

Community Roots Day Camp

Program Description

Program Purpose

The purpose of the Community Roots Day Camp Program is to encourage young people to grow in their faith, or to learn about Christianity for the first time, and to develop leadership capacity in communities so that meaningful ministry can continue to happen there.

The aim of the Community Roots Day Camp Program is to create an opportunity for children and youth to participate in a faith-based summer camp program and to engage and train local volunteers to serve at the camp and in the parish more broadly.

Program Overview

Camp is often an important component of faith formation as well as personal growth and development for children and youth. It provides an intentional time and space to gather with those of a similar age to play, wonder, learn, explore, and, for many, to encounter Christianity for the first time. While some parishes within the diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island offer camp programming during the summer, most do not.

The Community Roots Day Camp Program will help enable parishes that are not currently able to offer summer camp programs to do so through staff support, program development, and volunteer training. This support will help parishes to serve the young people who are in their churches and also in the broader community.

The program requires two four-month staff (Program Architects), one four-month administrative staff person, and two two-month staff (Camp Leaders).

The Program Architects, under the supervision of, and in collaboration with, the Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator, will develop creative faith-based camp programming, promote the camps, train volunteers, gather and maintain supplies for camps, and lead a staff and volunteer team in delivering camp programming. These positions will ideally be filled by university students during their summer break.

The administrative position will ideally be a full time position for four months, but depending on funding could be reduced to half-time. This individual will create online and paper registration for campers and volunteers, monitor and respond to registration once it is open, create and distribute promotional materials, and be the primary contact for parents and guardians. This position will ideally be filled by university students during their summer break.

The Camp Leaders primarily assist the Program Architects in the delivery of the camp programming. These positions will ideally be filled by high school students during their summer break.

The camps will take place throughout the diocese, in parishes that have expressed interest and are able to recruit enough volunteers to support the camp. Each camp will last one week, Monday to Friday and will be a focused on exploring stories of faith and developing an understanding of what they mean for our lives and for the world. This exploration will happen through stories, art, games, and other activities.

Parish Application Process

Any parish in the diocese can apply to host a day camp with Community Roots. Applications can be submitted through an online form (found on the Youth and Family Ministry page on the diocesan website) or a paper form can be mailed to the Synod Office.

The application form is set up to gather information about the context of the ministry happening in the parish/region, including ongoing ministry, past day camps, the anticipated number of volunteers, etc.

The program, including details about how to apply, is promoted to parishes through the Anglican Net News, the Diocesan Times, on social media, and through email campaigns.

Responsibilities and Expectations

Responsibilities for the delivery of the day camps is divided between the parish and the diocesan staff team. Here's a quick overview of what those responsibilities look like:

Parish Responsibilities	Community Roots Staff Team
Providing or arranging a facility for the camp to take place.	Creating the day camp program.
Recruiting a sufficient number of volunteers.	Bringing all needed supplies for each camp.
Screening volunteers.	Providing training for volunteers.
Building relationship with campers.	Handling all camp registrations.
Promoting camp in the wider community.	Take the lead on delivering camp programming

Funding

At the present, this is not a ministry with a consistent funding source. Instead, it is funded through various grants and donations from participating parishes and individuals.

Parishes are not obligated to pay anything to host a week of Community Roots, but are encouraged to do so.

In some communities, there is a registration fee for camp, but in others there isn't. That decision is based on the context of each community, and all funds from registration are put towards the future of the program.

Accountability and Support

This ministry is overseen by the Youth and Family Ministry Vision Strategy and Support Team (YFM VSST) of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The YFM VSST appoints a task group to directly oversee the various pieces of this ministry and to provide support for the program staff.

Year-round staff support for this program comes from the Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator for the diocese.