

NORTH CENTRAL CAMP CHERITH

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

Mission – Goals – Values

Mission Statement of Camp Cherith

The mission of Camp Cherith is to help children and youth put Christ in every phase of life, to form healthy relationships, and to develop positive feelings about themselves. Camp Cherith also assists adults in understanding children and their development in order to be able to minister more effectively to them.

Goals of Camp Cherith

1. To enable children to enter into a personal relationship with Christ and to know His Word.
 - a. By presenting Christ as Savior and Lord, the camp program gives children opportunities to experience salvation and grow spiritually.
 - b. By training children to study Scripture and apply it to daily life, camp prepares them to exercise Christian responsibility in their church, community, and world.
2. To enable children to form healthy relationships.
 - a. By teaching biblical purposes for the family and recognizing sociological influences, this program helps children learn how to be contributing members in various family situations.
 - b. By teaching that God created people to be interdependent, the camp program leads children to recognize their need for relationships with both peers and adults.
3. To enable children to grow as whole persons.
 - a. By presenting biblical values and characteristics of persons made in God's image, camp assists children in developing positive self-concepts.
 - b. By providing opportunities to develop a variety of skills and abilities, camp helps children experience achievement and deepen their sense of self-worth.
 - c. By providing experiences within an outdoor environment, camp helps children increase their appreciation and respect for God's creation.
4. To enable adults to understand children and help them develop.
 - a. Through its curriculum and supplementary materials, the camp program teaches child development and Christian values.
 - b. Adults are encouraged in their personal and spiritual growth through involvement in the camp ministry.

Camp Cherith Values

We believe that -

1. A commitment to Christ affects every phase of a person's life; therefore,
 - a. at every age level, campers will be taught that Jesus is Savior and Lord. Opportunities to make a personal commitment to Christ will be given according to the spiritual readiness of each child.
 - b. campers are taught to study Scripture, discover its truths, and apply them to everyday life through group and individual Bible study. Scripture memorization is a natural part of this learning process.
 - c. campers learn Christian behaviors and biblical values as modeled by their adult leaders and peers. These behaviors and values are strengthened through relationships with significant other Christians and by emulating their Christ-like behavior.
 - d. campers are guided in practicing a holistic approach of putting Christ in every phase of life and learning to serve God in their family, church, community, and world.
2. Because God created people to be interdependent, a sense of community develops when people join together in close proximity around common causes and interests, in spite of differing nationalities, beliefs, and lifestyles; therefore,
 - a. campers live together in a family-like situation where they share the chores, engage in cooperative decision-making, and learn to give and take with one another.
 - b. campers have opportunities to be involved in a variety of small groups within living units, age divisions, activities, and Bible studies.
 - c. campers develop relationships with other campers and learn to influence and be influenced by biblical values and lifestyle.
 - d. campers gain a sense of security which strengthens their trust in God, as they are able to trust their world and the people in it.
3. God has created each person a whole being, with individuality, uniqueness, dignity, and potential; therefore,
 - a. campers are respected and encouraged to learn new things, express creativity, explore potential gifts and abilities, and have leadership opportunities.
 - b. campers attain a realistic self-image by being accepted in the successes and failures involved in gaining skills and abilities.
 - c. campers progressively move from dependence to independence by developing initiative and being industrious and creative.

- d. campers form their own Christian value system , by having freedom to question and make decisions by weighing alternatives and consequences in a supportive environment.
 - e. campers are given opportunities to earn awards according to their interests with an emphasis on self-improvement and cooperation rather than competition.
4. People gain an appreciation for God and his creation when they are surrounded by nature; therefore,
- a. campers learn to use the outdoors as a resource during camp programs and free time.
 - b. campers are guided in learning to be comfortable and independent outdoors through direct experiences to increase nature awareness and outdoor skills.
 - c. campers practice ecology and conservation principles by caring for the campsite and the natural surroundings they enjoy.