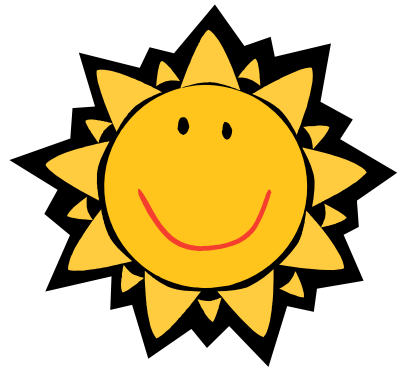
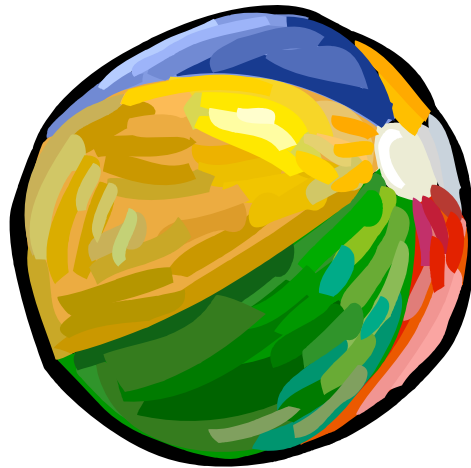


Weekends with Reality.



Introducing...

Reality Weekends -



*A weekend experience
with a difference..*

For most of us, the weekend is a time where we kick back and relax - forget the stresses and strains of the week at work and do fun things. One of the best feelings in the world is waking up on a weekend morning, and for realising that you so don't have to get up and go to work, indeed you can legitimately roll over and go back to sleep! (Potentially the best feeling in the world..)

There's lazy brunches, the weekend papers (that take all weekend to read..) a bit of retail therapy, football, bad TV, going to the park, going to the cinema, going to Blockbuster.. and the list goes on...

For some young people, however, the prospect of a weekend at home isn't so tempting. Indeed, the lack of routine, supervision, interaction and general safety of some young people means that the weekend takes into the next week to recover from. Some young people we encounter have never had the experience of someone taking them swimming, help with their homework, being listened to, or simply cared about.

Giving a young person the chance to come away and get out of the city - away from their context, and into a community of Christians who are on holiday is amazing. It's just about taking a kid away for a good time, where they realise they are valued and interesting and of worth.

Outdoor sports are an amazing context in which to be challenged and compelled to work as a team. Cheering a kid as they get to the top of the climbing wall, or go down the scary slide in a kayak or find the way to get through the spider's web are brilliant chances to encourage young people and boost their self confidence and self worth. Simply spending time with them cannot be underestimated.





Weekends with Reality...

(like week camps, but shorter and a bit different.)

There are a few things to bear in mind about weekends. Some things are obvious - but good to remember and others are just interesting..

A weekend is made up of many components - all are important and it's good to think through them before embarkation. (we'll tell you where the exits are...)

A weekend has a huge amount of preparation to it, even if it is only from Friday night to Sunday afternoon. There's the young people to place, and interview and get all the background. The volunteers to find, interview, get disclosed etc etc..

So, a lot of background is done all before the roof box goes on the car.

Hopefully before you go on the weekend, you'll know a bit about the young people who'll be coming and if you know or have met the other volunteers. (You see, if you can convince your friends/family to do it with you then you get to go with them, and have a hilarious time bringing young people into your existing community..) (and it's easier for you..)

You'll know where you're going, times, dates, what to bring and what to expect, roughly.

Usually weekends are just small groups - family sized, so you get to use the Reality company car - our beautiful (occasionally hovered) grey/blue Zafira.

Since it's so short, and there are less leaders to share the responsibility, a lot of responsibility falls to you to make the camp go smoothly and calmly and excitingly. Thus it's a bit more intense, but also huge amounts of fun and incredibly rewarding.

First things first.

Meeting and Greeting -

First impressions are really important, especially when there are fewer leaders and you'll be together all weekend.



First impressions are made when the volunteers get together. People who volunteer for Reality come for all manner of places, situations and walks of life. Chances are they've had a busy week and by this time on a Friday night might actually prefer to be going back to their own house for tea and an evening in with a DVD. Thus, it's really important to remember to be looking out for the needs of other volunteers too – asking how they are, looking to keep each other enthused and generally looking to bring out the best in everyone. Some volunteers are more experienced than others – yet it's always an amazing chance to learn from and about other people – how they work and how they deal with situations.

Introducing yourself cheerfully and making the young person feel at ease is key. It's worth bearing in mind that they're probably quite nervous about going away somewhere with strangers and other unknown young people. They'll be trying to suss you out – and work out the other young people – where they'll fit into it all. In some cases it's not a bad thing to actually verbalise that- and speak into it – acknowledging that everyone's on holiday and in the same boat. Setting the tone in what you say here is important – rather than allowing them to lead how the weekend will work.

The tone should be upbeat, enthusiastic (you're on holiday!) and totally sensitive to how the young people present themselves.

