

Sample Camp Schedule

What will I do at a MP camp?

You are going to be working as a camp counselor in a Mercy Projects children summer or winter camp overseas. The Visiting Team will be joining and working alongside Ukrainian counselors and translators as well. Although you will be working in **groups** at camp (see “Groups at Camp” doc. for explanation), you will have the opportunity to meet and minister to other counselors and kids throughout the week.

So, what would a typical day at camp look like?

We have structured the time in that camp in a way that allows us to provide a safe environment for the kids that encourages: creativity and physical activity while still focusing on Christ and nurturing spiritual growth.



It is a very fast-paced and busy schedule, so... hang on and be flexible, but have fun!

Although this schedule may vary with each MP trip, this sample will help you get a big-picture idea of what you will be doing. Some of the activity titles may seem foreign to you, but they will be explained on the “Defining Activity Terms” doc. An MP Representative will give you a schedule that directly reflects your upcoming trip as the trip gets closer.

8:00 am	All counselors and staff meet for morning devotions	4:00 pm	Snack
8:30 am	Counselors wake up children	4:30 pm	Master Classes
8:50 am	Morning Stretching	6:00 pm	Small Group Bible Study- you will meet with just the children in your Group
9:00 am	Breakfast	7:00 pm	Dinner
10:00 am	Chapel – Chapels are led by either Counselors or staff	7:30 pm	Preparation for evening fun
11:00 am	Groups Games	8:00 pm	Evening fun
12:00 pm	Sport Time	9:15 pm	Snack & getting ready for bed
1:00 pm	Lunch	10:00 pm	Lights out for kids
2:00 pm	Rest/Nap Time	10:15 pm	All counselors and staff meet for prayer and fellowship

Defining Activity Terms

How will you play an active role in the camp?

Every year, the Ukrainian staff asks the Visiting Team to take responsibility for planning a portion of the activities found on the camp schedule (See “Sample Camp Schedule” doc). This is a perfect opportunity for you to use your talent or passion to bless and minister to the children at camp. Check with your leader to sign up for these spots in the schedule once you have decided which camp activity you would like to prepare for and lead. You can lead an activity by yourself or with a partner. In some cases, you may need to enlist the help of multiple team mates, so be creative and have fun!

Camp Theme: Each 1-2 week Camp has its own Theme. Whether it is “Treasure Island” or “Olympics”, the theme will be based on a Biblical principle or lesson. Planned activities should take this into consideration.

Daily Theme: Each day is broken up into certain topics (Love, Grace, Obeying your parents) that support the overarching Camp Theme.

Master Classes

During the first day or two of camp, ALL the kids will choose a Master Class that they would like to attend for the duration of the camp. Whether you lead a class or assist someone else, you will be required to be involved during this time of camp. The main purpose of this time is to teach the kids a skill or craft that they will enjoy. Typically, there are 10 to 15 children in each class and about 6-8 classes offered. Make sure that you: 1) plan your class according to the age of the kids, 2) bring all the supplies you will need, and 3) have a clear idea of what you will work on everyday. Some items can be purchased on the field, but we will need plenty of time to check into it, so talk to your team leader with any ideas that you have.

Examples of Past Master Classes: English, drama, dance, sewing, making jewelry, making model airplanes, knot tying, learning worship songs...

Special Note: Once you have decided which skill, craft, or class you will teach, make a list of the supplies you will need and how long it will take for everyone to complete the project. These kids are extremely talented, so try to have ideas to make the project vary in difficulty. If you are planning on teaching a dance, then bring plenty of material (music and dance ideas that are appropriate at a Christian camp for children). It's better to have too much for them to do, than to have too little.



Chapel

Each Chapel consists of a 60 minute period where the camp congregates together to hear a message about the Lord and sing His praises. The message can be presented by using a short Bible study, music, or testimonies. Skits may also be useful in order to present the message to the children. If you have a heart for evangelism or speaking, or if you just feel the Lord telling you to share, then let your team leader know that you are interested in leading a chapel. You will receive more information about the **Camp Theme** as the Ukrainian Staff sends us the final schedule (this will allow you to prepare a message that will directly relate to the camp's topics). Each of the **Small Group Bible Studies** (refer to info below for details) will also correlate to the **Camp Theme** and the **Daily Theme**.



Small Group Bible Study

This "Small Group Bible Study" is a wonderful time for you to spend with your group (refer to "Groups at Camp" doc. for more info). Depending on the weather, each group will find a location on the camp to have their Bible Study. This time will be used to present the Daily Theme and verse as well as expound on chapel message already presented earlier that day. Each **Daily Theme** will include a verse or portion of Scripture passages for the counselor to present. At the beginning of the week, when you are assigned to a Counselor Group, you will divide up these times between the counselors (Ukrainian and Visiting Team) in your group.

