP PARENTS

The role of Camp Parents is varied, and could include helping supervise activities, helping with meal times, encouraging our teenage leaders, comforting homesick children, and general parenting duties!

KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

We are always looking for the following:

- Kids Camp Parents/Grandparents
- Kids Camp First Aider
- Holiday Camp speakers/music teams
- Kitchen helpers
- Activity helpers
- Painting
- Every year we also look to take two international volunteers

Get in touch with us:
leaders@cyc.org.nz

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

We are here for God, putting the children's needs before our own, with the goal of sharing the Gospel and setting an example of Christ's love.

Each camper has unique needs, so approach them individually. Understand that campers come from various backgrounds.

Campers learn by example. Be positive and show them you care, as they won't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

Be transparent—campers can see the real you.

Have a sense of humor, laugh at yourself, and enjoy the experience!

Make your campers feel like you're on their team by using inclusive language like "we" instead of "you" or "I."

Be flexible with the schedule and understanding of changes, as even program coordinators are not fans of rainy days!

We provide the Word of God and a living example: Jesus is the one who saves. Don't pressure any camper into making any kind of decision. Tell campers what Jesus says, and let them decide what to do with it.

Take time to read your Bible and pray daily. Your relationship with God is essential for serving well—don't rely on your own strength.

Pray for each camper daily, being specific in your prayers.

Lastly, look after yourself. If you're getting tired, check with the staff about taking some time for rest to avoid burnout.

EXPECTATIONS & RULES FOR LEADERS

TEAMWORK

Support your fellow leaders and work as a unified team. Enforce and follow the rules, and communicate regularly with your co-leader to avoid contradictions. Avoid cliques and ensure all leaders are included. Treat each other with respect, be tactful, and resolve issues without holding grudges or gossiping.

FAIRNESS

Have your share of children around you at all times (except during a 'Time-Out' break) otherwise someone else will have them all, and that's not fair.

Make an effort to interact with all campers and leaders, not just those you naturally get along with.

BREAKS

Kids camp cabin leaders will have at least two breaks during the week, which can be used for rest or hanging with other leaders. Unless otherwise specified, leaders will sleep at the same time as the campers.

Area heads and helper leaders will have scheduled breaks to make sure there are enough adults around.

RULE OF THREE

Never be alone with a camper, or leader where no one can see you, whether they are from the opposite sex or not.

IS IT APPROPRIATE?

Hugs from campers are okay if initiated by them, but don't initiate physical contact. Be cautious of overly affectionate or clingy behavior, and ensure you engage with all your campers.

It's not appropriate to counsel or have deep emotional chats with someone of the opposite sex.

Remember, you are not a trained counselor. If a camper discloses sensitive information, like abuse, listen kindly but tell them you need to report it to the Ministry Coordinator or Camp Director.

WATCH YOUR TEMPER

Never shout at a camper or act in anger. If necessary, take a 'Time-Out' to regroup before addressing the issue. Avoid using phrases like "shut up," as they are unhelpful and can worsen the situation.

LOVEY DOVEY STUFF

Leaders are not allowed to pursue romantic relationships while at camp. If relationships develop, they should be nurtured outside of camp. Remember, leadership extends beyond camp, and how you act in a relationship matters at all times. Set boundaries to avoid temptation and speak with staff if you need help.

Campers are also not allowed to pursue relationships during camp. Model this behavior by saying, "We don't talk about boyfriends and girlfriends at camp" if asked.

Open displays of affection, including hugging or excessive touching, are not permitted between unmarried leaders or adults at camp.

PHONES AT CAMP

Leaders may keep their phones during camp under these conditions:

- Phones cannot be used at inappropriate times.
- Only for communication with staff and other leaders via provided group chats.
- Music can be played, but only from the 'CYC approved playlist'.
- Leaders under 18 must hand in phones at night.

Phones may be used for social media during the leader's break. Any other use without prior permission is considered inappropriate.

To protect campers & leaders, photos of campers & leaders **cannot** be taken or shared; CYC will provide official photos that you are free to use.

Failure to follow these rules may result in phones being confiscated and returned at the end of camp.

Leaders in Training (LITS) will not have phones from Sunday until the end of camp to focus on their leadership development.

