



Camp Hope First Year Start Up Costs

Curriculum

The expenses of Camp Hope can be daunting to many congregations. Hopefully the resource “Making a Budget” was helpful in showing how Camp Hope’s program costs can be self-sustaining with 40 campers per week. But there are some costs that you will need to plan for in addition to these costs just like any other church program. These items, such as curriculum and staff training, will need to be part of your annual church budget. (See “Making a Budget” for details). However, there will be some additional start up costs that you will need to plan for in your first year.

Staff Training

Once you have completed your first successful year of Camp Hope, you can send a training team to an event called **Train the Trainer**. This event usually happens the second weekend in March in the Houston, TX area. This event trains up to 5 of your leaders who can return and provide training for your own staff. This is the most cost effective way of training your staff each year. However, in order to be successful, we have learned that it is way too much for a congregation to attempt their own staff training in their first year of Camp Hope. Therefore, in your first year of Camp Hope, you will need to plan to train your staff through one of the following options.

- **The Disciple Project:** This is a leadership-training event usually held the third week of July on the campus of Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, TX. The great benefit of this event is the larger community you are a part of during this week of training. There are several leadership tracks one can choose. You’re group will choose Camp Hope, but you can bring other adults and students along who may choose another leadership track. The cost is around \$395 per person. This includes lodging, meals and training.
- **Certified Trainers:** You can bring in two certified trainers who will train your Camp Hope staff. Usually this is a three-day training event. You would provide meeting space, meals and lodging as well as printed and program materials. The certified trainers would come in and run the training sessions for you. This is estimated to be around \$6000 including travel, meals and hotel accommodations.
- **Partner Congregation:** With this option, you would partner with another Camp Hope congregation that is leading their own staff training. You would provide meals, lodging and program costs for both congregations and your partner congregation would lead the training sessions. This is the most cost effective option, but would require you to have another Camp Hope congregation close to your church.

Many congregations have chosen to attend Train the Trainer in order to get a better grasp on what Camp Hope entails. If you would like to do this, you should plan on adding this to your first year’s budget plans.

Banners and Signs

Advertising Camp Hope is essential. Not only does it get the word out to your neighborhood, but it raises awareness in your congregation. Plan on a large 2’ X 6’ yard sign as well as posters around the church and in neighboring areas.

Music

Printing up songbooks and tracking down your church’s copyright information is something you’ll have to make sure happens your first year. Once you’ve got this down and printed up some songbooks, you can simply add some fresh new songs from year to year.

Splash Day

Every Tuesday and Thursday at Camp Hope is a splash day. This means that the campers head outside for fun water games! So, you are going to want to invest in some water activity equipment such as sprinklers, kiddie pools, etc.