



VISION • MISSION • MINISTRY PHILOSOPHY • VALUES • STRATEGY

This document outlines how Youth for Christ's Vision, Mission, Ministry Philosophy, Values, and Strategies are integrated at YFC Camp. The entire camping experience serves as a tool to accomplish the mission of YFC.

Vision

As part of the body of Christ, to see that every young person in every people group in every nation has the opportunity to make an informed decision to be a follower of Jesus Christ and become part of a local church.

YFC Camp provides an excellent experience through which Jesus Christ would forever alter the life of every young person who comes to camp - that they, in turn, would be driven to alter the lives of those around them for Christ.

Mission

YFC reaches young people everywhere, working together with the local church and other like-minded partners to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus who lead by their godliness in lifestyle, devotion to the Word of God and prayer, passion for sharing the love of Christ, and commitment to social involvement.

YFC Camp exists to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus by creating a transformational environment for young people through authentic relationships, shared experiences, outdoor challenges and times of solitude that draw students to the heart of God.

Ministry Philosophy

3Story® is our way of seeing life and ministry through the lens of relationships. Being close to God infuses our stories with his life. Our authentic and growing connections with God change us – everything changes! We share Jesus Christ as we engage young people in overlapping relationship circles. What we do and say flows naturally from who we are. Since God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit are the loving glue holding all of creation together, it befits God's image-bearers to recognize relationships as the highest reality. That's why we claim 3Story® as our YFC DNA.

YFC Camp intentionally integrates 3Story® principles into the way we display and proclaim the Gospel at camp. While "Story Time" tangibly showcases this from stage, relationships between cabin leaders and campers most powerfully position us to BE good news, while telling stories of THE good news.

We teach this simple principle:

"The Gospel Displayed + The Gospel Articulated = The Gospel Made Known"

VALUES

Christ Centered

Biblically calibrated. Missionally focused. Vigorously pursued. Preeminently important.

A Christ Centered life and mission will be marked by...

Enduring Humility

Consistent. Transparent. Resilient. Prayerful.

This value is embodied at YFC Camp by recognizing we are not the most important part of a camper coming to know God – Jesus is! For instance, when we create sacred space at Camp for “solo time”, we humbly remove ourselves from the equation so God can be heard from directly. Philippians 2 provides our leadership model; it’s why we consider one another as more important than us. That means we pitch in and get it done, no matter how menial the task. Camp Speakers, Camp Directors and Project Serve Leaders speak with authenticity, explaining how God is currently changing them. And we choose to serve the property staff by being Kingdom builders, highlighting our commonalities and learning from their camp expertise.

Relentless Trust

Determined. Generous. Vulnerable. Grace Filled.

This value is embodied at YFC Camp by recognizing that in a condensed camp environment conflict is to be expected. We commit to timely conflict resolution while offering grace and forgiveness. Also, while risk is inherent in a camp setting, we seek to prove our reliability through activities that foster shared trust-building experiences among campers & leaders.

Joyful Camaraderie

Selfless. Collaborative. Missional. Delighted.

This value is embodied at YFC Camp by training our LST and PS teams to give each person, each conversation, and each moment your best. We strive to be teams of people who are present in each situation, listening with patience, and meeting people’s needs. Camp brings leaders from disparate chapters and geographies together under a common mission. When we search for properties we think about how late-night relationships for LST and PS teams can happen easily and naturally in the same building together. Camp has an intentional culture of celebration noted by how we welcome campers at arrival, hosting “parties” and celebrations throughout the week, and most notably during our end-of-week formal dinner gala.

Courageous Faithfulness

Brave. Balanced. Unleashed. Sustainable.

This value is embodied at YFC Camp by daily challenging campers and leaders to stretch themselves with new adventures, like high ropes courses, high dives, and giant swings. These help anyone get acquainted with how faith works to grow us. As a result, we can bravely embrace even greater acts of courage when we place our faith in Jesus.

Kingdom Inspired Diversity

Intentional. Authentic. Indigenous. Empowered.

This value is embodied at YFC Camp by purposefully building LST teams that are diverse in gender, age, and ethnicity. We want the campers who spend a week with us to see the array of beautiful differences in the body of Christ and become empowered to someday lead in YFC. YFC Camp interns are predominantly indigenous leaders who often go on to become YFC leaders. And when we create our programs, we are careful to incorporate music and the arts to reach broad cross-sections of students and their likes.

STRATEGIES

Widespread Prayer

We deliberately engage lots of Christians to intercede on behalf of the ministry site.

YFC Camp depends on prayer, as evidenced by nation-wide prayer updates sent before, during, and after each week of camp with specific ways for a prayer army to engage. We have made prayer a high enough value to recruit, train and mobilize two people on every LST who strictly serve in this way, equipping these paired teams with 8 hours of pre-camp training. Every LST and Cabin Leader meeting and every meal includes prayer while at camp.

Loving Relationships

We consistently pursue lost kids & engage them in life-long relationships with Jesus.

YFC Camp implements this strategy in two significant ways. First, we guard the relational journey lost kids have with their cabin leaders in everything we do. Shared activities, disciplinary involvement, meaningful conversations, and trust building opportunities all drive back to honor the relationship a cabin leader has with a kid - the camp environment is structured to support or strengthen that relationship. Second, we guard the "lost kid" friendly atmosphere by not allowing the tone of the camp to lean toward the Christian kid. This is evidenced by the music played at club, in simple/clear rules with grace-filled responses to discipline, lack of religious rules, and avoiding religious terms from stage. We create an experience through the lens of a lost kid, so that they are comfortably prepared by the camp environment to consider following Jesus.

Faithful Bible Teaching

We accurately handle Biblical truth, regularly coaching kids to apply it in their lives.

YFC implements this strategy at Camp through the careful selection, training, coaching and evaluation of each camp speaker. Ten hours of pre-camp training is required for speakers to understand the art of handling God's Word, followed by on-site coaching and post-camp evaluation. Additionally, pre-camp online training for cabin leaders, along with daily on-site cabin leader meetings led by veteran staff, help coach leaders to handle God's Word faithfully as they teach kids to apply it in their lives.

Collaborative Community Strategy

We intentionally work together with local churches, agencies, and other partners to provide sustainable youth and family ministry.

YFC Camp implements this strategy in several ways. We guard the holistic experience of YFC Camp, realizing that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, thereby modeling collaboration. No part of camp is stand alone, but rather woven into a greater story that is unfolded right on time, through daily themes, purposefully programmed games, skits, shared experiences, cabin time questions, music selection, cabin leader devos, and how the speaker unfolds the Gospel. Even food selection and mattress quality are a part of the holistic strategy. Collaboration between LST members, the entire Project Serve team and camp property is essential in ushering kids into a dynamic and interconnected story that expresses the Gospel. Finally, partnership with other like-minded camping properties is the model chosen to provide sustainable ministry.

Adults Who Empower

We strategically develop leaders to reach young people from every people group.

YFC Camp guards the developmental experience of every cabin leader. We've discovered that the camp environment is responsible for 1/3 of all cabin leaders becoming more involved in the local YFC areas after they return home. Case studies reveal that camp fuels the growth of the YFC movement by developing leaders spiritually, personally, and in their ministry skills. Young staff learn how to run effective small groups, manage conflict, do a one-on-one appointment, manage their time/energy, and care for a team, among many other things. All the while kids are moving toward Jesus through existing ACSR's. Daily leader meetings are intentionally designed to develop leaders, not to announce camp details. Camp team structures (ie. LST teams, PS teams) empower individuals at every level to lead effectively. The greater YFC community is strengthened as a result of being at camp together.