RULES FOR CAMPERS

- In the case of an emergency (fire etc.), move as quickly as you can to the bell on the field and gather in your cabin group.
- Please keep gates closed. Don't climb over fences.
- Out of bound areas are : Stage, Staff room, Kitchen and server

RESPECT

1. When you hear someone countdown 321... everyone says shhhhh.
2. We are quite while someone else is speaking.
3. We listen to our leaders. We look after our leaders, and our leaders will listen to you and look after you.
4. When the bell rings, we come to the lodge and sit in our cabins as fast as we can!
5. No shoes inside, Stack them in the boxes.
6. Please keep the sports equipment and board games in their proper places, and pack them up as soon as you have finished using them.

RULE OF 3

1. Always has to be a camper, a leader and someone else.
2. We are a family, and we all stick together. No one is to leave the group without their leader.
3. You must always be with a leader. If you're in the Redwoods, playground, Lodge games, toilets they'll wait outside, showers will be run by leaders or staff.
4. Area Heads are people who can talk to about smaller problems.

CABINS

1. Cabins are not for hanging out. We only go to our cabins with our rule of 3.
2. We do not go into other peoples cabins or bang on the doors.
3. Bathrooms are for cleaning, not for playing. We respect everyone's privacy. We do not look over or under doors, we do not bang on doors. We do not share cubicles.
4. No food, lollies, chewing gum, drinks, phones, money or anything valuable in cabins. You need to hand those into Area Heads. You have until before dinner on the first night.
5. You can have lollies after breakfast and before dinner.

DURING MEAL TIMES

1. Please don't leave the table unless your leaders give you permission.
2. Each table will be told by the person leading meal times when they can go up to get food. Please be patient and wait your turn.
3. No yelling or screaming please.
4. Each cabin will have duties to do during the week. Your leader will let you know when it's your cabin's turn. Please be ready on time to do your duty, and everyone in your cabin must participate.

DISCIPLINE SYSTEM

If you miss behave or bully others, Leaders will give you 2 chances to stop before they bring you to an area head or staff.

1st Warning will be given by a Area Head or a staff member.

2nd Warning will be given by a staff member who will then call home.

3rd Warning is by the Ministry Coordinator or Director. You will then be sent home.

WARNING WORTHY BEHAVIOUR

1. For doing something you know you shouldn't be.
2. For swearing, fighting, bullying.
3. For harming camp property.
4. For not listening to your leaders and camp staff.
5. Breaking any of the other camp rules.

Last but not least, love God, love others and love yourself.

REASONS FOR DISMISSAL OF LEADERS

1. Physical abuse or inappropriate behavior towards campers.
2. Romantic advances towards campers.
3. Swearing at or endangering campers or leaders.
4. Use or possession of illegal substances, smoking, or alcohol.
5. Being in a cabin of the opposite sex, or being alone with a leader of the opposite sex
6. Disloyalty to camp staff.
7. Repeatedly breaking rules.
8. Not showing fruits of a Christian lifestyle in and outside of camp
(Galatians 5:22-23, Colossians 3:12-14)
9. Not meeting leadership expectations.

**SUCH ACTIONS MAY RESULT IN IMMEDIATE
DISMISSAL FROM CAMP.**

DEALING WITH MINOR OFFENCES

Minor offences may include **disrespect, disobedience, swearing, fighting, or minor physical harm.**

Here's how to handle them:

1. **Initial Correction:** Ask the camper to stop what they're doing (or to do something if needed) and explain what you'd like them to do instead.
2. **Give One Serious Warning:** If they re-offend, give them a serious warning and inform them of the next step if they continue.
3. **Removal:** If the behaviour continues, remove them from the activity or group. Have them wait in a designated area for a set time.
4. **Reflection:** After the time is up, return to the camper and ask them to explain what they did wrong (they'll usually know).
5. **Escalation:** If they re-offend again, take them to the Program Director, Camp Director, Camp Parents, or another supervisor for further action.

DEALING WITH SERIOUS OFFENCES

Serious offences include repeated minor offences (Step 5 above) or situations that you cannot handle on your own. Examples include causing harm to camp property, serious physical harm to another camper or leader, self-harm, or leaving camp property without permission.

Steps for Dealing with Serious Offences:

1. **Immediate Action:** Take the camper directly to your Area Head.
2. **Continued Dangerous Behaviour:** If the camper's behaviour continues to endanger themselves or others despite previous steps, notify the parents or caregivers and ask them to remove the child from camp.

INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT AND ABUSE

Abuse will not be tolerated at any time from anyone at camp. It is defined as "the harming (whether physically, emotionally, or sexually), ill-treatment, abuse, neglect or deprivation of any child."

