

Dates available for 2012

June 10 - June 15 - One camp available
June 17 - June 22 - One camp available
June 24 - June 29 - Multiple camps available
July 1 - July 6 - Multiple camps available
July 8 - July 13 - One camp available
July 15 - July 20 - Multiple camps available
July 22 - July 27 - One camp available
July 29 - August 3 - One camp available

****Please wait until you have received confirmation of your requested dates before advertising them to the public.**

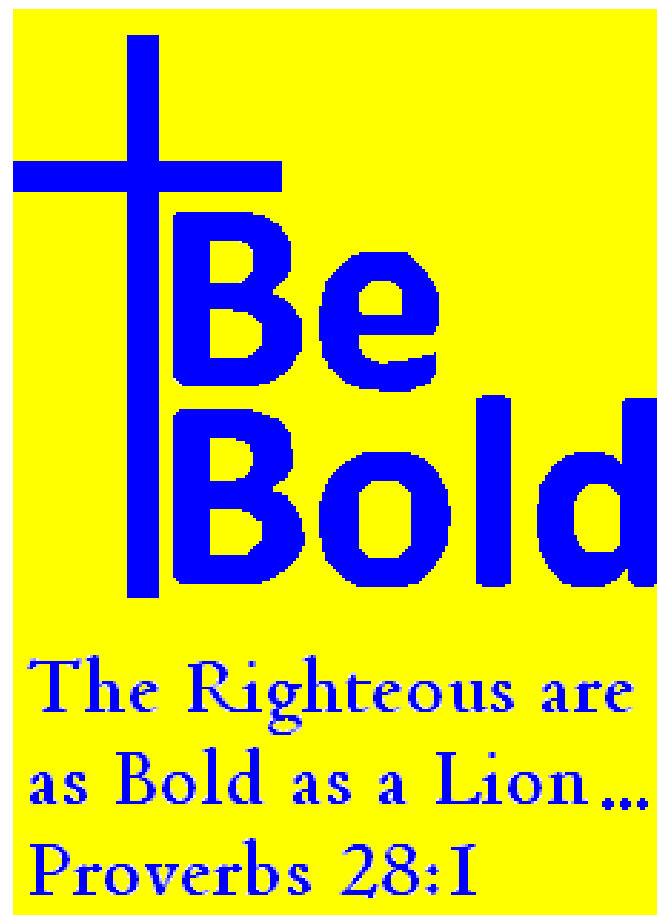
Questions or Comments.....

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Day Camp 2012



Day camp program and staffing by

Camp Briarwood

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Greetings,

Here is a copy of the 2012 Day Camp Leader's manual. Each year we strive to improve the information found within this book based on your comments, question, and suggestions. There is plenty of good information and ideas to be found inside. As you begin to plan your Day Camp program don't be shy in giving us a shout, we want to be a resource for you. Our 2011 days camps were positive ones and we hope to build on this in order to strengthen our partnership with the congregations of the NT-NL as they continue to commit to the importance of youth ministries.

Inside you will find:

- Sample schedules
- Frequently asked questions
- Program ideas
- Cost breakdowns
- Registration forms and permission slips
- And more.....

2012's summer theme is "**BE BOLD**" as we look to the lessons from some of the biggest names and stories of the Old Testament. This theme will be reflected in our choices for songs, Bible studies, crafts, shirts, and in our attitudes.

The prices for 2012 have remained the same as the previous year. We recognize the need for economy and we strive to keep costs down wherever we can while still running an effective program.

As always the biggest challenge of Day Camp is that everyone is different and our goal is to customize a Day Camp that fits your strengths and needs. We are trying to provide the best staff and program that can be found anywhere so that together we can produce something wonderful.

Here's to a great summer,
Jon Thompson
Program Director, Briarwood Retreat Center
jon@briarwoodretreat.org

Sample Bulletin Insert ... This page can be sent you electronically if you wish to use it, additionally Briarwood will be providing some additional bulletin inserts for you to use.

