



Connecting Camps & Churches

FUNDRAISING IDEAS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL AID FOR YOUR CAMPERS

No child should miss camp for a financial reason. To help every child get to camp, consider these resources and ideas.

Access through the camps _____

Discounts. Both [Covenant Harbor](#) and [Covenant Point](#) offer discounts.

Financial aid through camp. Every year, the camps provide thousands of dollars in financial aid to campers. Encourage parents to learn more at the camps' websites.

Financial aid for children of ECC pastors. Sometimes a pastor's family just needs a boost to send a child to camp. Encourage your pastor to speak directly with the camp's director to make confidential arrangements. Covenant Harbor, Eric Anderson: (262) 248-3600. Covenant Point, Erik Strom: (906) 265-2117.

What your church can do: Fundraising ideas _____

Camp testimonies. Pick one Sunday each month to invite your campers to share their camp stories and testimonies during worship. Attached is a sample script you can adapt for your campers – they do better if they speak with notes. Ask them to send photos ahead of time for projection and to wear camp t-shirts. After the service, they and their families serve refreshments for a freewill offering. Decorate the table with camp items. Homemade treats help generate contributions!

Loose change. Every Sunday, loose change in the offering plate goes to the camp scholarship fund. This worked better before online giving, but churches who have developed this culture report it still generates a fair amount of money for scholarships. Think of other creative ways you could gather loose change, as well.

Camp Sunday. Designate one Sunday a year as Camp Sunday. Devote time during the worship service to camper testimonies, a visit and mission moment from a representative from Harbor Point Ministries, campers leading camp songs, campers reading Scripture and serving as ushers. Station campers at the doors with baskets to accept freewill offerings as worshippers depart.

Personal sponsorships. Some congregations have a person, a couple or a family who want to specifically contribute to the camp scholarship fund to support one, two or more campers. Keep your ear to the ground to identify these people and then talk with them about the opportunity. Follow their lead as the Holy Spirit leads them and make reasonable arrangements that suit how they would like the process to work. In churches where this occurs, donors typically want to remain anonymous.

What can you sell? Do you have a creative person in your congregation who can make beautiful centerpieces? Consider asking that person to donate the centerpieces to a special event and allow them to be sold with the proceeds going to the camp scholarship fund. One church does this at its annual Easter breakfast hosted by their

deacon board. Centerpiece ideas: ceramics, flower arrangements in attractive pots, household and decorative crafts, artwork, candles and more. Also consider other types of sales: rummage, pies, baked goods, books, fair trade items (crafts, coffee, clothes), carved wood items (kitchen utensils, bowls, etc.), toys and more. One Latina church sells Krispy Kreme donuts. What's available in your community?

Events. The most successful events involve good food and good fellowship with ticket sales and youth working as cooks, servers and greeters. One Rockford church hosts an annual spaghetti dinner with homemade sauce, which they also sell in jars (taking orders ahead of time). Other churches hold car washes and Wednesday evening family events. Many churches have a special tradition of raising scholarship funds through an annual event. Find what works for your church and stick with it over time. You can have fun with a camp quiz, a camp video, camper stories, camp songs and other camp connections. Also consider inviting Harbor Point Ministries and camp staff to share, show a video or lead a game or song.

Auctions. An auction can be a lot of work, but it can raise quite a bit of money. You can hold a live or silent auction. Look for auction items that interest people in your congregation or community: Handmade furniture, quilts, weekends/weeks at someone's lake cottage or summer home, sports tickets, themed baskets and gift certificates. If you secure items from local businesses, thank them with a note and a story and picture of a camper's experience. Your note also becomes a witness to how God works through camp ministry.

Hire out. For older youth, find a day in the fall or spring that they can rake leaves, clean out flower beds, mow grass, wash windows or do other types of home and yard work. There are several ways to earn scholarship funds - sell their time by the hour, accept freewill contributions, hold an auction to see who will work where.

Think about more than money. The cost of going to camp also includes personal items that are sometimes challenging for families to acquire and transportation that can be expensive. Some churches gather sleeping bags, duffle bags, pillows, gift certificates to Target or other stores to purchase clothes, water shoes, sunscreen, beach towels, etc., to help families prepare to attend camp. If you are far from the camps, organizing rides to Covenant Harbor or to the nearest Covenant Point bus stop helps families who don't have the time, ability or money to drive themselves.

Whatever you do to help families meet the cost of camp, do it in the Spirit's gentleness and joy! Growing your camp fund and resources can become a beautiful, meaningful part of your congregation's culture - where God's people come together to show love and care for children and youth. Enjoy the journey!

Let us know if we can help. Reach out to Beth Fredrickson, executive director of Harbor Point Ministries, at bfredrickson@harborpointministries.org with questions about fundraising, developing a church policy for managing campers' financial aid, learning more about the role of the booster, or engaging a staff person to visit your church.