

CREATION FESTIVAL SURVIVAL GUIDE

The Creation Festival would like to thank Pastor Nancy Hudson and the Oasis of Love Church for their work on the Survival Guide and support of the Creation Festival over the years.

The highlight of your summer... maybe your life!™ These are true words spoken and written year after year as preparations for yet another **Creation Festival** are made. Attending the festival for many of you may be a vacation, it may be something you have planned for a year and it may have been a last minute decision, but whatever, our desire is to see you be able to make the most out of your sacrifice of time and money. We want you to receive every blessing and benefit from your time at **Creation Festival** this year! Because of that, we have gathered together some important information we hope you will read and profit from to be able to experience all the great things the '**Creation Festival** Experience' has to offer you.

Before You Get to Creation

Spiritual Preparation and Individual Preparation

Congratulations! You have decided as a group, individual or family to attend **Creation Festival**. Preparation is a good thing. **Creation Festival** is loaded with AMAZING experiences. Planning and foresight can help you and your group to have a most excellent time and you'll be able to enjoy your time away from home to the utmost!

Prepare Your Hearts...

The first order of business for each of us should be the preparation of our hearts. **Creation** is definitely a blast, the music is awesome, and we hear great speakers! But all of that is perfected for each person who attends as we spend time seeking God beforehand and allow God to prepare our hearts for our experience attending the Festival. If you could take the time to pray for the Festival, pray that God will speak to you, and as we all prepare ourselves, just imagine what God can accomplish with every heart open to Him!

Permission Slips, Medical Info etc.

If you are going to **Creation** as a group, one BIG essential is making sure that every young person that is going is amply supervised and/or has a permission slip which gives you, as a leader permission to make medical decisions for that person or child in case of an emergency and/or if the parent can not be reached by phone. It is also helpful for you to have in your possession, any underage person's medical cards or a copy of them, drug information and a list of their allergies.

We would advise church groups to establish a file ahead of time, especially for large groups, with: 1.) Permission slip, 2.) Medical Form listing Insurance Info, cards attached, and a list of any medicines and allergies, 3.) and a picture of each underage child and a copy of the drivers license of anyone else. We know it's hard to believe that any of these things would be needed, but let's be safe, and protect everyone in case of an emergency. We have included an example form below.

Bring a Friend...

Creation Festival is an excellent ministry opportunity for your family or youth group! Remember, the gospel of Jesus Christ is going to be preached and there will be many opportunities for people to come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior! **Creation** is an absolutely great place to take people, who are

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hungry, searching and need to commit their lives to Christ. Take advantage of it and encourage your young and older alike to invite friends who would benefit from this type of event (That would be everyone you know!) Maybe you can have a few fundraisers to be able to invite some who would not be able to afford the cost, that's mission work! In the meantime, be praying that God will prepare their hearts to receive and yours to be the vessel to reach them!

Get Your Church Behind You...

Accountability is good, and if you are going as a church group, we assume your pastor is already in agreement with the trip. Why not take a Sunday night or part of a Sunday Morning, with their permission, and talk about the Festival. You could show some pictures and part of the **Creation** video, and use the opportunity to get the congregation behind you in prayer. You never know, it may spark a few more folks to want to join you and it will open the door for more people to come to Jesus. After the Festival, get permission to share all God did while you were gone, it will thrill everyone and bring excitement to the church!

Preparation for On Site Camping:

Keep in mind you are going to be CAMPING with thousands of other people; you may forget a few things and the people camping beside you may forget a few things. Be like a Boy Scout: BE PREPARED!

One of the first things you should do is organize a composite list of things you need as a 'camp site' and what all you may need as 'individuals'. That composite list may be something like this, but would obviously vary according to cooking needs, and individual tastes.

Creation Camping List:

Garbage Bags/Cans, Matches, Fire Starters, Basins, Dish Detergent, Dish Towels and Cloths, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Tissues, Disinfectant/ Bathroom Type Spray, Drying Rack, Cleaning Rags, Hand Sanitizer, First Aid Kit, Markers, Masking Tape, Scissors, Paper/Tablets, A Sewing Kit, Card Tables, 8 Foot Tables, Lawn Chairs, Brooms.

