

## Bulletin Announcements

In the rhythm of Christian life, Ewalu serves as a place apart. That is a universal strength of outdoor ministries. We are called to be out in the world - serving and witnessing - but then, as Jesus did, we must also seek "the place apart," to refresh and renew and draw strength from Christian community. Ewalu offers the opportunity to get away from daily routine, the computer, cell phone, television and, as Jesus did, pray to, listen to, and be guided by God. Attending summer camp allows youth to get away from the familiar and become more "tuned in" to the presence of God. Camp offers a safe place to explore and talk about one's faith.

Camp nurtures church leadership and enhances the life and ministries of the congregation at every level. In a camp day, campers have the opportunity to practice their and express their faith in many ways. Parents report that the camp experience gave their children higher self-esteem and more confidence in their abilities. Many parents say their children come home from camp more willing to participate in church activities and take on leadership roles in the church. Youth who attend camp are more likely to continue their relationship with the church beyond confirmation.

A week at camp is a powerful influence in the formation of faith. Simply being outdoors is part of our spiritual, mental, emotional and physical well-being. In this electronic era, screens and gadgets of every kind steal our time. Outdoor activities in the woods - in the "wilderness" - amplify our time! Watching a sunrise or a sunset, worshipping at campfires, being out under the stars, going for hikes, "creek stomping," learning about plants and animals, cooking outdoors, and sleeping on or near the ground, all enhance our experience of God and underscore the first article of the creed.

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