



YFC Camp Trip Leaders:

We've created this template to highlight some key areas of training for Cabin Leaders at YFC Camp. We strongly urge you to consider scheduling a half-day with all your cabin leaders, approximately 1 month before your camp. You may also find it beneficial to partner up with a nearby YFC chapter and do this together. Year after year we read comments from cabin leaders wishing they had received training before attending camp - please MAKE IT HAPPEN FOR THEM!! THEY WANT IT!!

Feel free to customize this training as you see fit. We've selected several topics that cabin leaders have referenced as areas they would like to receive more training. However, you know your group of cabin leaders better than we do, so please customize this to meet the training needs of YOUR cabin leaders! If they have little to no YFC Camp experience, we recommend using this template. If they have significant YFC Camp experience, please ask them for input about areas they would like training. If you would like help from the YFC Camp to create a custom training day, please contact Amber at akniser@yfc.net.

Also - please take a half day to watch the online training videos for Trip Leaders on the YFC Camp website - https://camp.yfc.net/resources/online_leader_training. There is really helpful information for **you** there, even if you have been a trip leader for YFC Camp before! And remember these few very important things as you set up your cabin leaders for success:

- Correct camper/leader ratios (1:5 for MS camp and 1:7 for HS camp)
- Leaders must be at least 18 years old and must have completed the entire volunteer onboarding process. "Cabin leaders in training" (age 16-17, juniors/seniors in HS) are allowed to come to middle school camp to be developed as leaders and build relationships they have with kids, however, those cabin leaders in training do NOT count toward your camper/leader ratio.
- Not every kid will be successful in the camp setting. Please use good discernment and judgement when deciding which kids should come to camp. If you know a kid will require a particular kind of attention, please consider if you have the appropriate leaders in place to provide that attention. The Lead Support Team at camp will be able to support you in many ways, but they will not have capacity to attend to many specific special needs, special disciplinary action, 1-on-1 care for campers, etc.

**All the videos referenced in this training are located on the YFC Camp website.*

https://camp.yfc.net/resources/online_leader_training

8:00 - 8:10 - Welcome & Thank You

- Express how grateful you are for them committing to camp and serving kids in this way
- Give them a small gift if you have space in your budget. Nothing says “thank you” like a well thought out gift! At a very minimum, provide snacks and drinks!

8:15 - 8:45 - Teambuilding Activity / Get to know you games

- Choose your own based on number of people in attendance and how well they all know each other
- The goal of this section is that leaders from the same ministry site would all know each other’s names and know something about each person

8:45 - 9:15 - YFC Camp Overview

- Video: Why go to YFC Camp? (5:38)
 - Group discussion:
 - What surprised you as you heard about YFC Camp?
 - What are four things you can expect at camp?
- Video: Program Distinctions (5:17)
 - Group discussion:
 - Look at the [YFC Camp Grid](#)
 - Who is the target audience at YFC Camp? What are two good ways to engage a Christian kid in YFC Camp?
 - Everything we do at YFC Camp is about developing the relationship between a ____ and a ____.

9:15 - 9:30 - quick break

9:30 - 10:00 - The importance of prayer & awareness of spiritual warfare

- Spiritual warfare is real and has a tendency to “ramp up” in the camp setting. Come into camp rested and “filled up” spiritually so that you are in a place of spiritual abundance - this allows you to have physical energy and spiritual alertness to engage in the spiritual battle. Engaging in the spiritual battle can be quite exhausting.
 - 5-minute group discussion - what are some ways you can ensure you are spiritually “filled up” before camp?
- Before camp

- Ask at least 3-5 people to pray for you and your cabin group in the weeks leading up to camp. Send them lists of names and specific prayer needs on a regular basis.
- Consider finding a specific scripture that you want to pray over each camper.
- Other ideas? Group brainstorm!
- Take 10 minutes right now to:
 - Write down the names of at least 3-5 people that you will ask to pray for you
 - Write some notes for your first prayer update to them!
 - Write out your plan for the coming weeks - when will you send prayer updates to your team? Will you send these updates via email, text, etc.?
- At camp
 - Send at least 1 prayer update mid-week to your prayer team! Send more if you can!
 - Meet together daily with leaders from your ministry site to pray for specific prayer needs
 - Utilize the YFC Camp Prayer Team - two people will be at camp with the specific role of praying. They won't be busy with other things; they will be ready and waiting to pray with you and for you.
 - Other ideas? Group brainstorm!

10:00-10:15 - Strategies to get kids to sign up for camp

- Promote early and often! Use promo videos from the YFC Camp website. Be sure to have fliers always available with the necessary information - there are some templates available on Storefront. Take a minute right now to go the camp website and look for the promotional tools. If all leaders know where to find these resources, it is easier for everyone to be ready to recruit and sign kids up!
- Create a plan for fundraisers for kids to participate in. Think about what will work well in your community. Most kids are willing to participate in some kind of fundraising activity if given the opportunity. There are several fundraiser ideas in the ["Development Toolkit"](#) page on the camp website.
 - 5-minute small group discussion - what fundraisers might work well in your community?
- Ask any returner to bring a friend with them. Consider making this a requirement for returners? This could be a great way to boost camp numbers from your ministry site!
- All leaders commit to raise money to help offer scholarships/discounts/incentives. Offer discounts or scholarships to kids who:
 - Sign up by a certain day. Maybe consider giving kids a free t-shirt if they sign up by a certain day?
 - Get a friend to sign up for camp (more discounts for more friends)

