

GOD MADE ME! FAMILY PARK DAY

Gathering Together/Events

FOCUS	☒ Internal ☒ External
VOLUNTEER BASE	☒ General corps membership ☐ External volunteers ☒ Youth ☐ Music sections ☒ Women's ministries ☐ Seniors' ministries ☐ Social mission
TARGET POPULATION	☐ Seniors ☐ Youth ☐ People with disabilities ☒ Caregivers ☐ New Canadians ☐ Social mission ☒ Other: Families with young children

Event description:

A family park day event intended to foster community for parents and young children and toddlers. This event helps to pair hands-on learning to biblical truths for both adults and littles through a free play station format, featuring small group activities, shared devotional time and music.

What are the intended event outcomes?

Goals include:

- Fostering community among families with children ages 3-5 years.
- To teach children of God's love.
- To build relationship between attendees and Christ.

How will these outcomes be evaluated?

Observance of interaction of parents.

Observance of parents interacting with ministry unit volunteers.

Families attending other events hosted by ministry unit.

Families attending a worship service at church.



What procedures are required to set up this event?

- Downloading the guidebook from CANBDAYouth.ca.
- Prayer over the event.
- Recruitment of planning team and volunteers to run the activities, including devotional time (if you have camp staff at your ministry unit they will be a great asset to this event).
- Abuse prevention training of team.
- Deciding if families need to RSVP to assist with planning (be sure to include this on poster).
- Picking a location (park) that is suitable for the for size and age of the group and has washroom facilities.
- Planning which free play stations you can host with supplies and volunteers.
- Adapting, printing and distribution of posters inviting families to your event.

What procedure is required to operate this event?

- Guidebook provides you with details on supplies needed and how to host/run each of the suggested free play stations.
Guidebook provides suggested simple worship time and devotional thought.

Are there financial costs attached to providing this event?

Costs will need to be evaluated locally based on supplies on hand that are needed for the free play stations.

- Is there a cost to rent a park in your community?
- Will you be printing matching t-shirts for your volunteers so they are easily identifiable?
- Do you want to purchase beverage containers or reusable bags with the logo on it for families to keep after?
- You may also wish to purchase drinks and simple healthy snacks to have on hand.

What physical resources will I require?

Resources are based on free play activities that are chosen. You may also wish to bring along signs identifying your ministry unit, extra outdoor chairs and blankets to share with families who have not brought their own.

Would any additional training be necessary for volunteers with this event?

Volunteers engaging with youth or vulnerable individuals should be screened and trained according to Salvation Army policy.



For more information:

The "God Made Me Family Park Day" resource from The Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda Territory's youth department offers a comprehensive framework for organizing an engaging, family-friendly event that celebrates God's creation and the uniqueness of each individual. This resource provides detailed planning guides, activity suggestions and spiritual content designed to foster community connection and spiritual growth among participants. By utilizing this framework, corps and community leaders can effectively host an event that not only offers fun and fellowship but also reinforces the message of each person's inherent value as part of God's family. The structured approach ensures that the event is both meaningful and accessible, encouraging families to participate and connect with their local corps community.

Find resources here: [God Made Me Family Park Day- CANBDAYouth.ca](https://www.canbdyouth.ca/god-made-me-family-park-day)

