



VIRTUAL CAMP HANDBOOK



YOUNGLIVES SUMMER EXPERIENCE 2021

Dreaming and planning for what camp can look like this year, as you're not camping at a Young Life property, may make you feel excited and jazzed, or it might make you feel apprehensive and stuck. Or you might be feeling ALL the feels about camp this year. We hear you, and we get it!

We want all of our teen parents to feel engaged and to be excited. We want them to experience creativity and adventure and surprise like they could at a YoungLives week, regardless of where or how they experience camp. We want areas to be able to stay safe and healthy but still be together!

The resources provided in this handbook, along with the SE21 digital content, will help you plan for a locally managed YoungLives camping experience and to help your campers have “the best week of their lives”! Use the following resources to plan how your area and/or region can hold outreach camp **VIRTUALLY** this year.



What is SE21 Virtual Camp?

This is a summer camp experience hosted by a local area or region enabling leaders, teen moms and babies to experience and interact with the SE21 digital content virtually. This option is best for areas that have had a recent outbreak in COVID-19 in their area, include pregnant girls who are not able to come to a day or overnight camp, know girls who are under quarantine but want to participate in camp, or simply feels more comfortable and safe meeting virtually!

There are many things to consider as you plan your virtual camp experience. This handbook is meant to be a guide to help you think through logistics, possibilities and important details. However, use your creativity to imagine and produce an engaging experience for your time together!

Please Refer to the following when planning:

[*2021 YoungLives In Person Nationally & Locally Managed Overnight Camping](#)

[*Best Practices For Local Area In-Person Gatherings](#)





Young Life Camping 2021

Young Life Camping desires to clear away the noise, clutter and chaos from kids' lives to allow the gospel to enter. In order to do this well, Young Life National has set out some guidelines to help frame what camp looks like in 2021 and what goals we should all strive toward. Throughout this handbook, the national camping information and systems, as well as [Connect Camp](#), are referred to and referenced. Please go to the [Young Life Camping 2021](#) page for more information.

The camp experience starts and ends at home. Every effort should be made to minimize interactions with the general public prior to attending your camp event and after returning home.

"Camp" must be the following:

- A relationship between a Young Life leader and participants at the event
- An event that involves at least one-night stay, is a consecutive multi-day event or is a one-day event that is over 8 hours
- A program that is directed by Young Life staff or volunteers
- Gospel proclamation messages presented (outreach focused)
- A "cabin-time" reflection opportunity with kids/leaders
- An invitation for kids to trust and follow Jesus

Core Camping Values:

- Proclaim the gospel and give kids the space to respond.
- Leaders and kids go together.
- Program led by staff or volunteers. Keep your wigs handy!
- Kids experience fun and adventure.
- More on these [core values can be found here.](#)

Habits for Camp:

- #1: Handwashing when students arrive and before meals.
- #2: Eliminate high contact games.
- #3: Dub someone a "housekeeper" who can disinfect high touch areas regularly.
- #4: Contact the local health department 2-4 weeks before to give them a heads up (can also help calm fears if they sign off).





Safety

Masks

Masks will be required for all people at any Young Life camp (regardless of camp type or location) whenever they are indoors, except while eating or when in their sleeping space. Masks will also be required outdoors when distance cannot be maintained. This is mission-wide regardless of state mandates or removal of mandates.

- Everyone will need to be prepared to use their own masks while at camp.
- It is recommended that masks be double-layered and that everyone pack multiple masks for use throughout their stay.

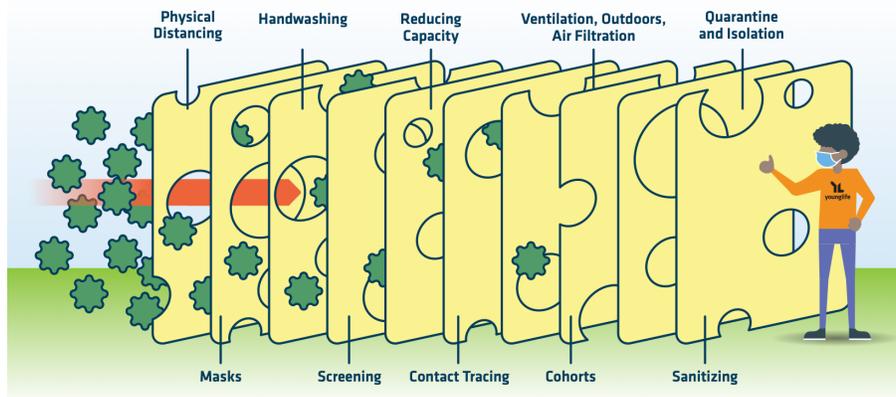
Meeting Guidelines

As you plan for camp, please make sure all your plans are consistent with the [Best Practices For Local Area In-Person Gatherings for YoungLives in the U.S.](#) document. Please continue to be aware of what your state requires regarding group gathering and safety. Contact your local health offices to make sure you are in compliance.

