



## Help spread the smiles, get the word out that camping does great things!

Now that you see how the camping ministry can strengthen your church's ministry...

**Need a little help getting the word out about camping?** Every church does it a little differently, but here are some ideas to use the materials we have enclosed as well as ideas from other congregations... it works for us!

- ❖ **Catalogs:** These are the primary pieces of printed literature (although as times change... we find more & more people getting their information from our [gocamping.org](http://gocamping.org) website as well). Some other ideas for making the most of the catalogs may be to disassemble (is that allowed???) one or two catalogs and post the pieces on a bulletin board or in a display area. Get creative! (You could even chop off the top of this letter and use it on a bulletin board!)
- ❖ **Postcards:** These are a great resource to pass out to Sunday school classes or groups where it would not be practical to hand out huge numbers of catalogs. How about having the pastor hand them out during children's time in the worship service? The postcard has the information so they can check out our website or request a catalog from you or the camping office.
- ❖ **Scholarship fundraisers:** Besides raising money to help campers from your church afford the fees, raising funds for camp scholarships also brings more involvement and commitment from others in the congregation. This is also an excellent time to bond groups together – perhaps the choir can help to raise funds to send part the of group to choir camp while they help the youth group raise funds to send campers to MADD camp! How about raising funds to help folks go to Needlework or Quilt camp and then get together to make a project to help raise funds for Creation Vacation (a ministry to families in poverty.) Keeping the focus on the reason for the fundraising... a ministry and outreach... can create a powerful message.
- ❖ **Commission volunteers:** Don't forget that one of the strengths of our camping ministry is the volunteers that serve as deans, counselors, and resource people as well as those who work at the sites making our camps safe and wonderful places for campers to experience God's love. Sending these volunteers forth as missionaries from your congregation as well as thanking them for their service makes your entire congregation a part of the camping ministry.
- ❖ **Certificates:** Did you know that there are \$25 conference scholarships available for new members of your congregation or for youth who complete confirmation classes? Presenting certificates in a worship service is a great way to acknowledge their commitment. Blank certificates are enclosed in this packet or you can contact the camping registrar at 503-802-9213.
- ❖ **Stay alert!** Camping isn't just a summer activity for children and youth anymore! There are events happening year round at many of our camps. Did you know that about half of the camping events are for adults or families? There are spring events, fall events & winter events for a variety of ages. Watch for notices in the United Methodist newspaper, check the website frequently and watch postcards letting our "Camping Champions" know that camping information has been mailed to your church. (If you'd like to be on the "Camping Champions" mailing list and receive a postcard when camping materials are mailed to the church, call or write the camping office 503-802-9213 or [camping@umoi.org](mailto:camping@umoi.org))

**AND MOST OF ALL...** if you need more materials or if you have questions, contact the camping office:

Geneva or Susan at: 1505 SW 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, OR 97201 503-802-9213 [camping@umoi.org](mailto:camping@umoi.org)

or check out the website:

**[gocamping.org](http://gocamping.org)**