

Churches and Communities

Crosstalk Ministries has 40 years of experience developing Summer Day Camp Programs; recruiting and training young adults to help churches and communities across Canada in running joyful, exciting, and edifying programs for those in their neighbourhoods and communities.

Churches and communities across Canada are invited to apply for a Day Camp week led by a Travelling Team recruited who partners with the host location in presenting the Program,

Teams spend one week in each location, and are billeted by members of the host community. Day Camps last five days (usually from Monday to Friday) concluding with a closing worship gathering, either on Friday afternoon, or as part of community worship on Sunday morning. The timing of the closing is up to the community.

Each day there is a series of activities, which focus on a passage of scripture. Music, devotional times, and creative arts are used to emphasize the scripture of the day in age-specific ways. Fun is strongly stressed in the playing of games, the singing of songs, and having a good time with the campers. An integral aspect of the fun is Lamb; a puppet who at times acts as M.C. by introducing the day's theme, and who at other times just promotes laughter.

The "Travelling Team", works along with the "Local Team" which is an essential community-building aspect of our Program. It is important that the Local Team assist in leading the main presentation, devotions, creative arts and games. It helps to provide continuity for the campers, by including people they already know and with whom they probably have a rapport, while introducing some new and hopefully exciting Leaders. It is the responsibility of the host community to be sure the required supplies are on hand, to serve refreshments, to relieve at lunch those working directly with the children, and to look after other administrative tasks. The host community appoints a Day Camp Coordinator who serves as a liaison with CTM and also oversees all aspects of the Program at the local level.

A Typical day at Day Camp

A typical day at Day Camp follows this approximate schedule:

- 9:00 Team arrives for devotions and preparation

- At this time, both the Travelling Team and the Local Team gather to discuss and plan for the day ahead. A local leader or clergy person is asked to lead a short devotional time.
- 9:50 Children arrive - Registration
 - Registration should be done by a Local Team member or coordinator so that connections can be made with caregivers as well as children
- 10:00 Main Presentation
 - This is the part of the day where the children encounter the Scripture story for the day. It is also a time of singing, dancing, and general enthusiasm for the day
- 10:45 Refreshments
 - Often communities provide snacks for the children, however they can also be asked to bring their own and have a little break for socializing and relaxing before proceeding to Devotions
- 10:50 Devotions
 - Children are divided into age-specific groups to discuss and interact with the Scripture story of the day
- 11:20 Games

This needs no explanation

- 12:00 Lunch (4-5 year old campers go home, unless Scrambler Afternoon Program being used)
- 12:30 Creative Connection
 - The main focus of these activities is preparation for the Closing Gathering. Campers learn a Liturgical Dance, prepare prayers, create art installations etc.
- 1:15 Games and Special Events
 - This is the traditional "wide game" part of the day, outside when possible.
- 2:45 Songs and Closing Prayer
- 3:00 Finish - clean up
- 3:15 Team Meeting
 - At this time, the Local and Travelling Teams gather to reflect on the day, and to prepare for the day to come.

If this schedule doesn't meet the particular needs of your community, we do offer flexibility in different types and timings of program, designed to meet the diverse needs of communities. The Community Application Form lists these options.

If you have decided that this Program is what your church or community is looking for then all you need to do is download a Church Application Form, fill it out and send it in along with your deposit (payable by cheque or through our PayPal, or E-Transfer)

Once your Application Form has been accepted you will be provided with a detailed Community Planner and other advance materials. CTM also offers Training Events for local helpers; these usually take place in early June, in several Provinces and are invaluable opportunities for Clergy, Coordinators and Helpers to share ideas.

If your Church or Community would like further information please [email the office](#) or call us at 514-418-1414. We look forward to connecting with you! C
Please note: All Travelling Team Members are required to submit copies of Police Screening Documents as part of the application process.