



## GUIDE TO SURVIVAL

### INTRODUCTION

Want to take your youth group to the Creation Festival, but don't know where to begin? Leading the young people whose spiritual nurturing has been entrusted to you into a crowd of thousands of strangers can be daunting. Without proper planning and ground-rules, what could be a fun, memorable opportunity to grow closer to God and each other can be disastrous.

These materials are not the official requirements of the Creation Festival, they are simply offered as an example of how a youth group can organize for a successful festival experience.

Topics:

- 1.** Guide to Survival: An informative manual to distributed to all expedition participants.
- 2.** When Do We Eat?: Satisfying the eternal cry of your youth.
- 3.** Pre-trip Planning Letter: Cover letter or the survival guide and call for equipment.
- 4.** Permission - Release Form: (run this one by your legal counsel before you reprint!)
- 5.** Getting The Most Out Of Creation: "A Contract To Obey 10 Creation Commandments"
- 6.** "Stuff Adults Need To Know About Leading Our Group At Creation": Advice and instructions to youth leaders and chaperones.

Special thanks to the "Cornerstone Festival" for allowing us to adapt the following manual. This manual was written by Bill Allison, a Sonlife Youth Minister, and youth worker trainer, who developed the following materials for his youth group.

# CREATION FESTIVALS GUIDE TO SURVIVAL

## GENERAL QUESTIONS: Q & A

**Q:** What exactly is the Creation Festival?

A: Creation combines the awesome fun of camping with a great variety of Christian music and Bible based teaching.

- a. Wrong thinking - Creation is rock 'n' roll only.
- b. Right thinking - Camping + Seminars + Music = Creation

**Q:** When are we going?

A: Tuesday. Meet at the church. We should be home Sunday. Creation's Gates open Tuesday (East), Wednesday (West).

**Q:** Where is it?

A: East: Agape Farm, Mt. Union, PA (About 2 hrs west of Harrisburg, PA)

West: Gorge Amphitheater, George, WA (2.5 hrs east of Seattle, 2.5 hrs west of Spokane)

**Q:** What is our primary purpose for participating in Creation:

A: To grow in our relationship with God and w/ each other.

**Q:** How do I please everyone? (A word about "Groups")

A: Anytime you do something as a "group" you cannot cater to everyone's personal preferences. Every individual cannot have their own way! That means that everyone going will have to give up some of their "rights" in order to do what is best for our group. Be it known unto you that I will run a tight ship!

**Q:** What are we going to do? (example)

A: East: Tuesday, West: Wednesday

Meet at the church ready to go. Bring a sack lunch. Drive to Creation Festival. Set up our camp. When we first get there; NOBODY is free to run around and scope out the lay of the land until our ENTIRE camp is COMPLETELY set up! Do not leave when your particular tent is set up. We will work as a team and then be dismissed after all the work is finished.

A: Thursday - Saturday (an average day at Creation)

7 A.M. Rise and shine, personal devotions, shower, breakfast, and camp clean up!

9-12 A.M. Seminars

12 Noon - 1 P.M. Lunch on own or leftovers at camp

1-4 P.M. Concerts, seminars or nap

4-5:15 P.M. Dinner, camp clean-up

5:15-Midnight. Concerts! There will be no one staying back at camp, visiting the exhibit hall or just running around! We will sit in our extended family groups like one big happy family! Curfew is IMMEDIATELY after the last concert.

A: Sunday

Pack up, clean up, come home, and clean EVERYTHING.

**Q:** What does Creation cost?

A: Group Expenditures

Gas to and from \_\_\_\_\_ Food \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Expenditures

Ticket (paid in advanced) \_\_\_\_\_ / Lunches, snacks, CDs, tapes, T-shirts, etc.

Minimum of \$70.00 is suggested.

A conservative estimate of how much Creation could cost:

\$120 - 1 week of church camp • \$185 - 3-1/2 days seminars

\$450 - 31 big-name bands • \$210 - 30 little-name bands

\$965 Total you would spend

THE MAIN POINT IS - THANK GOD CREATION IS AFFORDABLE!

WE ARE GETTING A DEAL!

**Q:** How do we accomplish all we have to for a 5 days?

A: **GROUP MINDSET:** Be a team or better yet a family

**Our Family:** In order to insure accountability, quality and safety, we have to be one family!

**Family Leaders:** (List of all participants, youth and adults, divided into small extended family groups, with home telephone numbers.)