Young Life's guidance on cleaning, disinfecting, and fighting COVID-19 can be found here: <https://ministryguidance.younglife.org/health-and-safety/#procedures>

Tools for Fighting COVID-19

The goal is to layer as many feasible Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) as possible in any situation.



No intervention is 100% effective. This "Swiss cheese model" demonstrates that the more interventions we layer between individuals and the virus, the more effective we will be at mitigating the spread of the virus while doing ministry.





Putting Together Your Assigned Team



While the SE21 Camp ATeam has done a lot of the 'up front' production with program, a musician, and a speaker, there are several key roles that you will need to fill to help your camp week be successful.

Local Area/Regional Camp Director: This person would be in charge of the overall camp week/retreat/set of events. They would begin the planning of camp; be in charge of all of the finances and logistics; lead your local ATeam, delegating tasks as needed; and act as the point person for the week. The Director will plan the schedule; plan any drop offs to girls and mentors; and organize giveaways if they will utilize the giveaway videos for the week. This will be the details and communication person. This person can also create a team to work together if it is a large area or region doing virtual camp together.

Childcare: You may not need childcare if doing camp virtually, but your area may want to provide childcare during times when teen moms and mentors are watching club or doing cabin time virtually. If there is any childcare happening during your week, please have them read the [YoungLives Childcare Handbook](#) and have a training meeting with them to go over the content.

Please refer to the [YoungLives Restarting protocols](#) when planning events with children. In order to provide care for children during your camp week/events, you will need to have several volunteers who can commit to the entire event and be okay with the safety restrictions that Young Life, YoungLives, and your local county/state have put in place. We suggest that you use a 1:1 or 2:1 ratio of children to childcare volunteers. Please make sure all of your state and local childcare guidance rules are followed. Confirm that all of your childcare have gone through the Young Life Volunteer process (see Volunteer Paperwork section below) and have been adequately trained about how to care for children.

Delivery Team: During the week you will likely want to deliver food, supplies, or goodies/prizes to the girls taking part in your virtual camp. A team to do these deliveries will help greatly. This is crucial if you want prizes delivered while everyone is doing a watch party. If you plan ahead and have a delivery team, items can arrive while club is happening.

Prayer Team: Pray, pray, pray! In order for any camp event to go well and for campers to clearly hear the gospel, it must be covered in prayer. Ask your donors, committee, friends and family to commit to pray for your camp event before, during, and after the event.





Volunteers Needed

Lead volunteer: someone to oversee and direct team

Food: seek out food donations or deliver food during the week

Supplies: someone to organize and distribute

Childcare: for any campers needing childcare during clubs or activities

Tech Support: If everything is virtual, you need to be prepared to assist with technology hiccups. Have someone who has practiced the content to be available as the contact to troubleshoot.

Social Media/Memory Collector: Record the fun, smiles and life-changing moments! Even if you are doing virtual camp, get pictures of the watch parties or ask campers to send pictures of their kids doing the children's activities.

Follow Up: "Thank you note" writer for those who did serve



Training & Devotionals

Before camp, all leaders and any childcare will need training. Please contact your area to get connected with the [YL Access](#) training videos via RightNow Media. For childcare-specific training, please refer to the childcare section.

Resources for devotionals will be linked in the [SE21 online leader toolkit](#). We will also be providing a resource for devotions and/or follow-up on the Bible App that leaders and girls can use after camp.



Transportation

There are a couple of important practices Young Life will be requiring no matter what form of transportation you select for this summer.

1. All passengers will be required to wear a mask at all times while in transit, unless they are eating or drinking.
2. A [transportation agreement](#) must be completed for all passengers.

All drivers who are driving others on behalf of Young Life for your event are **required** to fill out the [Driver's Questionnaire](#) on Staff Resources.

Visit the [Ministry Guidance site](#) to read the transportation FAQs and for more detailed information.