Day Camp INFORMATION

Dates: *[Your Dates (Monday through Friday)]*
 Times: *[9:00 am to 3:30 pm]*
 Place: *[Your Location]*
 Ages: *[Recommended for ages 4 thru 10]*
 Cost: *[\$XX.XX per person]*

What to Bring:

Bring a sack lunch daily, sunscreen, and a mat or towel. Drinks will be provided.

Activities will include:

Bible Encounters	Games	Worship
Singing	Fellowship	Fun
Skits	Crafts	Presenters

How to Register:

Registrations are due in the church office no later than *["YOUR DATE"]*. For registration information contact the church office or one of the Day Camp Steering Committee members listed below:
["LIST NAMES..."]

Sunday Evening Kick-off Event:

Come to the church on *[Sunday night at 6:00 pm]* and get a taste of what Day Camp is all about. Camp Briarwood counselors will be here to lead us all in games and songs and to get to know the campers and their parents. *[You'll also get a taste of your favorite ice cream at the social which follows. Bring a favorite toppings to share!]*

***[Thursday]* or *[Friday]* Closing Program:**

A closing program will be held for the entire congregation on *[Thursday evening]* or *[Friday noon]*. It will begin with a potluck dinner; everyone is asked to bring something to share. Following the meal the Day Campers will share what they have learned during the week through songs and skits.

Congregational Day Camp Manual

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Common Questions and Answers

What is Day Camp?

Day Camp combines Briarwood's youth programs with your congregational youth ministry program for a weeklong session of Christian fellowship and fun. Briarwood will provide program, a trained counseling staff, an original Christian curriculum for Bible Study, art supplies, games, music, and more. The congregation provides the meeting space, adult volunteers, junior counselors, resources from the community, and room and board for the staff.

What is the Purpose of Day Camp?

Day Camp provides congregations with a quality Christian outdoor ministry experience which has a strong evangelism component. The evangelical outreach to the surrounding community is a major reason that Day Camping is so important. The strength of the Day Camp is the people: trained, enthusiastic and offering good Christian role models for your young people. It is our hope that in this partnership between local congregations and Camp Briarwood, a Christian community will be formed in God's Direction and Presence.

Day Camp may be used for a community outreach program to include children from the neighborhood, friends of members, or combined with the youth from another Christian congregation. Often congregations will choose to work with a neighboring church to host Day Camp. This partnership disperses cost, increases the number of volunteers, adds resources, and increases the number of youth that participate.

What is the Benefit to Your Congregation?

1. A strong, highly visible evangelism program within your community that welcomes young families and youth into the life of your church.
2. Bonding between adults, older youth, and campers that will build relationships within your congregation and community long after Day Camp closes.
3. Good public relations in the community, as you are helping provide a service which many youth and parents will appreciate.
4. Strengthening as a congregation as you work together to prepare, plan and execute the program.

RELEASE OF CAMPER TO NON-PARENT OR GUARDIAN

Please fill out this form if someone other than the custodial parent or guardian is to be picking the child up at the end of the camp day.

Camper's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Name and relationship of the person(s) picking up the child:

List day(s) to be picked up:

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

FIELD TRIP PERMISSION FORM

(Camper Name)

has my permission to accompany the

(Host Congregation)

Day Camp on all field trips during the week of _____
(Dates)

The camper has permission to ride or walk to field trip destinations under the supervision of the Day Camp staff.

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

Questions continued...

How many children do we need to have a Day Camp?

Briarwood is offering day camp packages to accommodate different amounts of campers from 24 to 60 children. If you anticipate significantly less than 24 campers you may want to consider partnering with another congregation. If you anticipate more than 60 campers, special arrangements need to be made with the Briarwood Program Director. Cost breakdowns for each package are included on page 8 of this booklet.

What if we don't have a lot of land at our church?