It includes:

- **Physical** abuse can be caused from punching, beating, kicking, shaking, biting, burning or throwing the child. Physical abuse may also result from excessive or inappropriate discipline or violence within the family, and is considered abuse regardless of whether or not it was intended to hurt the child. Physical abuse may be the result of a single episode or of a series of episodes.
- **Emotional** abuse occurs when a child's emotional, psychological or social well-being and sense of worth is continually battered. It can include a pattern of criticising, rejecting, degrading, ignoring, isolating, corrupting, exploiting or terrorising a child. It may result from exposure to family violence or involvement in illegal or anti-social activities.
- **Sexual** abuse includes acts or behaviours where an adult, older or more powerful person uses a child for a sexual purpose.
- **Neglect** is a pattern of behaviour which occurs over a period of time and results in impaired functioning or development of a child. It is the failure to provide for a child's basic needs.

This is an important area that all leaders need to understand in relation to dealing with their campers.

We have campers from many different backgrounds and situations, and we don't know what their stories are.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST A LEADER OR STAFF MEMBER

When a complaint arises, immediately refer it to the Camp Director. Listen to the person's version of events without asking them to repeat themselves. Ensure the person feels safe and protected at all times.

REPORTING ABUSE

It is the responsibility of all leaders and staff to report suspected abuse to the Ministry Coordinator or Camp Director IMMEDIATELY!

If a disclosure is made:

- Do not ask a camper to repeat a story or insist they tell more than he or she is willing to.
- Treat this matter in a sensitive and confidential manner.
- Offer reassurance and friendship in a sensitive way.
- Do not attempt to counsel the camper, but rather take the matter straight to the Ministry Coordinator or Camp Director.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. Never be alone with a camper in a dark or solitary place. Stick to the 1:2 rule: at least 2 leaders with 1 camper or 1 leader with 2 campers.
2. Take caution, if it is necessary for you to be involved in showering or toileting campers– stick to the 1:2 rule (see above), and use your discretion.
3. Be careful not to kiss, cuddle or tickle a camper in a way that is potentially sexual. Never touch children in areas that would normally be covered by swimming togs.
4. Campers are not allowed to get into bed with another camper, or leader.
5. Access to bathrooms and cabins of the opposite sex is not allowed to leaders or campers.
6. Respect campers' space. Be their friend, but don't crowd them.
7. Refrain from rough housing/play fighting as much as possible. I know some boys will try start it up, but please be aware that this can be a sensitive thing for some children.

AN INSIGHT TO THE CAMP PROGRAM

FIRST MORNING

The first morning of camp is crucial for setting a positive tone. Follow these guidelines:

- Greet each camper by name and be attentive to show they are welcome and valued.
- Greet parents as well, answering any questions they may have.
- Assist with luggage, help campers find their beds, and show them key areas (bathroom, dining room, lodge, meeting points).
- Once all campers arrive, set ground rules for the cabin (e.g., no fighting, no talking after lights out, be on time for activities, meals, and Chapel).

ACTIVITIES AT CAMP

Here is a list of some activities you may be running while at camp.

Kayaks

Swimming Pool

Hot Pool

Mudslide

Flying Fox

Hydro-slide

Archery



CYC Staff Instructed Activities

All these activities require covered shoes.

Climbing Wall & Crate Climb

BMX

Target Shooting

All 'WAIT' activities need to have activity supervisors which are signed off by camp staff. Activity supervisors must demonstrate certain competencies depending on the activity prior to being signed off.

WACKY WEDNESDAY

We love keeping things fun and exciting! Leaders are encouraged to get involved by dressing up in crazy outfits, sporting wacky hairstyles, or even wearing clothes inside out!

CABIN INSPECTIONS

Cabins are cleaned and checked each morning during Chapel Time. All campers must help, and cabin leaders must supervise.

The following is required:

- Make the beds.
- Place all belongings in bags/suitcases and store them neatly.
- Hang towels to dry.
- Remove wet clothes from bags and hang them up.
- Line up shoes neatly outside the cabin.
- Vacuum the room.
- Open windows to air the room.
- Empty the rubbish bin and replace the liner.
- Turn off all lights and heaters.

CANTEEN

Campers may have opted in to having canteen. They will have either chosen the amount with they sign up to camp or bring money on the first day. Minimum spend of S3 per day. No canteen to be eaten after dinner. Leaders are welcome to buy canteen but please make sure you hand it in before campers arrive.

At breakfast leaders will help campers fill out the canteen sheet. Put the sheet back in your cabin box. You can get the canteen from your cabin box after lunch.

