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Camp Dixie

Traveling VBS 2012

Spirit  Life

Traveling VBS 2012

Our Mission

To partner with congregations in leading a congregation-based five day VBS program for children that enables participants to experience **God's Grace, Love and Guidance** through hands-on Bible Study, devotions, interaction with energetic camp staff, skits, Games and other camp related activities.

Making an Impact Today!

1. Share the good news of God's love made known by Jesus.

The mission of the Body of Christ, the church, shapes the lives of young Christians in many ways. Shaping those lives to love in God's love is our most important work. Worship, study, arts and crafts and recreation are all designed to make God's love come alive for children.

2. Work with the local congregation in reaching out to children during the summer months.

Strong encouragement is given to include neighborhood children and friends of members as well as children of the congregation. With good follow-up, Traveling VBS can be a very effective tool for outreach and evangelism.

3. Strengthen the congregation's ministry of Christian Education

Traveling VBS helps keep enthusiasm alive for learning, offers new ideas, and provides further training for congregational assistants. Our hope is to help congregations become more fully aware of the ministry styles and opportunities for children of all ages.

4. Meet the basic needs of young children by providing an opportunity to hear the good news of God's love, to grow in Christian community, to get to know committed Christian role models in the life of faith, and to participate in healthy activities during the week of Traveling VBS.

Traveling VBS gives children a safe, loving environment for nurturing their lives in faith. The children are able to be strengthened in faith and knowledge of their Savior, Jesus Christ.

5. To build community among the youth and adults at your congregation

Traveling VBS volunteers are a great way to get adults involved with your congregation. The shared experiences of Traveling VBS are a fun and exciting way to build stronger friendships and communities

6. To introduce young children to Camp Dixie.

A positive experience may influence children to participate in Church activities as they grow older, possibly as future church workers in the Lutheran Church.

What is Traveling VBS?

Schedule

Camp Dixie Traveling VBS session is Monday through Friday. A typical session operates from 9:00 am to 3:00pm Monday through Thursday, Friday 9:00am to Noon.

Staff

Camp Dixie provides a Traveling VBS team of college-aged young adults who have been trained in child and youth ministry and are well prepared to implement an interesting, alternative experience to Christian Education.

Age-Range

Camp Dixie Traveling VBS is designed for children who are entering the 1st through the 6th grade. **It is not intended for pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten students.** Past experience has taught us that these students are not ready for the activities of Traveling VBS.

Activities

The daily program includes time for praising God, music, Bible study, Arts & Crafts, and many different recreational activities. Whenever feasible the activities are held outside. The emphasis is on learning through doing and living – rather than just words. We believe that learning can take place through all types of activities – formal and informal.

Safety

One key to success of Traveling VBS lies in Camp Dixie's commitment to safety and quality programming. Camp Dixie strives to maintain a **ratio of 1:10**, that is, one counselor to every ten campers. All Traveling VBS staff members will be certified in First Aid and CPR through the American Red Cross.

Partnership With You

We learned very quickly that we don't have all the answers! We want to work with you and your people to make Traveling VBS work. Our first link to your congregation is through your appointed Congregational Contact Person. The Congregational Contact Person is in direct contact with the Camp Dixie staff and the congregation in planning and implementing Traveling VBS.

Field Trips

Congregations are also encouraged to include field trips in their week. You might even want to have your campers come to the Camp Dixie site for a day of fun at camp. Arrangements for all field trips are the responsibility of the congregation.

Youth Night Program Option

Camp Dixie offers the team of Counselors to the junior and senior high youth of the congregation on Wednesday night. A few hour program led by the counselors will consist of games, songs, Bible Study and campfire devotions. A minimum of 10 youth is required to hold the program – though we are flexible!

Thursday Evening Program

Camp Dixie also offers the Traveling VBS team to the congregation for a Thursday Evening Program. The Program is scheduled for Thursday, but is flexible to the needs of the congregation. The Program could consist of a dinner potluck before the “Traveling VBS Evening Program”, put on by the Camp Dixie staff and the Traveling VBS Campers. Or a dessert potluck afterwards, which ever you choose. These plans would need to be made in advance with the Camp Dixie staff.

Weekly Schedule Summary

Sunday Evening:

The Camp Dixie staff will arrive in town before supper. They will meet with the Congregational Contact person and Host families and settle into their living quarters. At this time until 7:00, families can provide supper for the staff. At 7:00pm until 8:00, the staff will meet with the Adult and Youth volunteers at the church and discuss the schedule for the Traveling VBS week.

Monday - Thursday:

Traveling VBS is held Monday through Thursday, 9:00 - 3:00 and Friday, 9:00 - 12:00. Each day has a theme that relates to the main theme of the week. There are a variety of activities from worships, Bible Studies, songs, games, Arts and Crafts, nature activities, and other events. The activities revolve around the theme, so the entire day is a learning experience.