**Family Meetings:** Everyday, between 4-6 P.M. 15 minutes long at the most. Meetings can include prayer, questions and comments, sharing of devotional, announcements, and good jokes (clean ones only)

**Family clean up:** After every meal, EVERYONE will take part in clean up.



## CREATION CHECK LIST: Do's & Don'ts

Here's your checklist of some items to be sure **NOT** to bring and **Creation Don'ts**:

TV's	Radios	CD Players
Personal tapes	Alcohol	Tobacco
Narcotics	Critical Spirits	Bad Language
Expensive Equipment	Weather sensitive equip.	Expensive Jewelry
Don't leave purses, money or valuables unattended anywhere.	Don't be surprised by anything.	Don't spend all your money right away.
Don't point and stare at Punkers.	Don't forget to shower everyday.	
Don't show disrespect to anyone in any way (attitude or action) or your parents will be bummed out when they have to come and get you!	Don't break or damage anything. If you break it, you've bought it!	Don't go into anyone else's tent- especially the opposite sex.
<i>Additional space for other items:</i>		

**Notes:**

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## **CREATION DAILY DEVOTIONS:**

It would be useless and ridiculous to go to a Christian Festival and forget about your relationship with Christ! Don't get caught up in "Christian" activities and leave Christ in the dust for the next few days. Take time to get to know God at Creation. (Create a worksheet for each day, centered around a theme such as worship, prayer, or some other appropriate subject.)

1. Talk to God (5 min.)
2. Let God talk to you (scripture reading)(5 min.)
3. What is God saying to you?
4. Time for action (5 min.)
5. List two steps of action you will take TODAY to obey what God said to you.

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## FOOD AND MEALS

Taking 2 Fish and 5 Loaves of Bread and feeding the masses.

How Bill Allison answered the perennial cry of youth.

Before the festival, his wife and another adult youth worker spent two days preparing meals. We cooked everything and then froze it. They brought coolers filled with food and gallon jugs of frozen water to the site. This kept the food cool for a day or two. Later, the jugs served as a great source of drinkable water. (The water on site can have a high sulfur content. It is safe to drink, but not very palatable.)

They ate tacos, pasta, burgers, macaroni and cheese, and BBQ sandwiches, all precooked. All they needed to do was reheat on a grill or gas stove. Cooking nothing from scratch was a big time saver. They could spend more of their time on more important things. They brought “tons of muffins,” always had potato chips, and the kids brought their own soda.

Typical Menu

Breakfast - cold cereal, muffins, coffee, milk, juice

Lunch - kids on their own - all the great food at the festival. However, by the second day, they offered free leftovers for those who did not want to spend money on lunch. (According to Bill, the most important rule in preparing food for a group is that it is always better to have too much food than not enough. If your party is full, consider offering some to your less-prepared neighbors.)

Supper - One of the entrees mentioned above. At some point, they cooked fresh BBQ chicken as a real treat for all.

Remember the rules of safe food handling; keep the hot food hot, the cold food cold, and wash everything that touches food with hot, soapy water when in doubt of something's wholesomeness, throw it out!

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## PRE-TRIP PLANNING LETTER

Letter Sent Out in May to Youth Group Members and Chaperones Who Have Already Signed Up for the Trip.

(Tickets Have Already Been Taken Care of.)

Dear Folks:

It's almost time for Creation! I can hardly wait! Who knows, maybe we will get rained on again this year. Maybe we will choke on dust. Whatever the weather is, I know we will all have a positive, flexible attitude like usual.

We will meet at our church on \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_ am/pm to go to Creation. Your \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for food and gas is due \_\_\_\_\_ (fifteen days earlier). We need this well in advance so we can buy food and supplies for our camp. At the time you pay for food and gas, you will receive a "Creation Festival Guide to Survival." It explains everything you ever wanted to know about camping at the Creation Festival, including a list of all those going this year and their phone number.

It is important for you to understand that since you are going to Creation, you will need to help by providing some things that we as a group can use. Here is a rough idea of what you need to do as an individual to prepare for this year's Creation, as well as some things you could do to help our group survive this year at Creation.

- \_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for food and gas to \_\_\_\_\_ by deadline.
- \_\_\_ Bring your own tent or find someone who has a tent that can share with you. Name and numbers are in the Creation Festival Guide to Survival."
- \_\_\_ Read the check list in the survival guide.
- \_\_\_ We need two gas grills. If you have one, call the equipment coordinator.
- \_\_\_ Bring a completely signed parental release form with the food and gas money.
- \_\_\_ Read the entire survival guide .
- \_\_\_ Can you drive to Creation? Gas money will be available.
- \_\_\_ Does anybody want to make a banner for us?
- \_\_\_ We need one good working Coleman stove. Call the equipment coordinator.
- \_\_\_ We need two good working Coleman lanterns. Call the equipment coordinator.
- \_\_\_ We need 3 big coolers. Call equipment Supervisor.