Ways to Engage the Digital Resources

Resources Offered:

- *Program *Seminars *Childcare Devotionals *Children's Activities
- *Club Talks *Training *Leader Devotionals *Music

They SE21 Camp ATeam has provided the digital content for four clubs. There are two options on how to use the videos. One way is an 'all in one club' video for each club that has all of the digital content together in one video. Your entire group can log onto a Zoom meeting, and the host can present the video, watching the video together in its entirety. The other option is to have a 'watch party', but an emcee can be live on the party to lead from section to section. If you plan to add in any local or live content or if you want to do things in a different order than the 'all in one club' video, the 'watch party' is the better option. The videos can be organized and played in order, like a club at camp. But they can also be used in whatever order you see fit. Want to provide your own program? Great! Have a local musician your girls really love? Awesome! Replace any of these elements with live, local content if you want. You don't have to use all of the resources provided.

Be sure to take precautions to keep crashers and zoom-bombers out. Consult Young Life's [Zoom ministry guidance](#) for tips.

Activity "sells" and lead-ins will be provided in the program videos to set up local areas for games and raffles. Please be prepared to respond to cues by program for games and prizes by watching the videos in advance. Cues will also be included in toolkit.

Be vigilant about sound and the best way to present the content. Fantastic club resources will be a huge miss if girls can't hear or see it! Do sample "run-through"s with mentors and volunteers to see which is best, either do a watch party as an area or do smaller watch parties with a few mentors and a few campers. Make sure campers have devices and internet to engage with content.

Consider planning a time each day before you meet as a larger group to engage with leader and childcare devotionals, treating these as a vital part of camp, and have a Zoom call with your mentors and leaders each day to prepare. Think through how you can offer times of devotions and encouragement. The camp director could use this time every day to check in with leaders for training and trouble shooting.

Children's activities can be utilized in any way you see fit. If you have childcare helping girls with babies/children, they may want to use the resources during that time. Pick a time to log onto Zoom, and do some of these fun activities together!





Possible Schedule

	Pre-Camp	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
	<i>Deliver "Camp in a Bag" box to all campers & leaders</i>	Daily Camper Challenge (i.e. blow bubbles with your child)	Daily Camper Challenge (i.e. post a video dancing with child)	Daily Camper Challenge (i.e. text a leader about your favorite cold drink)	Daily Camper Challenge (i.e. Post your favorite Bible verse)	<i>End of the week one-on-ones with campers/leaders</i>
10:00 AM		Virtual Welcome and Game	Virtual Welcome and Game	Virtual Welcome and Game	Virtual Welcome and Game	
10:45 AM		Club	Club	Club	Club	Final Club/Say So
11:30 AM		Virtual Cabin Time	Virtual Cabin Time	Virtual Cabin Time	Virtual Cabin Time	
12:00 PM		Lunch Break/Lunch to Raffle Winners	Lunch Break/Lunch to Raffle Winners	Lunch Break/Lunch to Raffle Winners	Lunch Break/Lunch to Raffle Winners	
12:30 PM		Real Life (Long) & Check-in	Virtual Mommy and Me Activity	Real Life (Long) & Check-in	Virtual Mommy and Me Activity	
1:00 PM		Virtual Mommy and Me Activity	Real Life (Long) & Check-in	Virtual Mommy and Me Activity	Real Life (Long) & Check-in	
1:30 PM		Wrap Up	Wrap Up	Wrap Up	Wrap Up	

The [SE21 online leader toolkit](#) will provide program videos for activity 'sells'. If you have special events planned virtually or in-person activities your area/region, even if everyone will be watching the club videos virtually, these videos can be used. The above schedule can be converted easily to an evening schedule, beginning with a late afternoon "Mommy and Me" activity and ending with cabin time and a wrap up. There will also be pauses for online games and activities.

Things to consider:

How will you create multiple opportunities for girls to log on each day? Choose a time of day that works best for your both leaders and campers. Plan for "camp in a bag" drop offs the week or day before camp begins. Create daily challenges and raffles to engage campers throughout your events. Set up small cabin time groups with one to two leaders each. Communicate details about the week often and in a detailed manner. Try to figure out a way for campers and mentors to watch and engage with the content together if possible, as this works better than watching separately with virtual discussion afterwards. Zoom watch parties were the most successful way to do virtual camp last summer. Practice doing a watch party with your mentors so they are prepared!





Administrative Details

Budget: Even Virtual Camp has costs, which must be considered and funded. Capernaum has created a [budget resource](#) to help you think through some of the basic expenses. If you have not planned a virtual event before, ask your local Area Director or YoungLives Regional Coordinator for help.

What can you get donated for the event, and what will have a cost attached? Think through expenses like: food, baby and mom supplies, care packages, and gifts for mentors and childcare. Will you be paying or giving a gift to staff or volunteers involved? Will you be having someone come in for that special in-person event (exercise or mani/pedis, etc.), needing to purchase supplies or pay them. Will you be providing t-shirts for camp?

Once you have thought through your expenses, think through how you will cover the expenses. Will your teen moms/childcare/mentors pay a registration fee? Will you ask donors to cover the cost? If you will be collecting a registration fee, think through how you will collect this when they register, including how you will collect payments and a schedule for these payments.

Fundraising: People are often willing to give towards a camp experience! Once you have a plan for your camp, share that vision and ask how people would like to help. Create a plan for how people can sponsor the event. Have a supply drive or connect with supporters by setting up a registry so people can purchase items and have them sent to you (Amazon is a great way to do this). Create sponsorship tiers, such as "donate \$50 to purchase t-shirts for campers"; "donate \$100 to provide snacks for cabin time conversations"; etc. People love to know exactly what they are giving towards. Contact local restaurants and businesses to see if you can get pizzas, sandwiches, or meals donated. Many groceries stores will donate gift cards towards events.

Scholarships: Young Life is granting Hard to Fund Scholarships again this year. Apply by April 15th here: [Hard to Fund 2021 Application](#).

Young Life documents: If your camp has met the criteria of a "[Camp Activity at a Non-Young Life-Owned Facility](#)", you will need to fill out an [N-Form](#).





Registration: To plan well, you need to know who is coming! Create a form to have your teen moms and babies register for camp. This will help you plan meals, childcare needs, space, etc. You can create a free basic form in [Google Forms](#). Include things like name, contact information, number of children and ages, food allergies, transportation needs, and if you are providing t-shirts, ask for the t-shirt sizes of moms and kids.

Medical forms: If you are planning any in-person camp activities, there are Health Forms and Waivers to fill out. Each day a [COVID Health Screening Form](#) will need to be filled out by each teen mom (for themselves and their children), as well as each volunteer and staff.

Since your event will be less than 72 hours long, then you need to fill out [YL717-Consent and Release](#) (transportation agreement is included). [Activity Waivers and Health Forms](#) (general, not COVID specific) can be found on Staff Resources, where it explains which forms to fill out based on your activity and possible transportation. Please also check with your local Young Life Area Director or YoungLives Regional Coordinator to see if there are specific forms that are necessary for your state or county. This is constantly changing with COVID, so check again right before your event to ensure all necessary transportation and health forms are completed for your group.

Volunteer documents: Anyone volunteering during your camp is considered a Young Life volunteer and **must** have proper paperwork on file: a Criminal Background Check, Faith & Conduct form and at least 2 character references (kept on file with your area). These are tracked in [Volunteer Manager](#) on Staff Resources, so you will need to be sure each person is entered (husbands and wives, as well as parents and children, are submitted separately) and that their documents are complete. If you do not have access to add volunteers, please contact a staff person in your area or the [YoungLives camp team](#). It can take a few weeks to process the background check, especially with COVID-19 related delays, so please plan ahead! They must be entered and start their paperwork at least a month before your camp starts. **If they have not been cleared in the Young Life system, they can not be a volunteer during your camp week in any capacity.**





Activity Suggestions

- Crafts
- Karaoke
- Virtual Camp Bucket List
- Dance Party
- Could your group get together for one in-person activity during the week/weekend?



Meals

Remember meals are an important part of a camp experience. Delivering meals to teen moms during a virtual camp is a great way to engage on a personal level. Last summer, many areas found pizza places would donate pizzas if someone from *YoungLives* would pick them up and deliver them to girls. Another option is for a mom and mentor to meet together to eat before or after they watch club together.

You could also plan a meal or snack during a virtual cabin time. If you are delivering a camp box/bag, include items for different cabin times, labeling them well. Then you can all enjoy the snacks/treats together on a Zoom call while you discuss the cabin time questions.



Location

If your area is participating in SE21 on a virtual-only level you may think you don't need worry about location, but remember to think through internet access for all your mentors and your teen parents. If their homes do not have stable access or if they do not have computer/tablet devices, think through some alternative options for them. Even though your whole group is not getting together for day camp, could a mentor and a mom get together to watch? Is there a location to provide childcare if a mentor and a mom are watching together? Would this be best at one of their homes, or do they need another location, like a small space at a church? Could they go to a coffee shop or restaurant with wifi to ensure they can see the SE21 content? Outdoor spaces are always preferable for meetings.