Charcoal or Gas Grills, Charcoal, Lighter Fluid, Coleman Stoves, Trivets, Hot Pads, Cooking Pots, Griddles, Hot Dog Sticks, HoBo Pie Makers, Aluminum Foil, Plastic Wrap, Zip Loc Bags, Metal Mixing Bowls, Large Plastic Bowls for Serving/Mixing.

Peanut Butter and Jelly, Bread, Drink Mix, Whatever Food Items You Need for Your Meals, Cereal, Granola Bars (for an emergency), Ingredients for S'mores (ESSENTIAL), Hot Dogs, Hot Dog Rolls, Marshmallows, Coffee, Tea, Drink Mix, Hot Chocolate Mix, Dry Milk, Cereal, Ketchup, Mustard, Relish, Margarine, Non Stick Spray, Salt and Pepper, Sugar, Creamer, Low Sugar Sweetener.

Styro Cups, Paper Plates, Styro Bowls, Silverware (plastic/metal), Napkins, Cutting Knives, Serving Spoons, Serving Utensils, Can Openers, Church Key Can Opener, Wooden Spoons, Spatulas, Ladles, Serving Platters, Kettles with Lids, Large Foil Pans, Cutting Boards, Large Cooking Forks, Tongs.

Coolers, Drink Coolers (one for water, one for 'bug juice'), Coffee Carafes, Drink Pitchers, Tarps for the Arena, Blankets for the Arena, Extra Pup Tents, Extra Sleeping Bags, Extra Tarps for Rain and Leak Prevention, Twine and Rope for Whatever, Extra Body Soap, Extra Deodorant (Believe me, someone

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ALWAYS forgets!), Extra Body Towels, Extra Washcloths, Bug Spray, Umbrellas, Water Tanks with Water, Tiki Torches, Citronella Fuel for Tiki Torches, Shovels and Duct Tape (Don't go anywhere without it!)

This is just a suggested list that may help you get started! Start ahead, you'll be away for a while and you can't just run to the store when you want to! Keep in mind there is a great little camp store on the grounds where you can purchase lots of essentials.

P.S.

Don't forget, you need tents, campers, pillows, sleeping bags and all the gear to establish your home away from home! Also: **DON'T FORGET YOUR TICKET!**

P.S.S. Decorate your campsite...

Another great hint that can help to make your campsite uniquely all yours is some way to decorate that would identify who you are as a family, group or individual. Some folks bring church banners, flags, flag poles, Palm Trees, towers, balloons, lighting... you name it. The sky is literally the limit! Some camp sites identify themselves so that it makes them easier to find, others do so for plain old fun! A few years back, one group had a mini swimming pool at their site, although we don't encourage this, it was certainly creative! All in all, this can be one thing that is a blast and helps to bring spirit and excitement to your group! Get the kids involved in the planning for this, they will make it happen!

Things to Consider:

- It's a pretty monumental task to prepare for a massive outing with a group. If you keep your list year to year, you can add to, take away and continue to tweak it each year, but it will always give you a head start on your preparation for the next year.
- Many groups divide their group into family or small groups of 4 – 6 people and require that each group contribute for instance: two packs of hot dogs, two packs of rolls, one big pack of toilet paper, a few rolls of paper towels, one bag of fruit, one breakfast 'treat' like donuts, pop tarts etc. and one bag of snack food (chips, pretzels etc.). When you bring all the food items together, there is something you know that you enjoy and you can share yours with others in the larger group.
- It's also a good idea to have an ice contribution can. Take an old coffee can, and cover it and indicate it is for contributions to purchase ice. That way, everyone gets in on the expense.
- It may be a good thing, depending on the size of your group, to bring one person Certified in CPR and First Aid along with you. We are not expecting anything to happen, but in a massive group of thousands, anyone who is Certified, may be a real blessing to someone in need.
- One thing some deem essential as a group is a pre-set list of rules, or do's and don'ts that you can institute at your campsite. This is especially essential to establish 'order' at your campsite. Everyone can be given the camp site rules ahead or just be sure each 'rule' is explained and is clearly understood before everyone gets there. That way, group leaders have some leverage and some clarification concerning conduct etc. Hey, the Bible is our guidebook or rulebook, as well as God's word. Rules are good. Some of the things you may want to include in your 'do's and don'ts' may include: your personal group dress code, conduct between guys and girls at the campsite, campsite

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responsibilities (everyone should have a job!), campsite curfews, establishment of eating times and devotions times, etc.

