

PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING A FAMILY CAMP

Beth Castile

Valley Church Special Needs Director

and

Wonderfully Made Family Camp Board Member

PSALM 139:14

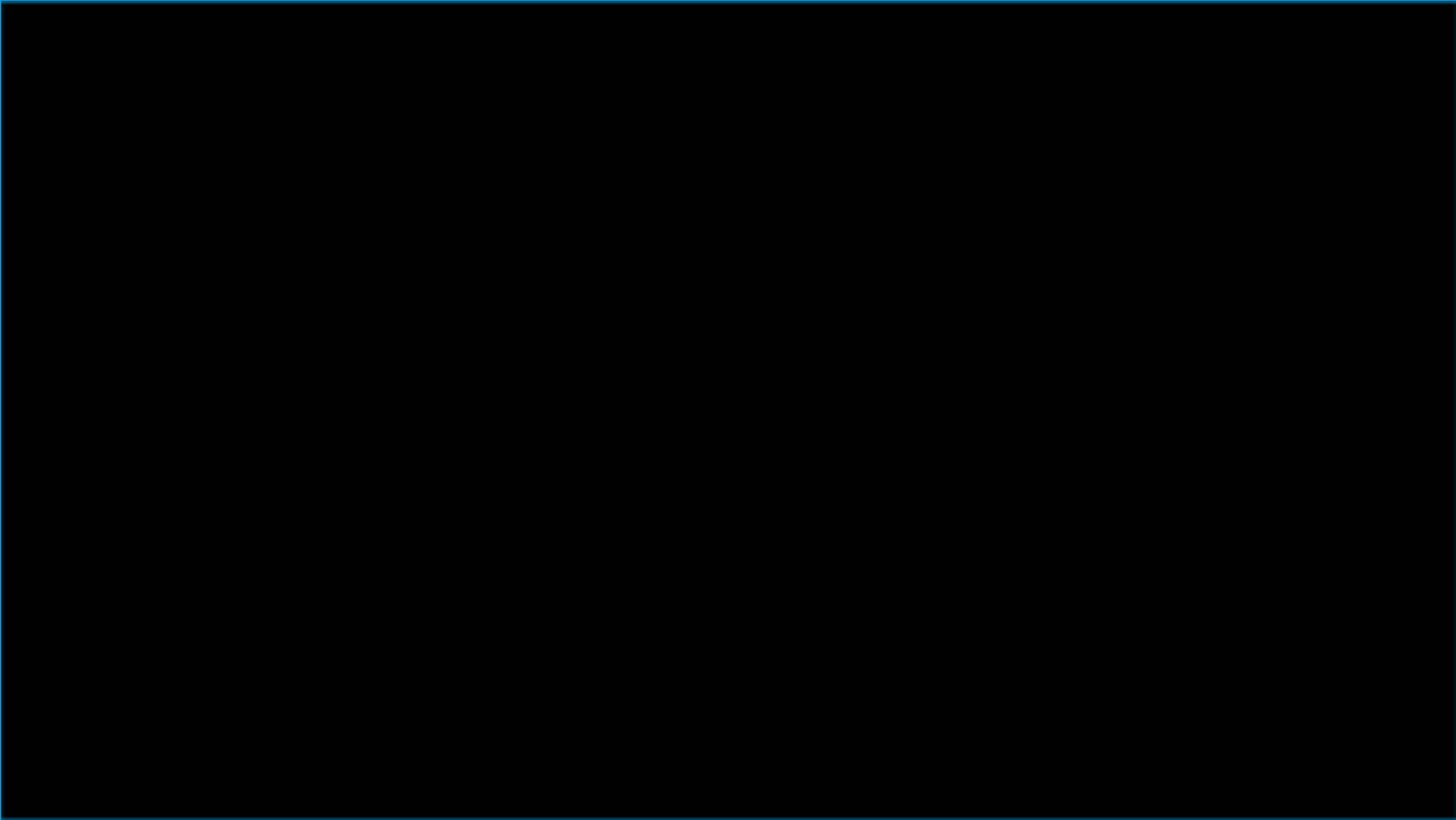
I praise you because I am fearfully
and wonderfully made; your works
are wonderful, I know that full well.

JONI & FRIENDS



A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN CONNECT, RELAX, AND BE ENCOURAGED IS NEEDED, BUT ...

- It costs a lot of money for families and volunteers to attend
- Some churches will sponsor families to attend, but this is limited and on a rotating basis
- There are limited locations so families have to travel quite a distance
- They fill up quickly and often have waitlists
- Blesses families, but not everyone can get there



SOLUTION: PLANNING YOUR WMFC



Who
What
Where
When
Why
How



WHY DO A CAMP

- Everyone should be able to have this opportunity
- Emotionally support these families
- Provide a safe and fun place for the siblings and children to be children
- Build a network of families that get each other
- They are not alone
- They are understood
- Parents can connect with each other and other parents



TESTIMONY



- I could say the Amazing lodging...
- Or ...I could tell you that it was the food....
- Or... the 40 foot tall zip lining, the climbing wall and giant swing...
- Or... the breakout session on marriage...
- I can confidently say Kylie's Buddies were our favorite part ...



- **This experience will stay with us for a lifetime. We feel refreshed, renewed and reminded that God is for us. He has a purpose in every aspect of our life and we can do anything in His strength. (Philippians 4:13)**

TESTIMONY

- This was a positive experience for the whole family...
- Siblings got to try new things...
- Parents got special attention too...
- Camp gave us time to meet other families without the need to explain our situation. They get it right away.
- We have continued these relationships and the families have become part of our regular support network...



- **WMFC has been such a blessing to our family.**



WHERE WILL CAMP BE



- Summer camp location close to your area that will host your camp
- College/Boarding School
- Elementary School
- Church
- Hotel
- Location that is handicapped accessible



WHAT KIND OF CAMP

- Day camp vs. Overnight camp
- Fee vs. Free
- Programming vs. Free time
- Basics vs. Dreams



WHEN WILL CAMP BE

- Summer, Fall, Winter, Spring
- Church Schedule
- When the space is available
- When you can recruit volunteers
- When families can get away



❖ We chose summer, but this has changed dates

HOW DO WE DO CAMP....



- Develop a team of leaders that share the passion



❖ Find others in the area to build community bridges and build your team!

HOW DO WE DO CAMP....

- Write your vision, policies, and procedures

Wonderfully Made Family Camp was created to strengthen **families** having children with special needs. We believe that the best gift anyone can give a child with special needs is a healthy family.

- Plan a schedule to accomplish the goals for your camp
- Assign tasks for the team members
- Build teams to support and sustain – leadership plumblines
- Promote
- Fundraisers
- Training Volunteers and camp staff
- Go Time!

PRAY!

Let God's hand orchestrate what will happen



- Modifiable!
 - Variety of kids' lessons
 - You have contacts you can call on to be speakers
 - Supplies at church or VBS can be recycled
- Troubleshooting –
 - A natural way of life anytime you work with kids
 - Trouble/Problems will arise when you start a new event
- Greatest obstacle – Can be you!



WHO AM I?



HAND IN HAND





**“Eyes of the Lord are
searching to and fro the
earth, searching for
someone upon whom He
can show himself faithful”**

—

2 Chronicles 16:9





Planning and Implementing a Family Camp

I'm here to help! If you are interested in putting on a family camp and want our printable examples go to:

<https://wonderfullymadecamp.org/startup/>