Supplies

Housekeeping supplies: Clorox wipes, sanitizer, disposable masks, cleaners (if you will be together in person at any point during your virtual week). No commercial supplies are necessary--only household products should be used. For more information, please see:

<https://ministryguidance.younglife.org/health-and-safety/#procedures>

Delivery team: gas cards, sanitizing wipes, and masks for deliveries

Meals: gloves, utensils, individual beverages, plates, napkins, take-out containers, meal bags

Club: Prizes prepped for clubs, swag giveaways (t-shirts, bags, stickers, sweatshirts, etc.), raffle tickets, computer and stable internet if doing a watch party together

Cabin Time: 'Cabin Time Boxes' with supplies for groups like Bibles, journals, pens, verse cards, cabin time questions, a 'talking stick'

Activities: Make sure your delivery team has delivered any items needed for games or other activities. Providing what will be needed for children's activities is a very thoughtful way to care for your teen moms.



T-shirts

The SE21 ATeam will provide an available design template you can use as a part of the camp toolkit. Or you can design your own!

Consider making t-shirts for campers, children, and your team of staff and volunteers. Giving t-shirts to your mentor/leaders, childcare team and set up/meal volunteers helps to identify them as a part of your team. It also helps your campers know which belong on their team, and it promotes unity. Consider a different color t-shirt with the same design for the various parts of your group.

Be sure to know what your plan is before you order, as you will need to be sure you order enough for all the campers and volunteers. Try to get the sizes of your campers and volunteers as soon as they sign up so you can have an accurate order.





Encouragement

As you plan, don't forget to consider ways you can encourage and thank your volunteers! Show appreciation in tangible ways. Anything elaborate or expensive isn't necessary; just consider ways you can encourage them during camp, as they are vital to the success of your event.

Gift bags/totes/baskets full of goodies are a great idea for your volunteers. More involved volunteers like mentor/leaders and childcare workers could receive gifts requiring more cost or time to assemble. Other volunteers can be thanked with smaller items and/or thank you cards. [Pinterest](#) & [Etsy](#) have many great idea for gift tags, some you can print yourself and some to purchase.

Here are some other ideas for gift bags/appreciation gifts:

- Use a tote bag for the gift bag – sturdy and practical
- Reusable Water Bottle with YoungLives logo or Young Life logo
- Breath Mints and/or candy (all individually packaged)
- Energy bars/granola bars/trail mix (all individually packaged)
- Personal care items like chapstick, hand lotion, earplugs (especially if they are rooming with others), bug spray (if you will be outside), sunblock (small)
- Ball caps with YoungLives logo (or any color really)

After camp, be sure to thank ALL the other volunteers and donors who helped make camp happen. Thank you notes, especially with pictures of our teen parents and babies make a huge impact!



Social Media

If there are no other forms filled out for your virtual event, you will need to have [photo release form](#) signed by minor (campers and children) participating. For photos of camp to be shared on social media platforms and by staff for Young Life's purposes, permission is required.

What will be the hashtag for your camp experience? Consider a unique tag for your local area. Tag everything with **#younglivesSE21**.





Human Resources and Red Card

Because teen parents are remaining home, they may be even more guarded than if they were away at camp. They may not report abuse as easily because they are remaining at home during this time. Do not "fish" for anything, but if something comes up the Incident Response Team will help to come up with a safety plan.

Young Life's Incident Response Team is still in place to receive and handle calls from staff and volunteers about abuse. Young Life's current protocol as mandated reporters is still in effect so please advise staff and volunteers to call the Incident Response Team if someone reveals they are being abused.

The number to the Incident Response Team (Red Emergency Card) is 800-999-8661.



General Resources

- [Summer Experience '21 Website \(toolkits\)](#)
- [Young Life Camping: Locally Managed](#)
- [Young Life Camping Forms](#)
- [Best Practices For Local Area In-Person Gatherings for YoungLives in the U.S.](#)
- [CDC Guidelines on Summer Camps](#)
- [High School & WyldLife Summer Adventure Planning Document](#)
(includes budget, schedules, staffing, etc...)
- [Capernaum Camping Ideas](#)
- [Further Cleaning Instructions](#)