- Obviously, before you come to **Creation**, it would be great to meet with your group and establish all your hopes and parameters concerning the trip. You will want everyone to have a great time, and if all the expectations of your group are clearly stated, everyone is thinking alike and will know what to expect and what is expected of them.

You've arrived at Creation Festival!

Now the fun begins! The time has come and you've made the trip, you are pulling into the camp and you are beginning to see campers, tents and waves of people who have all come together to worship our Savior, Jesus Christ! You may be tired, for some of you, it may have been a long trip and depending on how far you travelled you may be ready for bed! Keep in mind, if you have young people with you, they are probably tired riding and will have plenty of pent up energy. Want some advice? Put them to work!

Set Up...

You probably want to get your camp site set up as soon as possible, and for sure, you will want a place to sleep, so get busy and get those tents up, get your kitchen tent organized, grab some firewood and throw a few hot dogs on the fire! You're camping now!

When you arrive you will come to a gate. Have your vehicle pass in your windshield, reservation cards filled out and your bar-code tickets ready for scanning. At the gate you will receive some materials and will be directed to your camping area. Please pay close attention to all the people that will escort you to your camp site. They have been waiting for you, and they are ready and willing to help! When you arrive at you camp site, take a few minutes to stretch, then HAVE A PLAN!

Organization at this point is essential and you may want to pre-assign who is going to do what, in order to have a safe and happy landing on Planet **Creation**. When you hop out of your vans and campers, trucks and cars, why not give a shout out to the Lord and have a quick prayer of thanks for your beautiful and safe arrival! THANK YOU, LORD!

Take a look at your given plot and have your leaders decide where everything will be placed and then go about your unpacking and set up of camp! If you thought ahead, you may want to offer everyone a little snack when you arrive; food works wonders on tired bodies. As much as possible, try to keep your young people busy so they feel like they are a part of the adventure, plus there are always people to meet!

Be Prepared...

We wish we could tell you everything that may possibly happen as you set up camp, but what we will say is that you can expect anything to happen. You may forget things, big things! But remember, none of that is worth getting upset over and allowing it to ruin your trip. A few years back, two young ladies' arrived at **Creation** to serve on staff and had no idea they needed any kind of accommodations. A group that was amply prepared gave them tents, sleeping bags, pillows, towels, washcloths and opened up their camp site to them and they became BFF with the girls in the group! God rocks and He loves to use us to bless others!

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Who's in charge, Camp Rules, Sign Out Sheets etc.

Once your camp site is set up, don't waste any time before you establish the rules you have already 'gone over' with all the people in your group. Reinforce that rules are good. You may want to have some kind of establishment of hierarchy within your campsite. Once again, you are camping with THOUSANDS and a whole small city has just sprung up around you, you need to have order for the safety and protection of everyone. Someone may wander away from camp, and no one knows where they are. If you have established a hierarchy of who is in charge and who you report to, you won't have a 16 year old telling a 6 year old that they are headed off to take a shower, they will know they need to report to someone older. (Smiley Face) Order is established and panic is prevented!

At your camp site you may want to have a 'sign out' sheet to indicate where everyone is going and when they will return. You could hang the sign out sheet on a clipboard, and it will help to keep everyone in the loop.

It's also good to keep tabs on everyone in the arena. Many groups have found it necessary to send at least one adult with children and young people, if they have to leave for any reason or if they want to be in the front of the arena during a huge crowd at night. Didn't your Mom say, you can never be too careful?

Some groups choose to have one adult at their camp site at all times, even during meetings and arena times. Your camp site will be protected and your group will also have a place to gather or meet that is a safe haven and point of contact. Have you ever tried to find someone in a crowd of 50,000? It's next to impossible! At your campsite, the person or persons who stay at the camp site at night could be responsible for starting the campfire and setting up the afterhours snack. Each night, a different group can be in charge, that way, the duties are passed around.

Devotions at your campsite...

During the Festival, a great suggestion is to establish a time of devotions each morning that is in agreement with everyone at your campsite. It gives the leaders a chance to regroup, and pray for God's blessing as well as share His word to start the day. We do encourage groups to take advantage of the times of worship in the arena each day, if they possibly can. Remember how important it is to prepare our hearts for God's word with worship.

When you arrive, you will be given a program and each time of service, music etc. is notated in the program. The program is a good tool to use at your devotions in the morning, as it may help your group members decide where they want to go each day and you can encourage them to try to attend speakers, worship and the bands! The devotional time is also a great time to reinforce your 'camp rules'. Always send your group off to their day HAPPY! Let the joy of the Lord fill your campsite!