Be friendly and welcoming – even if that's not how you feel. Remember people's names..

We don't really encourage eating in the car (for obvious reasons-) however, if you are bringing stuff remember to make it appropriate – eg, not coke and skittles for the camp with the kid with ADHD. ..





Short Term Community -

One of the cool and unique things about camp is that you'll be in this little community all weekend. The young people will be exposed to being in this community and being a part of it. Rather than being on the side lines, they will be (although you have to help them..) integral parts of how the community works together and supports each member.

They also get to experience being part of the Christian community that you Volunteers are. They see how you interact and love one another - and respond and interact with them. This is likely to be significantly different than the relationships they have at home. It could raise questions, horizons, hopes and choices for their future lifestyles.

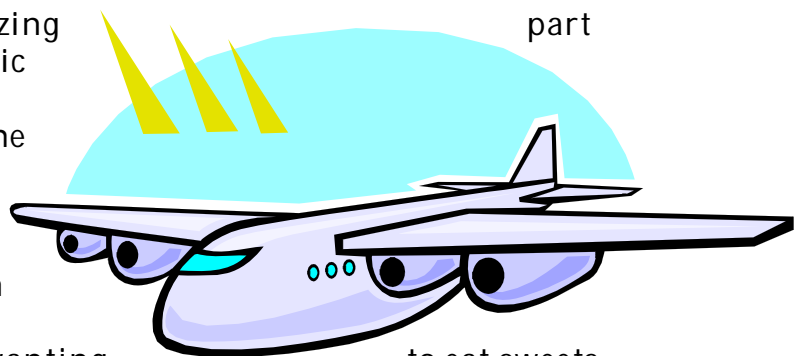
They'll be part of a team, being praised, being encouraged, living within boundaries - exciting stuff!

Travelling

Travelling is a potentially amazing part of camp. Singing, playing idiotic games

(I spy, guess the next word of the song/magazine article, First person to see a ' ' wins..., red car etc etc etc...) and telling jokes are all part of the good fun family car experience. So too is

needing to go to the toilet and wanting to eat sweets, but we'll gloss over that. We can't promise this'll be an easy section of camp - thus you'll need to be praying into it and during it, but take it where it goes. Boys hate singing, but girls love Disney songs, for some reason.



(Drivers, do also remember that the poor reality car will be full of people and luggage, and it might struggle. Give it a bit of love and it'll do you proud, however, any points you accrue on your licence will be cordially presented to you..)

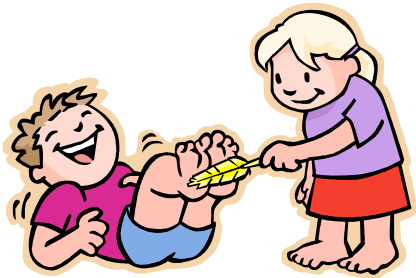
Photographs.

Young people absolutely love (usually) having their photos taken.

Going home with a disc of pictures and memories all about how much fun they had is really importante, which means you must become the paparazzi for the weekend..

The camera loves you - work it, work it.

Activities -



noticing their achievements

etc..

Activities are really important and in some ways the main selling point of the weekend. However, they really are only a means to an end in terms of using them to get alongside the young people, having a laugh,

Certificates are in the folder to be promoted and presented as something very physical the young people can take home and remind themselves of their achievements. A little bit of fuss goes a long way.

In the evening there is a chance to hang out together, share stories - like Jesus did, maybe some of his.. watch dvds etc. It is totally unique to each camp what you do, but if you have an idea of where you'd like to take it, remember to be open and sensitive to the young people.

Our aim on the weekend is to show these young people very practically the love of Jesus by your unconditional positive response to them (in the good and the bad). There may be chances to talk about him, about your hero, there may not be, but you will find yourself prompted if you are responsive to the situation.

We have a plethora of cool things in our equipment store at Reality which you can so take away and use, and there'll also be stuff at the centre. (we're talking giant jenga, board games, those beads you iron (i hate them..) paint, paper, pens, the list goes on..)

Eating - *This may not seem that important, but eating together is really key in any community/family. Helping the young person stay calm, chat, enjoy their food and use table manners is your responsibility at the table. The food is good - but it just ain't chips every night. (have you seen the dvd?) (don't judge us.)*



Final thoughts -

Even if it's hard to see any positive change on camp, you must remember that God is totally involved and uses all our efforts. He knows these kids better than they know themselves and thus praying is our best tool and weapon. Get your friends to pray for you on camp - texting is a wonderful invention - and allow them to be part of this exciting work in that way.

Going on camp is a real sacrifice, but God honours it and will reward you in ways you could never imagine.

Bring it on.

Reality

Any questions/comments/thoughts/ideas please totally get in touch with us - we'd love to hear from you...

Reality Adventure Works

0141 777 7656 or

new.info@rawscotland.org.uk

www.rawscotland.org.uk (it's a good place to start..)

NOTES:

NOTES: