

# A Day in the Life at Camp



## GOAL

To learn more about the impact of camping ministry in Atlantic Canada, specifically Kingswood Camp, and to pray for them.

## PREPARATION

Prepare 18 signs with a different time on each one to represent the times of day noted in the program: 7:30AM, 8:00 AM, 8:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 10:15 AM, 11:00 AM, 12 noon, 12:30 PM, 1:30 PM, 3:30 PM, 4:00 PM, 5:00 PM, 6:00 PM, 7:00 PM, 8:00 PM, 8:30 PM, 9:30 PM. While presenting program, use each sign to introduce the next time frame. More than one person may present the program if desired (one suggestion is to have someone read the stories printed in *italics*).

## INTRODUCTION

**Say:** Atlantic Baptist Women's 2021 Home Mission Project is Camp On!, in support of the 14 Atlantic Baptist camps. Through this project, we can offer materials goods and gift cards to financially support our camps. We can also offer prayer support for campers and staff (see January 2021 Tidings for details on project). Today we are looking at a day in the life of one of those camps. Kingswood Camp is located on Lake George in Kings County, Nova Scotia. Candice Main, the executive director, shares with us what a typical day at camp is like and includes some ministry stories of individuals.

### **7:30am - Staff and Volunteers attend Staff Meeting**

Every day starts with a staff meeting where we go over the day ahead, address issues, hear updates, give encouragement, and most importantly refocus our team on the mission of camp through a time in God's word and praying together.

*Story: After attending teen camp Evan decides to come back to camp as a volunteer in the kitchen. At the morning staff meetings he notices genuine faith of the staff as they pray together and study the Bible. He finds their authenticity very compelling and gets into many deep conversations about God with the Head Cook as they work together in the kitchen.*

### **8:00am - Rise and Shine! Campers wake up and get ready for the day**

Cabin Leaders will sometimes do wake-up by singing a ridiculous song while fully decked out in costume. Fun and play is infused in camp's schedule even during mundane activities. After campers are ready for breakfast they gather outside near our dining hall to engage in free play or just hang out. Cabin Leader use these in between moments to build relationships with campers and foster friendships among their campers.

### **8:30am - Breakfast is served**

Our meals are served buffet style with lots of options for customization so every camper, no matter how picky the eater, finds something nutritious and delicious to fuel their bodies for the day ahead. Campers sit with their cabin members and our leadership staff intersperse among campers. Meal times are a great opportunity to get to know campers and to just sit and talk.

*Story: The Assistant Director Alicia sits with a quiet camper named Ethan. Since she seems interested in it Ethan shares with Alicia how he loves to draw and shows her his sketch book. Ethan really enjoys this opportunity to talk with a leader, he's too nervous to talk in front of the group and feels like leaders don't usually notice him since he doesn't stand out.*

### **9:00am - Cabin Clean-Up Time**

During this time campers help lend a hand to sweep, tidy, and pick up garbage, and each camper makes their bed and cleans up their belongings. A "Cabin Inspector" will come around in the afternoon to inspect their cabin for the cleanest cabin competition.

### **9:30am - Bible Study**

Campers are formed into smaller groups, allowing for group discussions and more interaction with the teacher. Leaders ensure campers without a Bible have opportunity to receive one to use and take home. Sometimes leaders write a little note of encouragement to their campers inside their Bible. Many campers bring a journal along with their Bible to write notes about what they learn.

*Story: Jake never knew much about the Bible, and actually has never even seen a Bible until camp. In Bible Study the teacher actually takes some time to talk about the Bible itself and why it's important and why it can be trusted. Jake discovers that it's actually really interesting to study the Bible and to learn about Jesus first hand instead of just hearing about him from internet posts.*

*Story: Gabrielle goes to church with her family most weeks but has never actually read the Bible at home, especially by herself. In their group discussion time her leaders share about their own 'quiet time' with God and how they read the Bible. Gabrielle writes down the advice her leaders give for understanding what the Bible says. She is pretty excited about the idea of having her own quiet time.*

### **10:15am - Games / Ropes Course / Zipline**

Depending on the day, campers will have an opportunity to play some games in the gym or outdoors, try their hand on the Low Ropes challenge course, or take a ride down the Zipline. Completing the ropes course or taking the nerve-wracking leap to ride the zipline builds the sense of confidence and independence of campers. These types of opportunities help children to realize they can face challenges and they can accomplish difficult things.

*Story: Luke is nervous about going down the zipline but his cabin leader encourages him to give it a try. Climbing up to the platform is really scary for Luke. When he is told he can step off the platform he hesitates. His cabin mates cheer him on and he decides to go for it - whoosh! The ride is fast and fun and soon he's at the other side. Luke feels really proud of himself. He can't believe he actually did that! With a huge smile on his face he walks back to the group receiving many high fives.*

### **11:00am - Options (canoeing, crafts, archery, bouldering, outdoor survival skills, woodworking, ukulele, and sports)**

Campers choose an activity option to take part in to challenge themselves, learn something new, and further gain a sense of confidence. The staff at each activity work to foster an uplifting and fun environment, one where each individual is celebrated. These are moments of relationship building through shared experience and adventure.

*Story: Candice talks with the campers in her canoe about their experiences at camp so far. In particular they chat about what they are learning about God, if that is something new for them, and how these lessons might change the way they go about life once they are home. Not only do the campers come away from their canoe trip having had an adventurous learning experience, but they also enjoyed their conversation and it leaves them thinking more about "this God thing".*

### **12:00pm - Lunch time**

Lunch time has a bit of an extra twist of fun: we have mail call, singing of songs, cabin inspection updates, and sometimes even a skit. Camp is infused with moments of silliness and fun. All too often children and youth are burdened and overwhelmed with problems beyond their age. Camp is an opportunity for them to just be a kid and get some distance from these worries while learning about God's love for them.

### **12:30pm - Camp Wide Game / Slip and Slide / Messy Games**

Camp wide games and activities like our giant slip and slide or messy games go beyond what other programs offer. We go all out for these activities. Creativity is something we celebrate and often in our camp wide games, staff are in character complete with costume. Campers are encouraged throughout various activities to let their creativity blossom.

### **1:30pm - Swimming & Tuck**

We try to make the most of summer at camp with time at the waterfront everyday. Campers swim and play in the water and sand. Tuck is a traditional camp name for treats and candy available at our canteen. This time in the afternoon has less structure to it and lots of opportunities to build relationships with campers and to have meaningful conversations.

### **3:30pm - Drop N' Flop**

Camp is a full and busy day. Drop N' Flop is a rest period where campers are quietly in their cabins. Some campers have a nap, others journal or read, and quiet conversation happens. It is time for them to recharge a little and reflect.

*Story: Morgan uses Drop N' Flop time to share God stories with her campers; little testimonies of times that God has shown up in her life through answered prayer. The campers really enjoy her stories and keep asking for more each day.*

#### **4:00pm - Missions**

Through the Missions program campers learn about something God cares deeply for: people who are in need, in poverty, or vulnerable. And they learn how Christians are trying to care for these people. It's in this program that campers see a specific way that they can join in to serve God and others. It's not only a lesson that campers are taught but they are actually given the opportunity to engage in service by donating their tuck money towards the mission project.

#### **5:00pm - Supper**

The last meal of the day is again an opportunity for building relationships. There is something special about sharing a meal together, and as our leaders sit and eat with our campers they get to talk about their day and share stories. At the end of the week we have a special banquet meal where we take time to talk to the campers about finding a church or youth group to attend after they go home. Camp staff who volunteer at a youth group share details with the campers and an invitation is left for anyone that may need help finding a church or youth group to talk with a staff member.

*Story: While James is sitting with his cabin for supper, the chapel speaker, Joel decides to sit down beside him. He takes this chance to ask Joel questions about his sermon from yesterday. James thinks Joel tells great stories and he is eager to hear what happens in the story that Joel left as a cliffhanger. Joel and James end up talking more in-depth about our need for God as they eat supper together.*

#### **6:00pm - Chapel**

At chapel campers hear the gospel message clearly taught from scripture. Each week we bring in a chapel speaker who is a pastor or Christian leader from a nearby church. Campers have a chance to worship together in the beautiful setting of God's creation at our outdoor chapel.

*Story: Alanna watches as almost half the campers respond to the chapel speaker's invitation to write on a paper a prayer of thanksgiving or something to surrender to God and post it on the cross by the stage. Her heart is moved by seeing these young people respond in faith to the Lord.*

#### **7:00pm - Camp Wide Game / Cabin Night**

Cabin Nights are a chance for a cabin to bond together by doing their own special activity, whether it is building a tree fort together, cooking something over a campfire, or pulling a prank, these moments create lasting memories and friendships. Camp Wide Games foster these same moments as campers work together as a team during the game.

*Story: Ryan made such great friendships with his cabin mates during his week of camp. They invited Ryan to their weekly youth group and he accepted their invitation so he could continue to spend time with them. Besides, turns out that learning about God wasn't so bad and Ryan wouldn't mind continuing to do that some more.*

#### **8:00pm - Campfire & Snack**

Campfire is a bonding experience for the camp as a whole. It is full of fun songs and skits, some that are just silly and others that teach about God's character. We end each campfire with slower worship

songs and a prayer before bed. The last campfire of the week is an opportunity for each cabin to take a turn leading.

*Story: Gracie loves campfire. When she goes home she finds herself singing the song Sanctuary. It keeps getting stuck in her head and reminds her that she can have a close relationship with God.*

### **8:30pm - Devotion Time**

Each day ends with 'DT' where a cabin sits down together to talk about what they're learning about God. The cabin leaders lead a discussion and give their campers a chance to ask questions about matters of faith. DT ends with a time of prayer together.

*Story: Gavin has never prayed out loud in front of others, it makes him nervous. During the prayer time at the end of his cabin's DT he decided to pray out loud for the first time. It felt important for him to be able to show others his faith in the Lord through prayer.*

*Story: Meghan decides to give her life to Jesus after her cabin leader presents them with an opportunity to make that choice. At the end of DT her and a few other campers pray with the leaders to ask for forgiveness, trusting in Jesus as their Saviour and choosing to live for him.*

### **9:30pm - Lights Out**

Turn off your flashlights please. Tomorrow is another day!

## **PRAY**

Spend some time in prayer for Atlantic Baptist camps: for their Boards as they make important and wise decisions; for their paid and volunteer staff members, that they may receive strength and stamina as they build relationships, share the love of Christ and deepen their own relationships with him; and for the campers, that their time at camp will be fun, exciting and meaningful as they are introduced to and experience more of Jesus. Pray they will be connected with churches and youth programs to help nurture their faith. May the Lord grow the seeds that are planted in camping ministry for the extending of his Kingdom.

*Atlantic Baptist Women extends our thanks to Candice Main for providing the information for this program.*