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## **Suggested Permission- Release Form**

Run this one by your organization's legal counsel before you reprint!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # (     ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City and Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my above named child to join \_\_\_\_\_ (name of group) of (name and location of church) on the (name of activity) at (location) on (dates)

I understand that the group will be traveling by (type of transportation)

I hereby release (name of sponsoring church), its staff and sponsors, from responsibility and liability for any injury or illness that my child may sustain during this activity. In the event of an emergency, I hereby authorize an adult leader of this activity, as agent for me, to consent to any X-ray examination, medical, dental or surgical diagnosis; treatment; and hospital care advised and supervised by a physician, surgeon or dentist (as appropriate) licensed to practice under the laws of the state where the services are rendered, either at a doctor's office or in any hospital. I expect to be contacted as soon as possible.

Signature of natural parent of legal guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency # \_\_\_\_\_

Beeper or Alt. # \_\_\_\_\_

### MEDICAL INFORMATION

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Medications being taken \_\_\_\_\_

Physical handicaps or limitations \_\_\_\_\_

Medical insurance company \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## **A CONTRACT TO OBEY; THE “10 CREATION COMMANDMENTS”**

- 1.** Go to give compliments and encouraging words to other people in our group. No complaining about anything - Numbers 11:1.
- 2.** Go with a teachable attitude everyday to the morning worship and two seminars. You are required to attend the following everyday: A. Morning worship 9:00-10:00 A.M. B. The two morning seminars from the main stage and the entire evening program.
- 3.** Go to serve God by cleaning up camp when it's your turn. You are required to participate in camp clean up i.e. dishes, garbage duty, etc.
- 4.** You get to be under the authority of Jesus Christ, His Word and your extended family leader and thus experience security and protection and safety •  
*Hebrews 13:17* says you are required to be obedient to your adult leaders.
- 5.** Go to experience great fellowship at the campsite. You are required to be back at our campsite at these designated times:
  - a. 4:00 P.M. check-in meeting with your leader and eat supper.
  - b. Immediately after the last concert of the night.
- 6.** Go to experience accountability with other Christians. You are required to use the buddy system. Never go off by yourself! Always have at least one other person with you.
- 7.** Go to experience community with one another. There will be no leaving the Creation grounds at anytime.
- 8.** Go to experience God's creation. If it rains - we all get wet. Praise God!
- 9.** Go to fall in love with Jesus Christ. Absolutely no P.D.A.(Public Displays of Affection) in any form. Put your hormones on hold for this week. Stay out of tents of opposite sex at all times. Take cold showers.
- 10.** Go to be a blessing to all. Disrespect in attitude or action will not be tolerated toward anybody. You will be sent home. There is a “No put-down rule”.

I understand how to get the most out of the Creation Festival and that failure to do my part in the above could get me sent home.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **What You Need to Know About Leading Our Group**

- 1.** You are a shepherd. Use your crook when needed! Assume total responsibility for our entire group not just your assign / extended family.
- 2.** Handle discipline problems yourself. You have the right and the authority. Don't bring them all to me. If it is a major problem then let me know but if it's an attitude problem (or something you can handle), then take care of it yourself. If it is persistent, then see me.
- 3.** Keep a close watch for "wolves" (that is bad influences from within our group or from someone from another group).
- 4.** Know well the condition of your flock. Use "family time" to get some feedback and to remind them of the guidelines.
- 5.** Know the guidelines well yourself so you know what is right and you know what is wrong.
- 6.** As the Leader we would ask that you make sure your teens and youth are in-line with our dress code for the week. Please see our website, under the Details menu option, for this policy.
- 7.** Set a good example by what you do. Don't just talk a good game. Have devotions at our camp site every morning.  
Get up on time.
  - Be positive even in not-so-good situations.  
Go the extra mile.
  - Be there to make sure everyone else is having a good time. Use encouraging words - in fact, go out of your way to say something good! Be so nice you're almost disgusting. Be a friend to "loners."
- 8.** Keep in mind that the Creation Festival is temporal and these teen's souls will last forever. What good is Creation if we all have a blast but we fail to grow closer to God? Find out where these kids are at with God and spur them on further in their relationship with Christ. That may even mean leading some of these kids to Christ.
- 9.** Also keep in mind that any relationships you build with our teens at Creation can be carried on when we come back to our home town.
- 10.** Start praying now that God would work deeply in your own heart as well as those we will be taking with us.