Camp Site schedule...

Obviously, each camp site is going to have a different way of doing things, but may we suggest a bit of schedule, that will establish your camp sites order. You may want to make a pre-printed sheet before you come, that has the schedule clearly printed on it, but you may not be able to do so, so bring markers, paper and clipboards or a bulletin board to enable you to keep things in order. You can also use the

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bulletin board for your sign out sheet, camp site menu, camp site schedule, a list of the **Creation** activities, and a list of chores (who, does, what, when).

Your schedule may be like this:

7:00 AM – Rise and Shine

7:00 – 8:00 AM – Breakfast

8:00 AM – Camp Devotions

8:30 AM – Head to the Arena for Worship

Lunch is served – After the speaker in the Main Arena

Dinner is served – After the last speaker of the afternoon

Late Night Snack and Fellowship – After the last band of the Night

Curfew – Midnight

Speaking of Bathrooms and Showers...

On the **Creation Festival** grounds, showers and portable toilets have been provided for you. The best policy is, that if you dislike going into a nasty bathroom, you should not be part of contributing to it. A good rule concerning bathroom cleanliness is: leave it like you found it, or make it better. As in any public camping shower facility we encourage you to wear flip flops or some other water shoes into the showers for sanitary sake. Our crews work hard and do their best to maintain and keep up with sanitation through out the day. Do your part for the one after you and every one will be happy! Try to remember to take everything with you when you leave the showers, may we suggest the bucket method used in college? Carry all your stuff in a bucket or bin and it's easier to keep together. Keep in mind; we do not have enough power or outlets for 30,000 teenage girls to do their hair four times a day! Try to remember, **YOU ARE CAMPING!!!!** (Smiley face)

Did we mention that you may have to stand in line? Please be patient, meet someone new while you are waiting. Before you know it, it will be your turn.

Creation Concessions...

Creation Festival has provided a wonderful array of Food Concessions for your convenience. Some groups choose to cook twice a day and encourage their groups to enjoy the concessions for the other meal. Keep in mind that there are some really wholesome treats as well as great variety at the food concessions.

Respect the Ministry...

We pray that each day of **Creation Festival** will be a day of challenges, ministry, and excitement as we worship together, pray and enjoy some great music and speakers. Take advantage of every possible time of ministry you can, this event can be life changing! The **Creation** staff has taken great measures to bring anointed ministers together to guide us as we serve the Lord and to challenge us to walk with God. As a group, your respect as each band plays, as each singer sings, and as each minister ministers is required! We ask for your attention to be shown to God's word, as your disrespect can negatively affect someone next to you who may desperately need to hear what is coming forth from the stage.

At **Creation Festival** no booths or concessions will be open during the message each night. That would

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not be the time to march out of the arena, but would be a great time to sit down, dig in and listen. Your attention to this important aspect of the event would be GREATLY appreciated.

Within Your Group...

The best part of **Creation Festival** is to witness someone you know, or someone who is a guest of your group, receive a touch from God during one of the services. The first thing they may experience is the holy hush or the presence of God that washes over them, possible like they have never experienced. Some may begin to weep, many do not know how to respond to that touch and that's where you come in. This is the best! Now this is your opportunity to take the time and knell with, stand with, weep with and pray with the believer who God has showered with His love and forgiveness.

Please DO NOT let one of these precious sheep stand alone to try to sort out what they have just experienced. It is important that they receive a gentle touch of your arm around them, as you join them in prayer and take the opportunity to break open God's word and share scriptures on Salvation and Forgiveness, which will reinforce what they have experienced. You may want to share the word after you get back to the campsite, as it may be hard to do so in the arena etc.

We encourage ladies to minister to ladies, and men to minister to men, especially if they are young people, for obvious reasons. There is always an appropriate way for men and women who are older to minister to the opposite sex, but we like to encourage caution when young people are involved, so that wisdom is used in sharing details of how God is dealing with the individual who is being ministered to.

All in all, this is one of the reasons you sacrificed and came to **Creation Festival**, take full advantage of the opportunity to reach out to those in your group upon whom God has moved. When you pour God's love out on someone, He will pour back on you.

Tear Down...

