

**A Sampling of Ideas & Approaches
Used by Branch Churches who Support Sunday School Students
in Attending CEDARS Camps & other Christian Science Summer Camps**

Publishing a written timeline for families that may include

- a) Due date for video show with camp director or representative (often held in Sunday School right after church service to maximize attendance)
- b) Due date for campership applications to church;
- c) Date church Board announces campership amounts to families, if applicable. (**Please let families know that CEDARS is willing to help with additional needs not covered by church!)
- d) Guidelines for travel to camp
- e) Due date for thank you letters to church, following camp experience
- f) Date for other service activities for church (see list of ideas below)

Designating a point person or camp committee to communicate with camp directors to set up a video show, remind families of the timeline, collect and scan thank you letters, and support the camp experience metaphysically

Contacting the CedarS office to coordinate travel (i.e. coming up with a church carpool or booking the same flights for the group; signing up for CEDARS eXpress transportation service from St. Louis airport to camp during the right time windows for arrival and departure, etc. Often, Gay Huff will know of somebody driving or flying to camp from a similar area and can help connect families.)

Having a parent or church member volunteer to chaperone the group and possibly serve as a parent helper at camp during the session that campers attend

Taking a photo of the whole Sunday School group at camp to share with the church

After camp, expressing gratitude to church through thank you letters from campers and parents scanned and sent as a pdf to church members, along with camp photo. (See attached sample guidelines used by one Sunday School.)

Giving back to the church, in the form of

- a) helping with a cleanup & grounds day
- b) putting on a Wednesday testimony meeting: selecting hymns and readings, ushering, sharing healings & spiritual growth from camp
- c) putting on a hymn sing for the church
- d) volunteering to play music or help in other ways for Sunday school;
- e) putting together a slideshow and sharing camp healings and highlights for the church members; etc.
- f) providing food for video show (each family bring a dish)

Considering a fundraiser in the off-season to help with next year's camp costs

A sample reminder for thank you letters and writing prompt:

Hi Campers and Camp Parents,

It was so good to see all the campers' smiling faces in Sunday School today! I am writing to follow up on the thank you letters to the church. These are distributed to the membership in packet form once they all have been compiled. We are asking that they be turned in by [DATE]. It's really best to write them while camp is still fresh in everyone's thought.

The children's letters don't need encapsulate their entire camp experience. They simply need to convey two things: 1) that they grew in Christian Science as a result of attending camp and 2) that they are grateful to the church. Even a few sentences would do the job, and they can either be typed or handwritten. Parents, if any of you would be willing to write letters in addition to your children, these would also be greatly appreciated.

Below are some writing prompts that have helped junior high and high school aged students with writing their thank you letters in previous summers. Feel free to use them if they would help your child get started on the letter.

Letter of Gratitude Prompts:

Here are some questions to help get you writing!

Question 1: What were some of your favorite activities, new opportunities, or elements of camp?

Question 2: Describe a healing that you had while at camp. How did you pray about the situation and what was the result?

Question 3: What is something new about Christian Science that you learned while at camp? Could be from a met, practitioner talk, Freedom talk, rap session, working with a counselor or practitioner, etc.

Remember to thank the church for being willing to pay for camp expenses!