

Deanery Week at CYO Summer Camps

After speaking with many Pastors, Youth Ministers, Teachers, and Directors of Religious Education we discovered that coordinating schedules for a week at camp can be difficult. We'll help you fix that! We are targeting specific deanery weeks at CYO Summer Camps. These weeks can help the parish school plan when to encourage campers to go to camp and allow them to go with other kids from their parish, school and deanery*. We've also chartered a bus at no cost to the parish families for deaneries that have a drive time to camp of more than one hour to camp! Please help spread the word about camp by encouraging families to send their campers during one of our deanery weeks. I've included some ideas below that you could use. If every parish school sends three more campers than last year we will achieve our targeted goals

Camp Don Bosco Deanery Weeks (Entering Grades 3-8)

Beginning Date	Ending Date	Deanery
7/9/2012	7/14/2012	North Seattle
7/23/2012	7/28/2012	Northern, Snohomish, Olympic and Pierce (Bus Available)
8/6/2012	8/11/2012	South King and South Seattle
8/13/2012	8/18/2012	Southern, South Sound, Pierce (Bus Available)

Camp Hamilton Junior High Deanery Weeks (Entering Grades 6-9)

Beginning Date	Ending Date	Deanery
7/16/2012	7/21/2012	South King, South Seattle, and North Seattle
7/23/2012	7/28/2012	Northern, Snohomish, Olympic and Pierce (Bus Available)
8/13/2012	8/18/2012	Southern, South Sound, Pierce (Bus Available) and Eastside (No Bus)

Camp Hamilton High School Deanery Weeks (Entering Grades 9-12)

Beginning Date	Ending Date	Deanery
7/6/2012	7/14/2012	Pierce, South King, Snohomish, South Seattle and Olympic
8/1/2012	8/9/2012	North Seattle, Eastside, Northern, South Sound and Southern

*This does not mean families can only go to their specific deanery week they can still register for any session at camp. If the deanery week designated for your parish does not work for your schedule please email our office and we can schedule a different week for your parish.

Still wondering why to encourage your youth?

Catholic Youth Organization summer camping offers a mountain top experience of faith for the youth of our archdiocese. Young people are guided by role models on fire with their Catholic faith to explore the work of God in their life through prayer, scripture and the sacraments. Dynamic adventure activities are used as metaphors for how we are called to fall deeper in love with Jesus Christ and to serve as He served, much like Jesus used parables to teach the crowds. The value of this experience is the ability for the youth to connect with their faith in a tangible way and to bring that back into their parish communities.

Sample letter to parents:

Dear (fill in the blank),

Before you know it summer 2012 will be upon us. As a parent you are inundated with a flood of summer program opportunities for your child. From swim lessons to club sports to family trips our children's summer schedules often become busier than the school year. You may also be searching for affordable child care opportunities for when you are away at work. This is why I want to take this opportunity to let you know of a summer option for your child that will break through the noise of their busy schedule.

You work hard as a parent trying to shape the personal development of your child. You want to equip them with the ability to make good decisions, be a problem solver, serve the community and much more. Your child's faith development is essential for them to develop as adults of strong character. This summer invest in your child's personal relationship with Jesus Christ and their connection to the Catholic faith. At summer camp, kids are excited about their faith because it is delivered in a fun, positive manner. The values you teach at home are reinforced through daily prayer, bible study and community living. Positive caring role models enable kids to see how their faith can be incorporated in to their own daily life. CYO camping also works hard to teach the campers that this feeling of the Holy Spirit alive in them does not have to end at the end of camp, but can be received through involvement in their parish.

Now you might be saying I really can't afford the cost of a week of residential camp or day camp. Camp is tax deductible as child care, making it equivalent to sending your child to a secular program plus CYO Camping is blessed with a large anonymous scholarship fund that can help you send your child to camp regardless of your personal financial situation. Our parish is encouraging families to attend _____ session with other youth from our school and deanery (please note you can sign up for other weeks if this one does not work for your family). [Include bus information here if applicable] So take a few moments to visit the camp website www.camping.seattleooyam.org and please feel free to ask me any questions or to contact CYO camps directly. I hope you have a great day and I look forward to the impact we can make on your child's life.

Sincerely,

(Whoever in the school makes the most sense to send this from)

Sample PTA or School Bulletin announcement:

Today I would like to personally invite you to consider sending your child to the Catholic Youth Organization summer camps this summer. Young people today need powerful experiences of Catholic faith to ignite their hearts with the love of Jesus and the Catholic Church. Summer camp provides this opportunity as well as fun camp things like eating s'mores, swimming in the pool, and exploring the woods. Lessons in problem solving, team work and the Catholic faith are taught through fun hands on games and high adventure activities. Please visit the CYO Camping website at www.camping.seattleooyam.org for more information.