Briarwood counselors and programs are flexible. Many of the activities can happen indoors using the fellowship hall and classrooms, for outside activities a nearby park can work well. Day Camp can include field trips to area attractions, but it is easier to keep things within walking distance.

How many people do we need to involve to host a Day Camp?

It is highly recommended that one member of the congregation assume the role of Local Day Camp Coordinator. This coordinator will act as the bridge between Briarwood and the host congregation. The coordinator will recruit other volunteers to help fulfill all of the local responsibilities. Some other volunteer positions will include Host Families, Registrar, Kitchen Helpers, and Junior Counselors. The short answer is more people willing to help the more successful your Day Camp is likely to be. See page 20 for a detailed list of volunteer positions.

How many people will Camp Briarwood send to our Day Camp?

This number depends on what size of group you contract with us. The Briarwood Day Camp staff generally includes a Day Camp Team Coordinator and then one staff counselor for every 12 campers. For example, a day camp package for 36 children will include one coordinator and three counselors. This team will include both male and female counselors. The congregation should try to recruit at least one junior counselor (JC) for every twelve campers as well. The pairing of a Briarwood staff and J.C. will provide the 1 to 6 ratio that is recommended for campers in this age group.

Questions continued...

Who participates in Day Camp?

The day camp program is geared for young children, typically children ages 4-10. **It is not recommended that children younger than 4 come to Day Camp.** Our experience has shown that these children need an extra measure of time and patience that is not possible using our staff to camper ratio. Additionally, our staff has not had specific training for this age group and the program activities are geared for children a little older in age.

Older youth may participate as Junior Counselors; these JC's will serve as the right and left hand of the Briarwood staff member. Junior Counselors may be anyone who has completed 6th grade or above, but older youth (High School) or young adults are preferred. These JC's are in a unique position to work with the campers. Their existing relationship with the campers is especially helpful early on in the week as the campers and counselors are getting to know one another. They will act as an extra sets of eyes and ears. It allows them to grow in their own faith and act as a servant of the Lord. The relationships that they have built on will allow them to remain a positive role model in their congregations after the Day Camp program is over.

Enrolling campers with special needs in Day Camp is encouraged and can be a wonderful experience for both the child with special needs and for all campers as we live out a Christian community. Youth who have special needs, might be developmentally disabled, physically disabled, or have severe behavioral problems. **One volunteer from the congregation is needed for each child who has special needs.** It is important to remember the camp staff are caring Christians, who generally are college students; however they are not professionally trained in behavioral disorders. Christian love and concern will go a long way, but careful discretion should be used by the local coordinator in deciding whether Day Camp will be beneficial for the special needs child and the camp as a whole. Please inform Briarwood of any special needs campers prior to the beginning of the week so that proper staffing choices can be made.

Please tell us about your child:

Will they need any medications during camp? _____

Any allergic reactions? _____

Any restrictions to physical activity? _____

Will they have any family participating at camp? _____

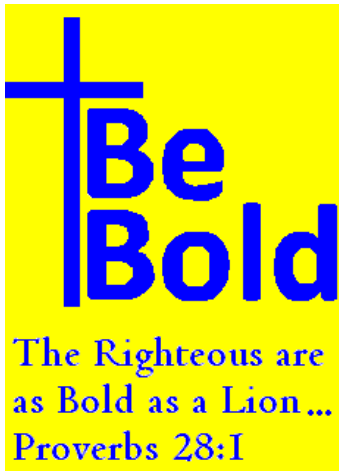
Is there anything you would like to share with the Day Camp staff?

Release:

My child has permission to take part in all camp activities and I will not hold Briarwood, its staff, or the host congregation responsible for accident claims and damages arising therefrom. I take responsibility for any medical obligations incurred during the camp. I authorize the staff to take such actions as deemed necessary for the care, welfare, and health of my child including the giving of consent for medical treatment. I also give permission to use photographs/video of my child while at camp for future promotional materials.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____
Date

* The Briarwood staff will need a copy of each registration form during the Day Camp.