WHEN CAMPERS ARE WITHOUT THINGS

If any campers are missing essential items like clothes, a toothbrush, a towel, bedding, or covered shoes, speak to the Program Coordinators for assistance in finding suitable replacements. Encourage campers to hand in any valuables, as items may sometimes go missing. Do not look after or confiscate campers' belongings, as you are responsible if they get lost.

HOME SICKNESS

Homesickness is common, especially for first-time campers. Be sensitive and help create a positive, welcoming environment. You can pray with a homesick camper, encourage participation in activities, and pair them with a buddy they connect with. Distraction can be very effective. If you need support, ask your co-leader, area head, a Camp parent, or any Camp Staff.

WET BEDS

If you have a potential bed-wetter in your cabin, we will inform you. Keep these tips in mind:

- Limit drinks after dinner for repeat bed-wetters.
- Ensure all campers use the toilet before bed.
- Be discreet and inclusive to avoid embarrassment.
- Check beds after breakfast for accidents.
- If a bed is wet, discreetly assist the camper, ensure they shower and change, and arrange for wet clothes and sheets to be washed (ask a Camp Staff member for help).
- If the mattress is wet, wipe it with disinfectant, air it out, and replace it if necessary.

If you cannot handle wet beds, talk to the Camp Parents or staff and they will be happy to help.

BEDTIME ROUTINE

Both leaders must be actively involved during bedtime.

- Ensure campers practice good hygiene: brush teeth and use the toilet.
- Nighttime is a great opportunity for bonding—share stories, testimonies, and discuss the day or Chapel Time.
- Be aware that some campers may try to avoid sleep by prolonging discussions. Keep conversations quiet to avoid disturbing other cabins.
- A night time curfew benefits everyone. If campers continue talking, give them one warning before getting the area head on night watch.

DINING ROOM ETIQUETTE

Before Mealtimes

Campers must wash their hands before sitting in the Lodge. Once all campers have arrived, the MC will make announcements, and then grace will be sung. Cabin Leaders and LITs should seat themselves evenly around the table.

Leader's Responsibilities at Mealtimes

Once seated, campers (and leaders) must remain at the table until dismissed by the person in charge of the mealtime, except for restroom breaks (try to minimize these). The person in charge will direct when to get meals, seconds, and when to leave. Leaders are responsible for managing their table's behavior and must set a good example.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The health and safety of campers should always be your top priority. Some areas are off-limits to both leaders and campers, and it's essential to follow these rules to ensure everyone's safety. Never leave a child unsupervised during any activity. As a leader, model safe use of equipment and games to prevent accidents.

If you spot a safety hazard, report it to a Camp Staff member. Keep vehicles locked at all times, and no leader may leave camp without the PC's consent. The Camp First Aider will distribute all medications, except asthma inhalers, so make sure all medications are handed to them.



FIRST AID

Accidents can happen at camp, so it's important to be prepared. For each camp, a designated First Aid Officer (or two) will be assigned, and they will hold a current First Aid Certificate. If a camper is hurt, take them to the First Aider, as only they are authorized to administer first aid.

If a serious accident occurs and you're nearby:

1. Take control: Assess the situation, as children can sometimes exaggerate. Send a camper to get a First Aid Officer or Camp Staff. If the injury seems life-threatening, send someone to call an ambulance.
2. Ensure safety: Before helping, make sure there's no danger to you —turn off power if needed, put on shoes if there's glass, etc.
3. Check for a response: Call out to the injured person, ask their name, where it hurts, what happened, and if they need medication (e.g., for asthma, allergies). If they respond, check for other injuries, like broken limbs or bites.
4. Wait with them: Stay with the injured person until a First Aid Officer or Camp Staff arrives to take over.



EMERGENCIES

FIRE

If you discover the fire, remove yourself and your campers from the area immediately and tell the closest Camp Staff or someone from the Leadership Team. Do not attempt to put the fire out yourself! If it has not already been done, activate the nearest fire alarm. It is not the role of the cabin leader to call "111", it is the role of a CYC Staff or someone from the Leadership Team. Avoid panic and don't scream. Get outside quickly and don't take anything with you.

Assemble at the 'Emergency Assembly Point' near the bell.

Sit your campers down in a straight line, and count heads. If anyone is missing, inform Camp Staff immediately. Follow instructions from Camp Staff and/or the Fire Department.

EARTHQUAKE

Don't panic – your calmness and attitude is important. If outside, keep away from buildings etc. If inside, get under doorways or tables.