- Are first time campers
 - Have financial hardship
 - Have difficult life circumstances or recent tragedy
- Leaders – recruit your cabin! If all leaders can be committed to camp early, then each leader can recruit kids to fill their cabin! You can do some teambuilding activities before camp that might stir up some new interest... example: “My camp cabin group is going bowling on Friday night, do you want to come?” Then maybe that new kid will have a fun time with that group of guys and will want to go to camp!
- Consider – camp might not be the right setting for every kid. Please use good discernment and judgement when deciding which kids should come to camp. If you know a kid will require a particular kind of attention, please consider if you have the appropriate leaders in place to provide that attention.
- 5-minute group brainstorm – what other ideas do you have for getting kids signed up for camp?

10:15 - 10:30 - How can you be sure returners have the best experience at camp?

- Keep in mind that YFC Camp will always be programmed for first time campers that are far from Jesus. With this in mind, those kind of kids should be your target audience.
- When a returning camper signs up for camp again, use this moment as an opportunity to talk to this kid about WHY they want to go back to camp. This could open the door for some significant conversations.
 - Group discussion – what are some reasons you think a kid wants to come back to camp?
 - Challenge – if the returner is a follower of Jesus, please consider challenging the kid to:
 - Bring a lost friend with them to camp. This is a great way to help this young person along in their journey of developing their faith in Christ. To take this a step further, you could do a 1-on-1 or small group before camp and use the YFC Core curriculum to help this kid(s) learn how to share Christ with their friends.
 - If they are 16+, please consider asking them to serve on Project Serve.
 - If they are 16+, consider allowing them to come to middle school camp as a “junior leader”. But please remember, “junior leaders” do not count as “adults” in your camper to leader ratio. Remember that the best ratio for middle school camp is 1 leader for every 5 campers and the best ratio for high school camp is 1 leader for every 7 campers.
 - If the returner is not a follower of Jesus, still consider passing along a challenge for this kid to bring a friend with them to camp. Perhaps offer them some kind of discount if they are able to get a friend signed up.

- Arrive at camp on time so that your returning campers can attend the “Second Timer’s Meeting” – this is a quick 15-minute meeting shortly after arrival on Day 1 of camp. YFC Camp has a few specific challenges for returners, please be sure they get to this meeting!

10:30 - 10:50 - Small groups and 1-on-1 appointments

- Video - Cabin Leader 2. Cabin Time & Appointments – (8:33)
- Group discussion questions
 - Imagine you are standing in a cabin at camp. Tell us 3 things you can do to create a good small group environment.
 - Being a good small group facilitator means being a good listener. Tell us about a time that you needed to listen, even though you had something you wanted to share.
 - List a few questions that you think would be good conversations starters for a 1-on-1 appointment.

10:50 - 11:00 - quick break!

11:00 - 11:15 How to handle discipline issues at camp

- Always attempt to seek peace and de-escalate issues/situations at camp.
- Remember that behavior is often a symptom of a deeper problem. Whenever possible, leaders who know a kid’s story should be involved in making disciplinary decisions.
- Utilize the YFC Camp Head Leaders for help with discipline issues
- In some cases, it may be best to send a camper home. If that happens, the YFC Camp Head Leaders will help coordinate the details of getting the kid picked up or arranging transportation to send him/her home.

11:30 - 12:00 - How to be the best cabin leader at YFC Camp!

- Video – Cabin Leader 3. Be the Best Cabin Leader (10:34)
- Make sure kids have the packing list. Help them remember to bring everything. Text them the night before you leave and make sure they’ve got the essentials. Also, highlight a few important things:
 - Water bottle! Most kids don’t pack a water bottle, but it is so helpful if they do. Maybe you can consider picking up some cheap ones for your cabin group?
 - All luggage and bags labeled with green (for guys) or orange (for girls) so that luggage gets delivered to the correct location
 - Cabin Uniforms – take the initiative on this! Make sure your cabin group has a fun “uniform” to wear for a cabin competition. And make sure you remember to pack them!

- Group brainstorm - what are some good ideas for cabin costumes?
Think about how long it will take to create these and how much money they might cost - make a good decision based on how much time and/or money you have to work with!
- How to use afternoon free time
 - Rest for yourself - a quick nap. Come into the week well rested so that you aren't in a place of always needing long breaks in the afternoon. Plan on a couple short naps here and there to get you through. But remember, this is some awesome time to connect with kids!
 - Intentional activities/build relationships - plan times for your cabin group to meet up at the pool, snack bar, etc. Help kids to never "be bored". Play Frisbee golf. Play basketball. Explore camp!
 - Group brainstorm - what can you do during free time to intentionally engage with kids?
 - 1-on-1 appointments - this is perfect time to set up those appointments with kids!

12:00 - 12:15 - Questions, thoughts, comments, ideas, etc.

- Fill out an evaluation of today!
 - What was your biggest takeaway from today's training?
 - What would you add or takeaway to make this training better for next year?
 - Do you feel ready to be a leader at YFC Camp? Why or why not?
- Extra assignment for first time leaders at YFC Camp - watch the online training video for new leaders (Cabin Leader 1. New Leader at YFC Camp). Do this now, before lunch!

12:30 - Lunch