Registration Form for Day Camp 2012

One per child, please!

Camper's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parent Name(s) _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ E-mail _____

Emergency Contact _____

Relationship _____ Phone _____

Physician _____ Phone _____

Insurance Policy and # _____

Birth Date _____ Shirt size: _____

Grade during the 2011/12 school year _____

Home Church _____ City _____

Questions continued...

Will T-Shirts and Cuppies be available this year?

Yes, Briarwood is including T-shirts with the "BE BOLD" logo on them along with a Briarwood logo plastic mug called a "cuppie". Each camper and volunteer will receive these items as part of the package. These shirts will come in both youth and adult sizes. Size requests should be taken as campers pre-register and emailed to Briarwood by Friday before your camp begins. Congregations may order extra T-shirts or cuppies if they wish for additional charge.

Does Camp Briarwood provide insurance for Day Camp?

While accident and illness insurance **is not provided by Camp Briarwood**, Camp Briarwood is covered for the liability of its staff. Sponsoring congregations should consider providing coverage for their campers. All campers must have a completed Registration Form with emergency information on file in order to attend Day Camp. This form should include camper insurance information. Parents are asked to use their family policy as the primary carrier to satisfy claims.

Can Briarwood Staff provide transportation to campers?

Briarwood provides transportation for its team only. Our insurance restricts any transport of campers or JCs. If a field trip is planned during your day camp, local transportation arrangements will need to be made. If possible schedule field trips that may be reached by walking or bringing outside activities to your location.

Can we request extra Briarwood staff members?

Sometimes a congregation would like additional Briarwood team members to help run programs for Junior High youth or for another special program. These requests are granted on a staff availability basis and at an additional cost.

Questions continued...

How much does a Day Camp Cost?

The day camp cost is dependant on the package that you choose. There are packages for **up to:** 24, 36, 48, or 60 campers. Special arrangements will need to be made for camps larger than 60 campers. This allows your congregation to choose a package that will best fit your needs. We understand the difficulty in estimating the number of campers that will attend, but it is necessary. Too small a package and campers may be turned away, too big and you're paying for more than you need. It is recommended that you choose a package that you are confident in filling. It may be possible to upsize your package if your pre-registration is filling up quickly. Dropping down in package sizes may be possible given enough lead time but is discouraged since we hire the number of summer counselors needed partially based on the number requested for Day Camps. A limited number of additional campers may be accepted above the contracted amount at an additional cost, this is at the discretion of the Briarwood Team Coordinator and Local Day Camp Coordinator. The cost of Day Camps are based on Briarwood's expenditures and the breakdown is shown on the following table.

A day camp team includes one Day Camp Team Coordinator who will oversee the counseling staff while on location. This coordinator will assist with registration, prep and clean up activities, provide coverage while other counselors are busy, provide an extra set of hands whenever needed, and run the staff meetings. Along with the coordinator Briarwood provides one counselor for every twelve children.

How can we lower the cost to our congregation?

If you feel that your congregation cannot afford to host a camp there are some options to lessen the burden. Congregations may team up with another church, ELCA or not, to split the cost. The price per camper decreases with larger packages. A congregation may ask for participant families to contribute some of the cost. This gives some ownership and provides a more accurate picture for pre-registration. Contributions may come in the form of volunteering to help run the camp instead of financial. Some churches may seek outside funding from the Community, Thrivent, or grants targeted towards helping children. Briarwood will accept payments if needed instead of a lump sum invoice, please contact us for more information.

Volunteer Worksheet continued ...

Name

Contact #

Special Event Coordinator

First Aid Provider

Junior Counselors

Price Breakdown Continued...

For camps of up to 60 campers

Cost of 6 Briarwood staff per week	\$1,650
Rental Vehicle	\$400
Travel Expenses	\$150
T-shirts/Cuppies	\$300
A/C Supplies	\$375
Misc	\$115
Total:	\$2,990
Price per child for the week:	\$50

Additional campers above the contracted amount in any size package can be accepted at a rate of \$67.00 per child, this is at the discretion of the Briarwood Team Coordinator and Local Day Camp Coordinator.