Ideas: integrate your testimony, personal stories, and make it interactive: have them memorize scripture, sing worship songs, ask them questions and make it a discussion.

Meal Time

You will be eating every meal with your group! This is a wonderful time that allows you to sit with the kids and get to know them. Your translator will be more than happy to help you out (just remember they need to eat as well at this time!). The Camp Director will assign your groups to arrive early for certain meals to help prepare the room for meals. At camp, we usually set the table as well as the plates of food before the rest of the kids are allowed into the cafeteria. Jump in and help! The food at the camp will not always be what you are used to having at home, but try to eat what you can because you need nourishment this week! Be careful how you react to something that does not taste very good to you! Please be courteous and grateful. You do not have to like it or take seconds, but be tactful in how you react to things.

Sports Time

Do you love soccer, baseball, hockey, or kickball? Sports time is always a camp favorite. If you have a love for a sport, then you can bring supplies and play with the kids. It is a great idea to do sports clinic days for sports, like soccer, that are popular in Eastern Europe. For example, you can introduce them to a series of drills that you did when you were playing that sport. You can even have all the kids play together and have a huge soccer game. Be creative and have fun! If you are not leading this activity, you will still be able to enjoy watching or playing with the children. If you are interested in leading an hour of sports time, then be sure to talk to your team leader.

Special Note: Please remember that this may be an inside or outside activity (depending on rain), so whatever you decide make sure you have a back up idea or can play the sports inside or outside. There is an indoor gymnasium available for use (complete with basketball hoops and volleyball net). Also, you will have to bring the materials you need for sports time. There are two field goals on the field that you can use, but check with your team leader if you need more items for your sport.

Evening Fun Time



This time is all about fun! During this time your team has an hour of skits, music, and games with audience participation, sharing your country's traditions, sharing testimonies, etc. The children love to perform, so you can have a talent show or ask each team to present a dance or skit. In the past, some teams have played games in the dark with glow in dark jewelry while others have had a themed "Hawaiian Night"! If you would like to plan this activity, then we suggest working with a few others because you will have all the kids at one time!

Nap Time

This is a time of rest for all the kids at the camp. They are required to go to their rooms during the day and be quiet. They are allowed to stay awake if they are not tired (especially if they are an older group), but they must stay in their rooms so that they do not distract those who are resting. What do the **counselors** do during this time? The Ukrainian staff often encourages the counselors to use this time to spend with the kids if they are not sleeping. Since the camp is resting at this time, you can talk or do quiet activities or crafts with them in their room. **However**, you may also need to use this time to rest! If you are getting sick or are already exhausted from the busy camp schedule, PLEASE take advantage of this nap time so you can participate to your full potential during the rest of camp.

Working in Groups at Camp

Explanation:

The kids will not be at the camp when you first arrive. The **Visiting Team** will use this time to get to know the **Ukrainian Counselors/MP Ukraine Staff**, prepare for the camp's activities, and allow your bodies to adjust to the time change (this period of time will typically be 1-3 days long but will vary with each trip).

Within these first few days of your arrival, you will be assigned to a specific **Group**. There may be anywhere from 6-10 of these groups at a camp. Each of these groups will consist of: 2 Visiting Team members, 2 Ukrainian Counselors, and 1 translator.

Each camp will house around 100 children. On the day the children arrive at camp, you and your counselor group will meet the 10-15 children that will be in your group during the camp (they have been placed in groups by age; often include boys and girls). Again, there will be 6-10 total groups in each camp.

**(All #'s are estimated and subject to change. Trips may vary)*



Purpose: Why do we break up into groups at camp?

If our primary purpose for having Christian counselors at camp is to reach the children with the love and truth of the gospel, we will need to build relationships with them. That task can seem daunting when you have 7-10 days to attempt to befriend all 100 kids. This is where the groups come in...

By separating into groups, we allow the children to have some consistency in their daily routine while they build deep and meaningful relationships with the Visiting and Ukrainian Counselors. You can imagine how much harder it would be if the children were shifted to different counselors throughout the week, making bonding more difficult. You will have time to meet other children at camp, but you will have dozens of opportunities to grow close with your particular group of children.

What will you do with your groups?

Throughout the camp, your counselor group will be in charge of your specified group of children. You will be responsible for making sure they get to each segment of the schedule.

*Examples of activities that will be done **with your group**:

-Waking them up, All Meals, Bible study, Games, Putting them to bed

*The following portions of the schedule will be done together **with the entire camp**:

-Chapel, Evening Fun Nights, Sports, Master Classes