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## PROJECT DOCUMENTS

### Promoting Spiritual Growth Among Camp Counselors Through Camping Ministries

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[Edmund E. Heinrich, Andrews University](#)

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#### Date of Award

2012

#### Document Type

Project Report

#### Degree Name

Doctor of Ministry

#### School

Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary

#### Program

Doctor of Ministry DMin

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#### Abstract

**Problem.** Many churches realize that large numbers of their young people are not engaged in their congregations. In response to this trend, churches look to local conferences for help. Unfortunately, few conferences have developed models for engaging, equipping, training, and retaining young people.

**Method.** Develop a program at Leoni Meadows camp to increase the effectiveness in developing leaders who are more fully committed to Jesus Christ through camping ministries.

**Result.** Increased the spiritual awareness among camp counselors, creating a desire for many to develop a deeper relationship with God and share His love with others.

**Conclusions.** Camping ministry is unique because it allows young adults to immerse themselves in an environment that is totally different from their daily routine: the ministry is intense, the friendships are long lasting, the level of responsibility is high, and the rewards are unlimited. Young people who work in healthy camp environments want to stay connected to their friends, the church community, and to Jesus.

#### Subject Area

Church work with youth, Church work with young adults, Young adults--Religious life,

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Summer camp counselors are hired particularly to lead age-appropriate summer camp activities. They are responsible for assessing the needs of each group of members within a summer camp module and understand what their individual entertainment and sports needs are. They are then required to plan, implement and execute activities to meet those needs. It is a challenging job that needs extraordinary skills in understanding camp activities and handling large groups of people. Since behavioral issues are a norm in summer camps, summer camp counselors are required to be expert in handling members. Camp season is around the corner, and residential Catholic camps have been serving generations of Catholic families for decades. What they have in common: promoting a love of the outdoors, fellowship, and faith. Each summertime camp provides this in its own way. Read on for more about what makes each camp special, then visit their websites for more information. Founded in 1948, Good Counsel Camp is part of the Youth Ministry program of the Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg, Fla. Located on the shore of Lake Tsala Apopka near the west coast of Florida, the camp provides outdoor adventures and helps campers develop "a greater knowledge and appreciation of nature and its Creator."