Price per counselor is based on \$275 avg weekly expense

Rental vehicle cost is based on vehicle size

Travel expense is based on our average expenditure during the previous camp seasons

T-shirts/Cuppies price is \$5 per person

Arts and Crafts is based on \$1.25 pp/pd

Miscellaneous covers giveaways for junior counselors and volunteers, program needs, gifts for hosts, and mailings

Personnel needs continued ...

Junior counselors:

Older youth may participate as Junior Counselors; these JCs will serve as the right and left hand of the Briarwood staff member during the week of camp. JCs will participate in the morning staff meeting and the afternoon staff meeting/devotions. Junior Counselors may be anyone who has completed 6th grade or above, but older youth (High School) or young adults are preferred. Congregations should strive for a minimum of one JC for every twelve campers.

These JCs are in a unique position to work with the campers. Their existing relationship with the campers is especially helpful early on in the week as the campers and counselors are getting to know one another. They will act as extra sets of eyes and ears. It allows them to grow in their own faith and act as a servant of the Lord. The relationships that they have built will allow them to remain a positive role model in their congregations after the Day Camp program is over.

First Aid provider:

This is a person with first aid knowledge who may administer treatment or transport campers to the hospital if needed. This person needs to be on-site during Day Camp hours but doesn't have to be just the first aid provider.

Kitchen folks:

This is usually a small group, usually one or two, who will prepare and serve the two daily snacks for the campers and provides lunch for the volunteers and staff. Lunch can be something simple and homemade or brought in from a nearby business.

Personnel needs continued ...

Registrar:

The registrar will collect and record all Day Camp registrations.

Registration needs to include collecting the completed forms and permission slips. It may also include collecting any fees that your congregation is requesting from participants. The registrar will provide a list of needed shirt sizes to the coordinator a few days prior to camp. It is a good idea to have the registrar at camp each morning to enroll new campers that may be joining in. Please have the registrar return a copy of registrations to Briarwood with the staff.

The registrar is also in charge of daily registration. When a camper arrives each day they are checked-in, registered if needed, and then turned over to the Briarwood staff. It is also a good idea to have a check-out process at the end of the day.

Host Families:

Hosts will provide for the room and board of the Briarwood staff during the camp week. The staff is very flexible and do not require special treatment. Some congregations provide rooms in member's homes, some provide a room at the church or parsonage, or some even provide an RV. Couches, floor space, cots, or beds are all fine. The staff truly prefers to be housed as a group or split into just two groups of males and females. This allows for easier transportation and for companionship.

The congregation is responsible for feeding the Briarwood staff during the week. These meals may be provided by the host families or by a combination of contributors. Lunches could be sack lunches or some congregations bring in lunch each day for the staff and volunteers.

Special Event Coordinator:

If your camp is planning some community celebrations, kickoff/sendoff parties, special program events, field trips, or guest speakers then it may be a good idea to bring in one or more special event coordinators. Give your Day Camp Coordinator a hand by preparing for one of these events.

Field trips will require local arrangements for transporting campers. Briarwood's staff cannot transport campers or JCs.

How to Fill a Day Camp

Here are a few ways in which to get the word out to your congregation and community about your upcoming Day Camp.

- Announce it in the church bulletin, newsletter, and website
- Have temple talks on Sunday mornings.
- Invite a Camp Briarwood year-round staff member to your congregation to preach or to meet with the adult Sunday School classes. (Remember: Ownership by the adult members of your congregation is the chief goal of promotion. The adults are the decision makers.)
- Put up posters in the church or in the community at such places as the library, community center, grocery store, coffee shops, etc.
- Decorate a bulletin board with last year's photos and information about this year's camp
- Use social media sites on the web to spread the word
- Have members of your congregation visit another church and invite their youth to participate.
- Sing camp songs during Sunday school or during a children's talk.
- Ask for public service announcements on radio or TV stations.
- Buy an ad in the local community newspaper.
- Send an "alert" letter out to the families in the congregation with children in the age group that you will serve with your Day Camp.
- Put up a banner to alert the local community
- Add your own creative ideas and share them with the Camp Briarwood office so that we can pass them along to others.

