



Finding a Children's Evangelist for Kids' Camp

Where to Find an Evangelist

Finding a speaker is one of the most important elements of planning a successful kids' camp. The children's evangelist is one who has dedicated his life to ministering to kids in crusade evangelism. The next type of speaker is a children's pastor from outside your district.

Another natural choice for speakers is children's pastors within your own district. Missionaries to children make excellent camp speakers as well, but you must find when they are on furlough in order to schedule them. Children's ministries specialists at our colleges provide excellent ministry to children at kids' camp.

A list of names and addresses of camp speakers has been compiled at www.4kids.ag.org. The list is made up of evangelists referred by camp directors. As with any speaker, you should ask for references prior to having him or her minister at your camp.

Using Who You Have

Invite four children's pastors to speak at your camp. Plan for

each pastor to minister in one service. This does a number of things for your camp. The leaders in your district will be more apt to attend if they are involved. By having a different leader each night, you can evaluate the



strengths and weakness of these individuals for future reference. Variety may be appealing to your campers and will expose the children's pastors to different ways of doing ministry.

Sharing an Evangelist

The expense of bringing a children's evangelist to your camp will be one of your largest financial investments. Consider communicating with a district near you to see if sharing the evangelist between the two districts is a possibility. If your camp is not held at the same time as the other district's camps, you can both invite the same evangelist and split the cost of travel. Churches in your district may want to invite the evangelist on a weekend between camps. They may be willing to assist you in paying some of the travel expenses.

Book Early

Summertime is the busiest time of the year for most children's leaders. Scheduling speakers two or three summers in advance is a wise decision. Consider placing your most popular speakers on a three- or four-year rotation. When you book a speaker, immediately attempt to book him again for future camps.

Getting Them Back

Being a good host to the

evangelist can increase the chances of his wanting to return. Make him feel welcome with a basket of “goodies” in his room when he arrives. Assign one camp staff person to assist him throughout the day. If

someone is going into town, ask if he needs anything. Commend him for a job well done at the end of each service. Allow him to have free snacks from the snack bar. Give him a camp T-shirt. Take him to lunch one day dur-

ing the week. Send him a thank-you note soon after he leaves. If you treat your evangelist well, he will probably want to return. He will also recommend your camp to other evangelists.

Questions for Further Study—

1. Make a list of children’s evangelists you might wish to use at your next kids’ camp. Include contact information.
2. Make a list of children’s pastors within your district whom you might use at your next kids’ camp.
3. What changes could you make to help care for your camp evangelist?
4. Begin to make plans now for a three- to five-year camp evangelist schedule.