

WIKEND
YOUTH
CAMPS



2024 WEEKEND YOUTH CAMPS

MORE Leaders, MORE Ministries and MORE Young People

WELCOME!

We are so excited that you and your regional team are running a **Weekend Youth Camp** this year! From our research, we know camp ministry works. Young people often share how these experiences are formative, and the phrase "to see my friends and connect with God" summarises what we hear.

We pray that **Weekend Youth Camps** happen all over Australia as youth ministries join to impact their local region. A **Weekend Youth Camp** is an opportunity to get together with other youth ministries from your region, celebrate the good news and experience family and faith in a fun atmosphere.

To help with the running of your camp, the following is available:

- Access to funding to subsidise the cost of attending your camp of \$75 per person, or 50% of the registration cost if less than \$150.
- A spiritual framework that you can use that connects with the annual theme.

WHAT COULD A WEEKEND YOUTH CAMP LOOK LIKE?

How it looks is entirely up to your regional team and what you believe is best for your young people. The primary purpose is to help young people experience a culture built upon the four factors leading to transformation:

WELLBEING - a place where young people are looked after.

FUN - a place where young people can express themselves.

FAMILY - a place young people can belong as they are.

FAITH - a place where young people hear that God loves them.

No matter what your **Weekend Youth Camp** looks like, make sure it is safe, fun, and a place to find belonging and create space to encounter Jesus.



WHAT IS THE MESSAGE?

The theme for 2024 is No Longer Lost, a vision and a declaration of the Good News of Jesus. The Good News is that we can find our place with Jesus.

When we feel alone, anxious, invisible, or insignificant, we know that God sees us. Even if we feel lost, something is only lost if another person misses it. We know that God loves us, cares about us, and values us for who we are. We are no longer lost because we are significant to God.

As we find our place with Jesus, we have a place to belong and feel connected, secure and empowered. Jesus can help us connect with people who love us and find places where we are accepted. Jesus is always there with us and supports us. Jesus gives us the confidence to ask questions and brings supportive people into our lives who listen to and value what we bring to the world.

We find our purpose when we take our place with Jesus. He listens to us and brings meaning to our lives.

Find out more about the message and the research behind it:



LET'S GO!

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA TO APPLY FOR FUNDING?

- The camp must cater to multiple youth ministries and Corps from the local region.
- A camp needs a leader! Someone to organise the team and take responsibility for leading the camp. They would need to be part of the Salvation Army, such as a youth leader (volunteer or employed) or a Corps Officer.
- A Corps needs to take responsibility for the finances. We need a cost centre to transfer the funding once registrations have closed.

HOW DO WE GET STARTED?

The best way to start is to talk with other youth ministries that are part of your region, Corps Officers and your Area Officer. Once you are ready to go, complete the application form. The resources are already available on our website if you want to download them and start planning.

Ready to get started? Scan this link to complete the application form:



Here's a link to all the resources to organise your Weekend Youth Camp:



FAQS

THE FUNDING DOESN'T COVER THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT WE NEED. WHAT CAN WE DO?

The cost could be a challenge depending on your choice of camp location and catering - these are the two most significant expenses of a camp. Have a chat with a member of the Youth & Young Adults Team and your Area Officer. They may have some ideas, including great ways to fundraise that allow young people to get involved in the solution.

DO WE STILL GET THE FUNDING IF ONLY HALF THE YOUTH TURN UP?

The funding grant is for youth who have registered and attended the camp. Unfortunately, the funding is not allocated for your estimated attendance but your actual registered attendance.

WHAT IF WE NEED MORE HELP WITH THE CAMP?

The Mission Support Department has a team of Event Coordinators who are experts in organising events. Whilst they cannot dedicate themselves to organising your camp, they can assist with guidance, answers to questions and point you in the right direction. Your Youth & Young Adults Ministry Team member or Area Officer are also helpful points of contact.

WHAT IF WE WANT TO USE A DIFFERENT SPIRITUAL FRAMEWORK?

Go for it! You're the expert in the discipleship and faith journey of the young people you lead. We also have an archive of material used over the past years available on our website.

CAN WE ASK A YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS SECRETARY TO GUEST PREACH?

You certainly can! They can also put you in touch with other great communicators if they are unavailable.

WE DON'T HAVE A WORSHIP BAND. ANY IDEAS?

Revolution Worship has backing tracks and pre-recorded worship songs available if you need support with music at your camp.

WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TEAM MEMBERS TO ORGANISE A CAMP?

There are many options to create a camp experience without the logistics of using a campsite. For example, having an overnight stay at your Corps can be a great way to hold a mini-camp. There will also be a state-based camp run by the Youth & Young Adults Ministry team throughout the year that you can attend and participate in.

WHO LOOKS AFTER SAFEGUARDING?

Every Corps will be responsible for submitting a MAaP for transport and ensuring their leaders comply with integrity checks. The Camp Leader will need to complete a risk assessment for the camp. Each division has a Safeguarding Consultant that can support you with these processes.