

English Camps

Purpose

The purpose of an English camp is to provide a forum to help partner churches outside of the United States develop personal relationships and build trust within their local community. These activities help the local church to spread the Gospel. The following websites shows pictures and video from English camps conducted in the Czech Republic since 2004:

- Family English camp at <http://www.striving-together.org>
- Youth English camp at <http://www.y-port.cz/>

Audience

The English camp audience needs to be determined including their proficiency in understanding, speaking, and writing English. The strategies and methods for a successful English camp vary based on the target audience. Two successful audiences are families, and young adults or youth.

Duration of English Camp

The optimum length of an English camp is five days. Experience indicates that US team members should spend a few extra days with the partner church to develop relationships and become familiar with the local area and country. Based on location, a trip may take between 5-7 days.

Team Size

The US and local team size varies based on factors such as the number of English camp participants and costs. The minimum team size pairs at least one US team member with a local team member for each English class planned. Beginner, intermediate, and children's classes require a translator. For example, an English camp with 35 participants was divided into four classes of adults and one children's class. There were eight US team members and five local team members to conduct the classes.

English Camp Location

The partner church identifies the location of the English camp. Factors include the availability of hotel rooms or accommodations, and classrooms.

Budget

The budget depends on the number of US team members traveling and the location of the English camp. Accommodations at English camps vary on the audience and location. For example, many professional people attended the Czech family English camp at a cost of \$200 for a week at a moderately priced hotel compared to the youth English camp that cost \$20 a week at a Methodist camp with tents.

Key Success Factors

- Communication between the US team and partner church. Email and Skype (free telephone conference calls on the internet) at <http://www.skype.com>
- Identify English camp leaders—one from the US team and one from the partner church
- Identify Prayer leaders—one from the US team and one from the partner church
- Remember that the US team are guests and the English camp belongs to the local church to serve the local community
- Develop a schedule 4-7 months in advance to prepare for the English camp

English Camps

- Delegate tasks and jobs to team members—the leaders cannot do it all. The UVIM web site contains a mission team leader manual as a resource that describes important mission team roles
- Planning and effective communication with the partner church is essential for success
- Identify team member responsibilities to develop curriculum
- Identify translators from the partner church or local community
- Involve team members to exchange ideas regarding the curriculum and teaching methods
- Obtain airline tickets early (6 months in advance) to reduce costs and obtain frequent flyer donations
- Plan and organize activities that help develop relationships
- All US and local team members work to meet and develop a relationship with all participants
- Consider gifts for participants such as a camp T-shirt, Bibles, completion certificates, etc.

Resources

Spiritual content include the following:

- The Purpose Driven Life at <http://www.purposedrivenlife.com>

English web sources include the following:

- Cambridge University Press at <http://www.cambridge.org/default.asp>
- English Club at <http://www.englishclub.com/>
- ESL Kids Stuff at <http://www.eslkidstuff.com/>
- Macmillan Business English at <http://www.businessenglishonline.net/>
- Games at <http://www.teflgames.com/>

Mission web sources include the following:

- In-Mission-Together at http://gbgm-umc.org/mission_programs/ecg/2.19/about_imt.htm
- United Methodist Volunteers in Mission at <http://www.umvim.org/home.htm>

Key Team Tasks

- Copy training materials for all teachers and participants
- Identify basic classroom materials (flip charts, tape, scissors, paper, pens) that need to be available
- Photographer
- Operate computer and video projector

Curriculum

Determine the curriculum based on the participant's proficiency in English. Some training materials are advanced while other materials are very basic. Typically, three levels are determined: beginner, intermediate and advanced. Key aspects of the materials include the following:

- Visual materials are effective. Include drawings or diagrams on white or black boards, slideshows, newspapers, magazines, books and pictures
- Proficiency tests administered by the partner church provides focus for the needed curriculum

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Games, Music, and Videos

Games, music, and videos engage people regardless of their English capabilities or age and are useful during classroom or group activities.

- Country or local games
- BINGO learning games
- UNO or other card games
- Vocabulary review games
- Jeopardy
- Simon Says
- Scavenger hunt
- Red light, green light
- Pictionary
- Charades
- Twister
- Sporting equipment such as football, soccer, baseball, volleyball

Workshops

Workshops on specific topics provide a forum to share common interests between participants, and US and local team members. Topics include the following:

- Dance
- Business topics
- Music—instruments and singing
- Art
- Travel
- Health topics
- Christian topics

Contacts

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Young Adult/Youth English Camp Schedule

Time	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
8:00-9:00 am	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9:00-10:30 am	English lessons	English lessons	English lessons	English lessons	English lessons
10:30-11:00am	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
11:00-12:30	English lessons	English lessons	English lessons	English lessons	English lessons
12:30-1:30 pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:30-4:30 pm	Free time/movie	Free time/games	Organized activity	Free time/games	Organized activity
4:30-6:30 pm	Organized activity, trip or games	English lessons/workshop		English lessons/workshop	
6:30-7:30 pm	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
7:30-9:00 pm	Evening program	Evening program	Evening program	Evening program	Evening program

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Family English Camp Schedule

Time	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
8:00-8:30 am	Warm-up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slide show of pictures from previous day • Theme of the day • Music • Scripture • Quote • Stretching exercises 	Warm-up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slide show of pictures from previous day • Theme of the day • Music • Scripture • Quote • Stretching exercises 	Warm-up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slide show of pictures from previous day • Theme of the day • Music • Scripture • Quote • Stretching exercises 	Warm-up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slide show of pictures from previous day • Theme of the day • Music • Scripture • Quote • Stretching exercises 	Warm-up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slide show of pictures from previous day • Theme of the day • Music • Scripture • Quote • Stretching exercises
8:30-9:30 am	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
10:00-12:00	English lessons	English lessons	English lessons	English lessons	Closing activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Show • Feedback • Gifts
12:30-1:30 pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:30-3:00 pm	Relaxation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devotions 	Relaxation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devotions 	Afternoon trip <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking • Biking • Museum 	Relaxation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devotions 	Depart camp
3:00-4:00 pm	English lessons	English lessons		English lessons	
4:15-6:00 pm	Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-4 topics 	Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-4 topics 	Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-4 topics 	Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-4 topics 	
6:30-7:30 pm	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
8:00-9:30 pm	Evening program	Evening program	Evening program	Evening program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp fire 	