The Basic Ingredients of Day Camp

Day Camp is designed to be flexible, but each includes some basic elements that give it its unique character and appeal. Individual Day Camps will vary widely in specific scheduling to allow for local resources and needs, but the basic ingredients will be:

Family Units:

These are the building blocks of the Day Camp experience. Each Family Unit consists of a Camp Briarwood counselor, JCs, and up to 12 Day Campers who are all close to the same age. These family units study, play, sing, work, and worship together throughout their week at camp. All activities are built around the Family Unit.

Bible Study:

During this time each Family Unit reads Bible stories and does learning activities designed to illustrate and teach the daily theme to the campers. The Scripture passages are chosen to relate to an overall weekly theme which changes from year to year. Imagine the delight of a family that is kept enthralled at dinner each night with a seven-year-old's explanation of the meaning behind the story shared in Bible study that day!

Worship:

This is a time of celebration and praise focused on God where the theme of the day is shared. The theme is introduced during the morning celebration and summed-up during the afternoon worship. Each Family Unit leads worship for the entire community some time during the week. Each worship contains songs, prayers, scripture readings, and a youth-based message which utilizes stories, puppets, and skits.

Round-Up:

This is a community activity of songs and skits. During the Bible study, campers create a skit, song, poem, etc. to illustrate what they have learned in their group. Each family unit presents its skit to the entire community. Songs are interspersed between the dramas.

Personnel Needs

In general, the more people you have involved with the planning and execution of your Day Camp, the more successful it will be. There are many tasks which need to be done in order to have a Day Camp for your congregation. Many of these could be done by one or two individuals or a small committee. This method works in most congregations. Another approach is to have a different individual organize each separate facet of the Day Camp experience. This widens the base of participants, but calls for tighter communication. This method has also worked well in many congregations.

We have listed the key tasks for which you will need volunteers for your Day Camp. You may want to keep this list handy as you recruit workers:

Day Camp Steering Committee:

This may be the Youth Committee, the Education Committee or an Ad Hoc Committee which has Day Camp as its sole function. The Steering Committee is ultimately responsible for the Day Camp. They recruit volunteers and work with the congregation council to make things happen. The steering committee should play a role in the publicity of the Day Camp, help plan the Community Celebrations, and support the efforts of the Coordinator.

Day Camp Coordinator:

This is the liaison between Camp Briarwood and the congregation. He or she will play a large role in the success of camp. The coordinator will need to recruit other volunteers, arrange resources, serve as the contact person for the Briarwood office, and oversee the local responsibilities during the week of camp.

The coordinator will need to be present during the majority of the Day Camp session.

Notes:

Basic Ingredients continued...

Games:

The games played at Day Camp are inclusive and group building in nature. They are fun and educational. Games are chosen which reflect the daily theme, include everyone, and build a sense of community support.

Arts and Crafts:

The campers make something each day that ties into the theme. Their craft projects help them to remember what they learned during the day. It also provides them an opportunity to share Day Camp with others when they show their projects to family and friends or give them to nursing home residents or hosting families.

Quiet Time:

This is a time to review what was learned during the day. Counselors may use picture drawing, writing, or stories to help in this review and reflection. This is also a rest period for the children during the hottest part of the day.

Songs:

Each Day Camp is staffed with song leaders who will teach campers new ways to sing old songs and brand new songs to sing. These songs present the fun of praise and worship to all people in a style that catches the attention of even the youngest campers.