When the last day has come, and the last concert has sounded its final note, **Creation Festival** is over for another year. Thankfully, that which we receive from God has lifelong effects on us and is planted in us for eternity! It's always sad to say Goodbye, but it's now time to tear down our camp site and go home.

Usually teardown is somewhat easier than setup! Yeah!!!! Things don't have to be quite as organized, but all in all because you may be tired, get it done as soon as you can. Some groups choose to begin packing up during lunch or dinner of Saturday, and then as soon as they can, they are able to finish packing up and rollout to be at their home church for Sunday morning. However some also pack up and make the journey home as soon as they can on Sunday. For Your Information, there is traditionally always a Sunday worship service held after the Festival. Times and location will be listed in your program.

You may encounter a line as you leave the Festival grounds, once again, don't allow any small unimportant situation to ruin all God did in you during the festival... soon enough the lines move, and everyone is able to make their way home.

In case any large or important items were lost/stolen/or misplaced while you were at the Festival, there is a lost and found area in operation as long as the **Creation** Office is up and running. Please try to check, recheck and recheck again before you leave to avoid any disappointments concerning any missing items.

Good Bye **Creation Festival**... see you next year

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You're Home Now, Creation is Over... Now What?

Follow Up...

You've arrived home, you invested time and money, and like any investment... you should want returns! As soon as you can after you've arrived and settled into the real world once again, we would like to suggest another meeting to reinforce all you received while at the Festival. Wouldn't it be great to 'recreate' **Creation** back home? Why not plan the meeting to review all God did at a Camp Fire, playing some of the bands that you heard at the Festival, or have a similar campfire sing along, hotdogs etc. Then, encourage everyone to share what God did for them at the event.

As soon as you can, make sure you have taken the lead and did some follow up, by making sure you have names etc. of all those who made commitments, were baptized etc. These folks will need to be taught, and that's where the importance of your church and your pastor comes in! Pastors never complain about new converts! They will be HAPPY to begin classes and bring them into the fullness of LIFE IN CHRIST!

The Final Clean Up, Presenting Creation to the Church...

As you take advantage of the fresh touch from God in those who attended, make each of them a part of the unpacking/clean up part of coming back from an event like **Creation Festival**. Teaching them to be responsible is part of the responsibility of the church and its leaders, so here is a golden opportunity to teach. Also at this time, shortly after you have returned, renew your commitment to ask your pastor to give the group time to express to the church how **Creation Festival** affected them. Make sure you come back with pictures, videos, interviews that will allow the young people to put together something that will again bring excitement to the whole church.

Next Year, Mark Your Calendars...

At the Festival each year there is an opportunity to register for the next year at a nicely reduced rate, if you can do this, you will save some money. If you cannot, you want to at least place **Creation Festival** on the church calendar ASAP for next year! At one church we know, they begin to announce it at Thanksgiving time and do so again after Christmas! Another group gives away one free registration to a member of the youth group each month beginning in the New Year, based on their scripture verse memorization. Great idea!

www.Creationfest.com

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Creation Festivals Suggested “Must Do’s” and FAQ’s

MUST DO’s

- Candle Lighting - (Friday night)
- Creation “look out” – Birds eye view of the Agape Farm
- Communion Service - (Thursday night)
- Late Night Stage - eclectic blend of music
- Seminars - In depth teaching sessions in our woods arenas
- Youth Leaders VIP – Youth leaders only. This is your oasis!
- Extreme Zone – games, skate board, climbing wall, and more.
- Food Court - You must have a Creation Funnel cake.
- Fringe Stage - Living up to its name, music on the “fringe”
- Kidz Stage – family and kid approved fun for everyone.
- Exhibit Area – information and tee shirt over load, see and get it all.
- Fireworks - (Saturday Night) Spectacular end to Creation Festivals!

There is more but you will have to wait until you arrive. See you there.

FAQ’s

Creation offers facts and answers to many of your questions on our website.

For Creation Northeast: <http://www.Creationfest.com/ne/information>

For Creation Northwest: <http://www.Creationfest.com/nw/information>

Suggested - Permission & Medical Release Form

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

Name _____
Phone # _____
Alternate Phone _____
Address _____
City and Zip _____
Grade _____
Email _____

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 phone number _____

MEDICAL INFORMATION Allergies _____

Medications being taken _____

Physical handicaps or limitations _____

Medical insurance company _____

Policy Number _____

Member's name _____