Once the quake has stopped, assemble at the 'Emergency Assembly Point' near the playground. Sit your campers down in a straight line, and count heads. If anyone is missing, inform Camp Staff immediately. Follow instructions from Camp Staff and/or Emergency Services.

MISSING CAMPER

If a child is missing, the following procedure will be followed: All other children will stay in one place with their leaders so as to contain the situation and keep confusion to a minimum. Camp Staff will conduct a thorough search. Parents/Caregivers will be contacted. If necessary, the police will be contacted.

EMERGENCIES AT NIGHT TIME

If any of the emergencies above, or any other emergency, occurs at night time, grab an area head. You will be told at camp where the area heads are staying near the cabins. They will all have a phone to call the Ministry Coordinator.

PROWLER

No one unfamiliar should be wandering around camp. However, if you do see someone lurking around, follow these guidelines: Go up to the person and ask if they have signed in at the office and gotten a Visitors name tag. If so, then ask them who they are looking for and help them locate the child. If they have no visitor tag, ask them to please go to the office to obtain one. If they do not obey, notify camp staff as soon as possible. It is helpful if you are able to accurately describe the person, so take as much notice as possible.

GUIDELINES FOR VISITING

ALL VISITORS, INCLUDING PARENTS, MUST CALL AHEAD BEFORE COMING TO CAMP. IF ALLOWED, THEY MUST PICK UP A VISITOR'S NAME TAG FROM THE OFFICE BEFORE COMING UP TO CAMP.

We're happy you want to visit and see what's happening at camp! However, please keep in mind that we are in the middle of a busy program, and distractions can be disruptive.

Please follow these guidelines:

- Call or email in advance to confirm if it's a good time to visit and let us know how long you'll stay.
- Avoid distracting leaders or campers during instructions or activities.
- If visiting during mealtime, ask in advance if you can join and be prepared to contribute a small amount for the meal. You may need to wait until everyone else has eaten first.
- If your visit is longer than a quick stop, you may be asked to help with tasks like dishes, cleaning, or supervising activities.

If your visit causes disruption, we may ask you to leave. This is not a rejection of you as a person, just a matter of doing what is necessary at the time.

TIPS FOR SHARING THE GOSPEL



What is the Gospel? What is the message we are presenting? We all come from a diverse range of denominational backgrounds, which means these questions may have different answers. Under no circumstances are churches or church doctrine to be spoken against. If controversy arises, look only for things to talk about that can be agreed upon.

Below are some fundamental truths that we hold when presenting the gospel to campers:

- God is a loving God
- Jesus is God's Son
- We are all sinners
- Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins
- Jesus rose from the dead
- The Holy Spirit lives in us
- The Bible is God's word to us

Child Evangelism Principles

At CYC, we seek to maintain a balanced and realistic approach to child evangelism. We believe that even though the response a child makes towards Christ may not be a 'saving' response, it is nevertheless a response towards Christ and needs to be recognised, welcomed and affirmed as such. Because children are easily manipulated, special care is needed in leading children to Christ. It must be God's Spirit who is moving the child – not the force of the leader's personality or the pressure of other children. While it is the leader's responsibility to challenge a child to follow Jesus, the emotional manipulation of a child's mind has no place at camp. At CYC we sometimes make general whole-group appeals during Chapel Time, but then we aim to talk the children individually and determine their situation with God.

PREPARE BY PRAYING!

WE BELIEVE THE SUCCESS OF HOLIDAY CAMPS DEPENDS ON OUR PRAYERS AND SPIRITUAL PREPARATION.

Please take time to prepare yourself spiritually before and during camp – this is really important. Consider asking some Godly people you know to pray for you/us while you are at camp.

Here are some ideas about what you and others can pray for before, during, and after Camp:

- That the message of Christ is proclaimed clearly, lovingly, and faithfully.
- That we will be committed to doing our best (including preparation before the camps).
- That we would all be filled with the Holy Spirit, acting out of God's strength and ideas and not our own.
- That God would break our hearts for what breaks His. That we would have genuine care and concern for the kids that come to camp.
- That we would seek out opportunities where we can boldly speak about who God is.
- That there would be no evil spiritual attack. That there will be no major accidents and all at camp will remain in good health.
- That we would be fair and loving when disciplining.
- Pray for the directors of camp, the chefs, camp parents, helpers, music team, and speaker/s.
- That we are unified as a leadership team.



WHAT HAPPENS AFTER CAMP?