Lunch:

Each day every child brings a sack lunch for the noon meal. It should be suggested to parents that these sack lunches not need refrigeration or microwaves for preparation. Soda should be discouraged as a drink choice.

Snacks:

Snacks not only provide a nutritional energy boost; they also allow opportunities to involve volunteers who provide and serve snacks. Snacks also give an opportunity to talk about nutrition and the care of the gift of life which God has given each of us.

The Week's Schedule

Sunday

The Briarwood staff team will arrive on Sunday. In some cases they may be able to attend Sunday morning services with the congregation. For locations more than a few hours away the team will arrive Sunday afternoon. If you would like to involve the Briarwood team in your Sunday morning plans, please let us know in advance so that they can be prepared with an appropriate activity. This could include leading a camp song, giving a children's message, or simply an introduction to the congregation about the theme and team members.

A meeting of volunteers, junior counselors, and Briarwood staff is advisable on Sunday afternoon or early evening so that introductions, expectations, schedules, and needs can be discussed.

Some congregations choose to host a Day Camp Kickoff party on Sunday. This could include a sing-a-long, ice cream social, pot-luck dinner, or worship celebration. This can be a good time for the counselors to introduce themselves and the theme. This can also be a good opportunity for parents to meet the staff and ask any questions they may have about the week's program.

Monday through Friday

The camp is held Monday through Friday. The camp hours are set by the congregation. **Briarwood's staff will be available to begin daily setup at 8am with registration as early as 8:30am. Briarwood's staff is available to work with campers until 4:30 in the afternoon.** After the camp wraps up for the day a short staff meeting, including junior counselors and volunteers, will be held to address any issues and make a plan for the following day. A congregation may choose to use volunteers to offer extended hours to accommodate working parents.

Local Responsibilities continued ...

5. Provide two snacks and some beverage for all participants each day. Water should also be readily available.
6. The congregation needs to provide a site for camp to take place. Most use their church building and grounds. Community centers, recreation areas, parks, or a private facility can all be effective. A temperature controlled area should be at the site. A building capable of holding camp events inside is needed in case of inclement weather. Emergency phone, rest rooms, and running water are also necessary.
7. Provide all necessary transportation to and from the site for campers going on field trips. Counselors can either be transported with the group or drive themselves.
8. Handle all public relations including internal congregational announcements, bulletin inserts, website additions or advertisements. It is also helpful to follow up on those who attend Day Camp, but are not members, as a part of your evangelical outreach.
9. The congregation must contract with Briarwood for a Day Camp. This contract will include a \$500 deposit for those congregations who **have not held day camps for the two previous years.** Congregations that have held a Briarwood Day Camp for both of the previous two years are eligible to contract a day camp without submitting a deposit but the total price remains the same. These fees cover Briarwood's cost to provide staffing, transport, supplies and resources for your camp. This contract covers the dates for your camp and the size of camp package that you are requesting form Briarwood.

Local Responsibilities for the Day Camp

Please thoroughly read through this list of responsibilities. These are all items that a congregation accepts the responsibility for when signing up for a Briarwood Day Camp program. Since every Day Camp is different, these items can be adjusted to fit your individual needs but the basic concept still needs to be present.

1. Establish a Day Camp Steering committee from the congregation to meet all of your needs. Then select a local Day Camp Coordinator to work with the Briarwood staff. The Day Camp coordinator should also be a part of the steering committee.
2. Provide volunteers to work with the Day Camp program. This includes adults to act as registrar, first aid provider, kitchen staff, transportation coordinator, and junior counselors. The pairing of one Briarwood team member and one junior counselor per group keeps the camper to supervisor ratio at 6:1. A congregation should do its best to provide at least one JC for every twelve campers, more is encouraged. Junior Counselors may be anyone who has completed 6th grade or above, but **older youth (High School) or young adults are preferred.**
3. Provide Host families for the Briarwood staff from Sunday night until Friday morning. The staff is very flexible and do not expect the Ritz. Some congregations provide rooms in member's homes, some provide a room at the church or parsonage, or some even provide an RV. Couches, floor space, cots, or beds are all fine. **The staff truly prefers to be housed as a group or split into just two groups of males and females. This allows for easier transportation and for companionship.**
4. **The congregation is responsible for feeding the Briarwood staff during the week.** These meals may be provided by the host families or by a combination of contributors. Lunches could be sack lunches or some congregations bring in lunch each day for the staff and volunteers.

