

Campground Canvassing

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Purpose: To inform campers about ministry programs in a positive way.

Campers come to the mountains, lakes, or wherever to escape the normal routines and pressures of everyday life. This may include being solicited by religious groups. Therefore, ministry workers must be careful not to upset someone or leave a bad impression. Generally, though, the majority of campers are friendly and appreciative of your invitation.

The following guidelines should help you in your canvassing:

- Prepare ahead of time a brief and friendly verbal invitation giving dates, times, location, etc.
- If allowed, a small promotional flyer is good to hand out. Larger promotional posters can usually be posted at campground message boards. Always obtain permission to hand out or post any promotional material. Never leave a flyer at an unattended campsite. Do not conceal the fact that your program is religious and Christian in nature and purpose.
- Observe the campground to find out the best time to find people in their campsites. Usually late afternoon is a good time when at least one parent returns to start preparing the evening meal.
- Assign each person/couple canvassing a specific area. This way you will not overlap and “upset” someone who twice has had to say they’re not interested.
- Before you approach a campsite, appraise the situation to see if it is appropriate to enter the campsite. For example, if someone is quietly reading a book or taking a nap do not disturb them. Do not enter any campsite where there appears to be a family or domestic dispute occurring.
- Youth and children should always canvass with an adult. As a rule, never enter any car or RV with a stranger.
- Respect campsite boundaries and privacy. Do not cut through or across the campsite.
- Say “Hello!” and introduce yourself from a distance and then give the invitation to the closest individual to you.
- Always leave the campsite with a positive atmosphere. If someone is not receptive to your invitation, leave by saying, “Have a great time riding your bikes!” or “Enjoy the rest of your vacation.”
- If possible, wear a ministry T-shirt or name badge.
- Last, but always first, remember to pray!

Adapted from an article by Steve Hughes in the 1993 National Resort Ministries Conference notebook. Used by permission.