



**tips for youth workers**

**AUGUST 2021**

## **DAY CAMP / VBS FOLLOW-UP**

We might not have been able to send young people to overnight camp, but we are having a great summer hosting day camps, both on-line and in person, and VBS programs. We've invested so much time and energy that we don't want the connections made through these programs to be broken. We want to keep in touch with our day-campers and their families. Keeping Covid restrictions in mind, here are a few ideas to help you keep connected:

**Family Movie Night** – Invite your campers and their families to a family-friendly movie night. Host the event either inside or in your church parking lot (depending on Covid restrictions). Provide popcorn, candy, or other movie night snacks. Have announcement slides as part of the pre-show letting families know what is coming up in the months ahead and the ways that your ministry unit reaches out into the community.

**"We Miss You" Postcards** – Create colourful and engaging postcards to send home to your campers. Have your camp staff write personal notes on the cards to encourage your campers. Send the postcards through the mail as a special surprise. Check out [canva.com](https://www.canva.com) for templates you can use or create your own using photos from your camp and print on card stock.

**What's Happening Flyers** – Invite campers and their families to other events that are happening at your corps/church/ministry unit. Be sure to invite campers to any youth group, music events and Sunday morning events that focus on their age group.

**Red Cap / TASK** – Consider hosting a [Red Cap](#) (anger management for elementary age kids) or [TASK](#) (Teen Anger Management Skills) program and invite your campers to be a part of the club. It's a great opportunity for them to learn an important life skill: developing positive ways to express your emotions. (Want to know more about Red or TASK facilitator training opportunities? Connect with your DYS.)

**Join the Kindness Challenge** – Encourage your campers and their families to join the Kindness Challenge this month. Your campers can bring hope to others by doing simple challenges that will also make them feel good about themselves. Find the Kindness Challenge here: [Summer Activities](#).

**Host a Camp Day Reunion** – Working with your day camp staff and volunteers plan one or two camp day reunions. Consider hosting one day in the Fall and another in the Spring to help set up next summer's activities. Invite your campers back to experience more camp activities and to renew friendships made at your day camp.

**Trunk or Treat Party** – Using your parking lot plan a Trunk or Treat event with your camp staff and the team from the corps/church. Invite your day campers to dress up and attend along with other families from your neighbourhood. This is a great time for your camp staff and corps volunteers to interact with the campers and to remind them that they are always welcome.

**Day Camp Survey** – Create a simple survey with just 2 or 3 questions on it, such as "What did you love most about camp this year?" "What is something new you learned while at camp?" or "What do you hope you will get to do at camp next summer?" You could even send home small rewards to those who take the time to complete the survey. The kids get a small treat, and you get some helpful feedback to consider when planning your next event.