Corresponding With Campers after Camp

- Wait for campers to approach you if they wish to stay in touch after camp, rather than initiating contact.
- Always obtain approval from the camper's parent/guardian before corresponding (see "What about Parents/Guardians").
- If you choose to write, send a letter shortly after camp while the memories are still fresh to reinforce their learning.
- Refrain from corresponding with campers of the opposite sex.

What about Parents/Guardians?

- Always present yourself in a trustworthy and polite manner during interactions with parents/guardians.
- Introduce yourself to parents when they drop off or pick up their child, and inform them if the child has requested to correspond with you. Ask for their permission to do so. This helps parents/guardians associate a face with the name on future letters.
- Remember, parents/guardians may read any letters you send to their child, so be sensitive in your communication.

How Often & What Should I Write?

It's up to you. The more you write, the more Christ is proclaimed in that child's life. Then aim to at least send a birthday and Christmas card. Allow the camper to dictate the frequency of the letters. Try your best to always respond to a letter that they send you. Make references to camp, and try to remember what they liked. Comment on things they did (e.g. their part in a play, a favourite memory etc.). Talk about the next camp. Talk about the God and the Gospel. You could write them a story that may have a Gospel twist to it. Send Christian stickers and bookmarks etc. Always remember that their parents/caregivers should be able to read what you write and be comfortable with it. For legal reasons, you need to be very cautious. Try to keep a copy of what you write, so that you can know what you have written, and as a record in case misunderstandings occur.

Campers and Social Media

- Adding campers on social media is at your discretion, but keep in mind that most platforms have an age restriction of 12 or 13, which excludes most campers.
- If you choose to accept a camper as a friend/follower, remember they will have access to your posts, activities, and social interactions outside of camp.
- Be mindful that your online behavior aligns with what you teach at camp. If your posts contradict the values and teachings they're learning, it may not be appropriate to connect with them on social media.

Looking For New Leaders

We are always looking for appropriate new leaders at CYC! Please ask your Christian friends if they want to be involved in the important work of sharing the gospel with these children. We ask that your friends be regular church and/or youth group attendees and be active in their home church. They would need to go through our Leader's Check, and attend at least one of our twice-yearly Leader's Training Weekends. New leaders need to be at least 13 years of age. For more information about becoming a leader at CYC, please contact us leaders@cyc.org.nz

Getting Other Christians Involved

Our ministry at CYC is growing too large for the people we currently have to run these camps. We have a real need for extra help! Do you have friends or family you could ask to come and help at a camp? Following is a list of areas we need help in:

Camp Parents/Grandparents

It's ideal that this is a Mum and Dad or Grandma and Grandpa team. The role of Camp Parents is varied, and could include helping supervise activities, helping with meal times, encouraging our teenage leaders, comforting homesick children, and general parenting duties!

Activity Supervisors

Helping supervise/run camp activities such as the flying fox, archery, kayaks, mud slide, pool etc.

Kitchen helpers

To assist our full-time chef with meal preparation and serving.

Crafts

Someone to come and run our craft times with the children...ideal for anyone interested in crafty things! We supply the materials.

Camp First Aid

For children, this pretty much means someone to give out sticky plasters and some TLC! However, someone with First Aid training would be necessary - nursing training would be ideal.

GETTING & STAYING INVOLVED AT CYC

Prayer

We would love it if you could ask your Church/Youth Group/family/friends to pray for you, the camps as they happen, and for the on-going work of follow up and preparation between the camps. We also ask you to keep praying even after camp has finished! Why not put the photo of the campers up in your room to remind yourself to pray for them regularly after camp?

CYC Society

As a member of the CYC Society you are kept up to date regular newsletters, invited to social events, contacted with prayer points so you can pray effectively, and have the privilege of helping us with working bees. It only costs \$25 a year per person. As a leader you can join, and why not tell your parents, or people you know at Church, about CYC Society Membership?

And finally...

To you, our leaders, we say...

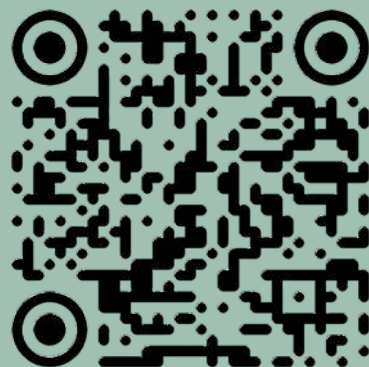
THANK YOU!

We honestly could not do this without you!

CHECK OUT OUR MERCH!



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