Thursday Evening:

This is an optional time for the whole Traveling VBS to present a program for families, friends, and congregation members. The program is scheduled to run from 7:00 to 7:30. The campers and staff will share what they have learned and done throughout the week through songs, skits, etc. This event can also include a potluck supper, ice cream social, coffee and punch hour, dessert potluck, etc.

Friday Morning:

The Traveling VBS program will run from 9:00 - 12:00 noon on Friday. This will be a time to wrap up the week, share a last Bible study time and have a final celebration and Worship. The Traveling VBS Staff will then be returning to Camp Dixie Friday afternoon.

Responsibilities of the Congregation:

Congregational Contact Person Secure a Congregational Contact Person to work with the Camp Dixie staff. This person works with the church and community acting as a liaison for Camp Dixie and the congregation. The Congregational Contact Person is asked to be at the day camp site at all parts of the day and also works with lining up adult volunteers that may help out with the Traveling VBS staff. Also they may recruit adult or youth volunteers to provide snacks and help serve snacks and lunch.

Housing Secure housing for Camp Dixie staff. We recommend that all counselors are housed in pairs if possible. It can be difficult and sometimes lonely for staff to stay at a host family by themselves. All host families need to provide meals for the staff. This would be supper on Sunday night, three meals Monday - Thursday and Friday breakfast and lunch. The congregation will provide snacks and beverages for snack time and lunch.

Traveling VBS Site The Traveling VBS staff prefers a large, grassy outdoor area, so that the program runs and feels more like camp. **Many of the Traveling VBS activities will occur outdoors.** A city park or playground within walking distance from the church works well if church is unable to provide. Attention should be made to all parents of the location of Traveling VBS prior to registration. Bathrooms and shelter need to be readily available if not within walking distance from church. Immediate access to storm shelter, emergency phones, and drinking water are also necessary.

Volunteers We Recommend Youth Volunteers! Older youth group members often make the best volunteers because they have a great connection with the children. We recommend one volunteer per 10 campers. **Volunteers should at least be high school age or older.** The key to good volunteers is maturity. Other volunteers can be in charge of snacks in the morning and help with drinks for lunch.

Arts and Crafts The Traveling VBS team will be bringing all materials needed for arts & crafts projects, but may need additional **white** tacky & Elmer **glue, scissors and crayons.** We also recommend that the tables being used for Art & Craft time are covered with plastic if needed. If your congregation is unable to provide Traveling VBS with these materials, please call, and we will prepare as needed.

Publicize Traveling VBS To assure a full Traveling VBS, publicity is the key! To assure people will hear about Traveling VBS and remember it, they must hear it at least seven times, using three different ways to get out the message. Camp Dixie now has resources available to publicize your Traveling VBS. When you sign up we will send a poster you can display at your congregation or in the community as well as a bulletin insert designed specifically for your church!

Planning Guidelines and Policies

Supervision Safety is extremely important during Traveling VBS. The Traveling VBS Counselors shall always know the location of each child and must keep all children in view at all times. In public settings, such as parks or on field trips, a staff member must accompany children at all times.

Camper Pick-up Only persons authorized to pick up children at the end of the daily session is allowed to. At the day of registration, the parents will fill out a camper pick-up form. This form will contain the names of authorized person(s) to pick of the child(ren). If a child is walking home, they can sign themselves out. This form will be kept by the Counselors during the camp week, and signed each close the day by the authorized person.

Health Concerns must be signed and submitted by parent or guardian for each child attending Traveling VBS. The Camp Dixie staff provides health history forms. A FIRST-AID KIT must be on hand at all times, which Camp Dixie will provide. We also have a medications box to place the medications in that need to be distributed during the day. This box is locked at all times. All counselors are required to be both First Aid and child and adult CPR certified by the American Red Cross.

Field Trips Field trip arrangements are the sole responsibility of the Congregational Contact Person on behalf of the congregation. The Congregational Contact Person, in consultation with the camp staff will arrange transportation for all campers. No camper may be transported without written consent from a parent or guardian prior to the field trip. Camp Dixie can provide an authorization form.

Lifeguards Any field trip involving swimming or waterfront activities must be approved by the Director of Camp Dixie. One certified lifeguard or Water Safety Instructor is required for every 20 participants.

Fees

The cost for a Camp Dixie Traveling VBS team is \$1500.00. This price includes 5 counselors, Art supplies, and all programming for up to 50 campers.

How To Register

Here's how to register:

1. Review the material in this packet (responsibilities, costs, etc..)
2. Mail in the 2012 Traveling VBS Reservation Sheet (no need to call).
3. Enclose a \$250 deposit
4. If circumstances occur and you must cancel your date, you must cancel prior to March 1, after March 1 you will lose your \$250.00 deposit.

Once we receive your reservation sheet we will send you:

- Confirmation Letter with your dates for VBS
- Camper forms and a variety of other necessary information!