



**PILGRIM FIRS**  
camp & retreat center

# Promote YOUR Camps

## Helpful Suggestions to Get You Started

**Celebrate Faith Formation through Outdoor Ministries** in March and April! Recruit a planning team to brainstorm a list of creative possibilities for **Your Camp Sunday**. Then turn them loose to implement the best ideas.

**Personally invite your congregation** to participate in the summer camps at N-Sid-Sen and Pilgrim Firs. There are options for all ages. When pastors and key lay leaders speak, people listen. Your passion for church camp can be infectious.

**Sharing personal testimonies**, special camp stories, games and songs are especially effective. Involve experienced campers, volunteers and your staff in the Children's Message or a special Sunday School event.

**Focus on the goals and values of Christian camping** during worship on Sunday. Music, responsive readings and sermons can all be effective tools for this.

**Invite a guest from N-Sid-Sen, Pilgrim Firs** or the Outdoor Ministries Committee (OMC) to join you for worship and Sunday School. They can share a sermon, extended mission moment, PowerPoint and/or camp activities.

Ask the Sunday School or Youth Group to **make a special camp banner**. Hang it in the Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall from March - July.

**Use our bulletin inserts:** After February 20, check our websites for ready-to-print PDF files. If printing is a challenge for your congregation, contact our offices. We can help.

**Post the camp schedule** throughout your church. (PDF and JPEG versions will be available soon to download on our websites.)

**Utilize the NEW Camp Promotional Video.** Show it! Share it! <https://vimeo.com/1047551984> Show it during worship – during the prelude, announcements, or at the center of your Camp Sunday service. Show it during fellowship time and Sunday School. Share the link in your church newsletter, on your church website and social media feeds. Encourage members to send the link to family members and friends with kids.

**Community Outreach:** Consider how your congregation might partner with N-Sid-Sen and Pilgrim Firs to send kids from families in your community with lower incomes to camp. Special funds are available to assist.

On a couple Sundays, promote **a special offering** to provide financial assistance for your church's youth to attend camp. Insert offering envelopes in your Sunday bulletins and create a special category in your online giving profile.

**Encourage grandparents** to send their grandchildren to camp or attend with them.

**Plan something special for Coffee Hour.** Try s'mores or "ants on a log" instead of cookies. Set up a BBQ pit and roast hot dogs, burgers or marshmallows. Have camp alumni available to answer questions.

Host a **Chili and S-mores Cook-off** and use the funds raised to help send kids to camp.



**N-Sid-Sen and Pilgrim Firs are the camp and retreat centers  
of the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ.**

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