

GRANDPARENTS CAMP PLANNER

NOTE: Read through this document in full before you begin filling out the design section or the worksheet.

Whether you're designing a space or planning an event, the first step is always the same—get clear on your goals. So, let's put that idea to work for Grandparents Camp...

Your Vision

What's your motivation?

What kind of atmosphere do you want to create?

What do your grandkids need? (If you don't know, ask the parents.)

Camp Basics

Think about the children's ages: _____, _____, _____, _____, _____

Think about your energy level: What do you need to stay fresh enough to manage camp? (Extra help from an aunt or uncle, a shorter duration, an age limit, etc.)

How much time can you devote to pulling it off? _____

What's your budget? (How much can you spend?) _____

Logistics

Will someone need to travel a distance to attend? _____

Can it be held at your home, or do you plan to rent a space _____



If travel is involved, are there any hurdles for either the grandchild or the grandparent? (What are they?)_____

Do any grandchildren have needs that require accommodations? (Social/emotional, physical, learning, etc.) Evaluate with their parents:

Don't get overwhelmed!

This worksheet is simply a guide—a place to jot down ideas and keep key details in mind as you plan your camp. Remember, you're in charge! You decide what's manageable and what's not. The goal is to blend your grandchildren's needs with your own energy, abilities, and resources.

If you work full-time, consider taking a day off after camp to recuperate before heading back to work. Or, use part of your vacation time to enjoy camp and some R&R for yourself.

If you live far from your grandkids, talk with their parents about what works best:

- Will the kids travel by plane? (I have another resource, *"Flying with Kids,"* that might help.)
- Will you meet halfway? Drive one way while parents do the other? Or handle both legs of the trip yourself?
- Will you travel to them and rent a house, book a room, or plan a destination getaway together?

Keep the ages of your grandchildren in mind. As I write this, we have 8 grandchildren that are 5 and under. While my co-workers, siblings, and friends will tell you that I adore my grandchildren, I am not ready for Grandparent's Camp yet. We have the additional issue of limited space for housing everyone so camp will look different for me than it might for you.

Suggestions to consider:

- Set a minimum age you feel comfortable managing.
- Try themed sessions—Boys' Camp, Girls' Camp, Bigs' Camp, or Littles' Camp. This way, cousins still get time together while you keep group sizes manageable.



- If space is tight and renting isn't in the budget, schedule camp when the parents can enjoy a mini-vacation of their own. Staying in the kids' home still gives them the fun of "living with Grandma and Grandpa in charge"—planning activities, meals, and schedules, and maybe even bending a few of Mom and Dad's rules.
- Seek out a local adventure the kids haven't tried yet—it could be the highlight of camp!

Tips from Patti and Other Experienced Grandparents:

- Activities that the Percy's have done over the years: Rock painting, STEM activities, scavenger hunts, amusement parks, aquariums, hiking/exploring, board games, story-telling for the little ones, golf, pickleball, children's museums, Bible verse memorization, making bouncy balls...
- Plan one main outing each day and fill in with small activities and downtime. (Yes, naps count!)
- Let kids know what to expect—give a quick overview of the day or week, tailored to their age.
- Stay flexible. If something's not working, pivot or scrap it.
- Check in with parents ahead of time to see what they're working on at home—then quietly reinforce those values without overemphasizing.
- Another option: sign yourself and your grandkids up for a family-oriented church camp!
- Ditch the phones—or set up a "digital timeout" basket if complete disconnection isn't realistic.
- Assign small responsibilities (life skills, not chores): laying out clothes at night, making the bed, setting the table, helping with dinner, feeding pets, or picking vegetables from the garden. Keep it light and fun.
- See what's happening locally—check the library for events, search online for "things to do," and look for kid-friendly happenings nearby.
- Send a packing list to parents ahead of time. Include gear for your plans—swimwear, sturdy shoes, a favorite stuffed animal, spending money, etc.
- Get medical forms in order—have parents fill out an authorization for treatment.
- Don't forget car or booster seats!



CAMP PLANNING WORKSHEET

CAMP DETAILS:

Location: _____

Duration: _____

Planned Events and Dates:

_____ on _____

_____ on _____

_____ on _____

_____ on _____

Planned Crafts:

Possible Outings:

Possible Downtime Activities:

Meals:

Breakfasts- _____

Lunches- _____

Dinners- _____

Maintenance:

Child's name: _____ is in charge of _____

_____ (responsibility/chore)

Child's name: _____ is in charge of _____

_____ (responsibility/chore)

Child's name: _____ is in charge of _____

_____ (responsibility/chore)

Child's name: _____ is in charge of _____

_____ (responsibility/chore)

Extra things to consider for my camp...

_____ :

_____ :

_____ :

_____ :