Weekly Schedule, Monday through Friday, continued ...

When campers arrive each morning they will need to check-in with a registration table. After check-in the campers will be greeted by the staff. The staff will help them put away coats, swimwear, lunches, or any items they have brought with them for the day. Then the camper will be placed in their family unit for the day. The campers will spend their day supervised by the Briarwood staff as they participate in a variety of activities such as worships, games, crafts, songs, and Bible Studies. These activities will revolve around the theme of the day. Briarwood's staff will be prepared to run a full day's worth of activities, but are flexible with the schedule to include local activities or ideas that a host church may have.

Staff will return to Briarwood at the end of camp on Friday.

Community Celebration

Some congregations choose to hold a Community Celebration. This might be held Thursday evening or Friday afternoon. This celebration acts as an open house for parents and members of the congregation. This can be a good opportunity for parents to meet the new friends their child has made at camp, hear some of the camp songs, play a game with their child, or see craft projects made during the week. This is a wonderful time to invite non-member parents to join your congregation.

Friday Party

One tradition is to hold "Water Day" on Friday afternoon. This usually entails wet and wild fun for everyone. This may entail slip and slide, body paint, water balloons, etc. This can be a great time to invite the local fire department.

If your situation isn't ideal for "water day", a variety of alternate activities could be substituted. A field trip, talent show, box skits, guest presenter, or whatever your imagination conjures up all fit the bill for a positive Friday sendoff.

Sample Daily Schedule

- 8:30am Staff and volunteers meet to discuss the upcoming day.
- 9:00am Registration, lead by registrar and volunteers
Warm up activities, lead by staff
- 9:30am Opening Worship, lead by staff
- 9:45am Morning Snack, provided by congregation
- 10:00am –12:00pm Family Activity time, lead by staff
- 12:00pm Lunch, campers bring a sack lunch, congregation provides for volunteers and staff
- 12:30pm Turtle Time, quiet time activities lead by staff
- 1:00pm Family Activity time, lead by staff
- 2:00pm All camp, whole group activity lead by staff
- 3:00pm Afternoon snack, provided by congregation
- 3:15pm Round-up activity, lead by staff
- 3:45pm Closing Worship, lead by staff and campers
- 4:00pm Dismissal and check out
- 4:15pm Staff and volunteers have a quick staff meeting

Congregations can customize the schedule to accommodate their individual needs and plans. This is just one example. The schedule can be adapted to accept any number of special events such as field trips, presentations, or group activities. These special events come from your congregation and community resources. A list of events that have worked well in the past is on the following page. The Briarwood staff will be as flexible as possible.

Some Suggestions for Special Events

- Spend one day at the park
- Invite the local fire department out for a show and tell, or possibly use them as part of a Water Day event.
- Invite the local police to do a presentation on personal safety and strangers.
- Bring in a zoo program, this is usually a great program.
- Invite a naturalist to camp or go to a local nature center and take a hike.
- Dump a load of sand and build sand castles.
- Visit a local nursing home and sing camp songs for the residents.
- Have the pastor give the children a "tour" of the of the church.
- Go to a gymnasium, planetarium, or putt putt golf course
- Bring someone in who has touchables, such as rocks, that they collect.
- Puppet Show
- Take a trip to the vet or animal shelter to learn how to care for pets.
- Make sandwiches for a soup kitchen and deliver them there.
- Talent show
- Ice Cream Day
- Use the resources of your congregation and community.