

"CAMPING CHAMPION"



We invite you to help us spread the word about how wonderful our camping program is in Oregon-Idaho. The camping program can provide outdoor living experiences for children, youth and adults that will support and strengthen the ministry in the local church. With this goal in mind, each local church needs to have at least one person, in addition to the pastor, who is interested in and responsible for promoting camps and retreats. We call this person the "Camping Champion".

Each church is unique in its setting, membership, and operating styles, so all the promotion tips and other materials we send to the church will need to be tailored by the "Camping Champion" to fit his/her particular congregation. The Camp & Retreat program is designed to serve persons of all ages and interests in each church of our Conference.

Ways you can help:

- > Be alert for a post card or letter that will let you know camp materials have been sent to your church. Find them! Use them! (Contact us if more are needed. It's always a tricky balance to get the right amount to each location.)
- > Become familiar with the great resources available in our Conference Camps and Retreat Centers. You are always welcomed to visit and take a tour – call the site Director to arrange a convenient time.
- > Learn about the varied camp and retreat opportunities for all ages. Check the website (gocamping.org) often!
- > Promote camping and retreats by working with the pastor to set up special promotional events and displays, and by helping others "tell the camp and retreat story."
- > Assist campers in registering for camps and retreats. Offer scholarship (campership) information.
- > Become informed of camp and retreat events that happen in fall, winter, and spring. Posters and brochures are published throughout the year. Watch *The United Methodist* (the Conference newspaper) for news of camping and retreat events.
- > Become an "Advocate for Camping" through learning and helping others to how to mobilize resources for the camping program, to ensure that a strong ministry continues for future generations.
- > Be on the lookout for potential camp and retreat leaders and counselors; have them fill out a volunteer staff application. Encourage interested high school youth to participate in the Conference Counselors-in-Training (CIT) program.
- > Encourage groups in your church to consider retreats as effective learning, fellowship, and planning methods.

To Get Help: You can expect support from the pastor, active campers in the congregation, camp leaders in the district, members of the Conference Camp & Retreat committees, and the Camp & Retreat Office. Publicity materials are sent to the church throughout the year, and we will let you know when these are sent out. Use the website. Call (503-802-9213) or e-mail the Conference Camping Office staff (camping@umoi.org) with any questions or concerns.