



## Common Questions about New Ground Day Camp!

### **How is New Ground Day Camp different from a traditional VBS program?**

New Ground is an all-day program, intentionally designed to be a hands-on, active, experiential learning opportunity. Koinonia staff, in partnership with local leadership, provides programming for campers on Monday to Thursday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and on Friday from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. New Ground Day Camp is designed with small group experiences (i.e., the camp counselor group of up to ten campers per camp counselor). This small group allows for relational experience and positive group interactions.

### **How do we know if our site is appropriate for a day camp program?**

Most churches and schools make a great setting for a day camp. Activities can be organized to run inside or outside. Sites that have safe outdoor areas, or a nearby park, do more outdoor activities. Often indoor space is adjusted to be more "camp friendly"... such as taking down tables in the classrooms and using the floor. The New Ground Site Handbook, which will be distributed to all sites, has some specific check-lists to assist in making your facility safe. Most sites already meet the requirements and some sites simply need minor adjustments. The guidelines in the handbook come directly from standards set by the American Camp Association.

### **How many staff (assistants, volunteers etc.) need to be provided by a congregation?**

Koinonia will provide up to 4 program staff. The local congregation will need to provide a Site Coordinator, Pastor, and possibly several other volunteers. The Site Coordinator is the primary contact person and is in charge of site volunteers as well as arranging details pertaining to the site. The Site Coordinator will need to be present throughout the week of camp. Other helpful local volunteers include a kitchen coordinator, craft helper, and small group assistants for each counselor team (3). Each site will determine how many volunteers are needed and how to use the local volunteers. Because the Koinonia staff lead all program elements, friendly senior citizens make excellent greeters & volunteers. New Ground Day Camp provides non-threatening opportunities to get new people involved who might otherwise stay in the background.

### **What will it cost our Congregation to hold New Ground Day Camp?**

There are two basic congregational costs: 1) congregational site fee; and 2) housing and feeding of camp staff. It is recommended to apply for Thrivent funds to help support your site's program.

**Congregational Fee:** Koinonia has been very fortunate to receive generous funding support through LDRNY in the development of New Ground Day Camp. While we no longer receive this grant support, it is Koinonia's commitment to continue providing this day camp program as a congregational resource. It is Koinonia's commitment to make New Ground Day Camp affordable for congregations. **The summer 2009 New Ground Day Camp Site Fee will remain at \$1,820.00 for one week.** This was calculated on the rate of \$65 per camper with a goal of 28 campers and no additional cost for up to 32 campers. If a site has less than 28 campers, Koinonia will still partner with the congregation but the site fee will remain \$1,820.00. Each site may independently decide what fee to charge each camper to cover their fees. If the financial status of your congregational neighborhood is such that these minimal costs are prohibitive, please speak to us about additional limited scholarships.

**Housing and feeding of camp staff:** A congregation will have up to a 4-person program staff team sent to their site from Sunday late afternoon to Friday noon. During this time, it is the site's responsibility to provide housing and meals. The preferred method is through host families. We suggest housing the staff in pairs (or all together) at member's homes. The homes could provide breakfast before they leave for the site, and the site would provide lunches in the same manner that lunches are provided for the campers. Dinner for the Koinonia staff could be with the host family ... or have a different family each evening volunteer to invite the staff to dinner. This is a great way to involve more members of the congregation in a simple but essential element of the Day Camp ministry. By recruiting volunteers and donations a site can have no additional cost for housing and feeding. *Koinonia no longer has the flexibility to help with housing as we have been able to occasionally in the past.*

**Step-Out Awareness Events:** *Step-Out Awareness Events* are designed to spread the good news of your congregation throughout your neighborhood. It is a way to assist you in recruiting campers and building community awareness. If you do a *Step-Out Awareness Event* your site could seek matching funds from Thrivent – *Care Abounds in Community*.

### **How do we recruit campers for our New Ground Day Camp?**

Beyond the members of your own congregation, New Ground Day Camp is a wonderful way to invite new neighborhood families into your ministry. Through banners, flyers, and advertisements you can spread the word about this exciting camp. The Site Handbook has a variety of ideas for getting the word out. Hospitality is a key factor in site preparedness for neighborhood ministry. Many youth and families may come who do not have a “church background.” The program offers a Sunday evening get acquainted time when parents can meet the Pastor, Site Coordinator, and Camp Counselors. However, often the best hospitality is through informal conversation initiated between congregational volunteers and new families. New Ground Day Camp opens the doors for many new relationships as we create faith-filled communities together.

## **Changes and Highlights to New Ground for Summer 2009!**

### ***Love to Serve!* . . . is the Summer 2009 New Ground Day Camp Curriculum**

**Theme Verse:** *For the Son of Man came not to be served but to Serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.*  
**Mark 10:45**

New Ground Day Camp curriculum theme will assist campers in exploring how God speaks to them in their daily lives. Bible themes will include: *Freed to Serve; Created to Serve; Saved to Serve; and Sent to Serve.* Bible study, crafts, games, and worship will highlight these themes. Together we will discover how God loves us and calls us to love each other.

**Jr. Counselor Program:** Koinonia has become aware that at several sites older youth are interested in being involved in the New Ground Program. Participation in this program will provide leadership development for these youth. Koinonia will provide materials for recruiting, interviewing and “hiring” up to four Jr. Counselors (ages 13 to 18) to assist with your local New Ground Day Camp. Jr. Counselors & Site Coordinator or Pastor will participate in a pre-camp orientation weekend retreat at Koinonia Highland Lake to learn skills which will make their involvement in New Ground Day Camp a positive growth experience. They will also meet other youth from other New Ground sites. Each site will be responsible for covering the pre-retreat cost of \$75 per Jr. Counselor and \$50 per adult participate. During your week of camp Jr. Counselors will also work with Koinonia summer staff to facilitate a Wednesday Night Youth Event at your site.

**Lutheran Counseling Center:** For summer 2009, New Ground does not include a specific Advisor in Residence staff from Lutheran Counseling Center. Koinonia has greatly valued our partnership with LCC and continues to partner through LCC workshops with Koinonia staff to prepare them in working with campers. Koinonia will continue to identify special needs with campers and families in New Ground programs and seek supporting links, as appropriate, with LCC and the congregation’s pastor.

**Available Dates:** Koinonia will be able to provide New Ground Day Camps with at least four sites during the summer of 2009. The dates available will be: Sunday, July 26 – Friday, July 31; and Sunday, August 2 – Friday, August 7, 2009. Each week Koinonia will have two teams of staff available and therefore two New Ground sites will run each of these weeks.