

PROGRAM PLANNING

Children's Afternoon Activities

This is an outline for the Children's Afternoon Activities Wednesday-Saturday at annual sessions. Consider this to be used as a helpful guide, but please do not let it restrict any new creative ideas.

In 2026 the slots of time for the afternoon free time and worship sharing/workshop have been swapped. So recreation time is later (3:00 p.m.) instead of right after lunch.

Wednesday: With the 2026 schedule change, opening session is now 4:00-5:30 p.m. In terms of attendance for 2026, we do not know if there will be a critical mass for scheduling an activity, however there will probably be a need for babysitting/childcare.

Recreation: Thursday-Saturday, 3:00-5:30 pm

- Play/organize games of tag, Frisbee, soccer, etc. with children on the meetinghouse lawn.
- Check ahead of time that there are Frisbees, balls, and other necessary recreational equipment in that are in good shape and safe to use. Purchase items if needed and give receipts to the Overall Program Coordinator at the beginning of Annual Sessions, if you would like reimbursement.
- Store the recreation equipment in the Clear Creek House storage shed at the end of Annual Sessions.

Craft Tent: As the planning groups is so led, every day (Thursday, Friday, Saturday) or only some of the day, as well as for the full recreation time (3:00-5:30 p.m.) or only part of that time. Let the AdminCoor know the schedule at or before the Registration packet info due date (usually mid-March).

- Inventory contents of the craft material tub in the Clear Creek House storage shed. This should be done ahead of time and this list should be shared with the Overall Program Coordinator. There is usually things left over from previous years, so check to see what is there before buying new things.
- Provide short activities for the children. Organized craft activities should be simple and take minimal instruction. If you would like reimbursement for purchased materials, please turn in receipts to the Overall Program Coordinator at the beginning of Annual Sessions.
- Remember that 2 adults must be working in the Craft Tent with a group of children for child safety.

Swimming: Often Thursday, and in the free time rather than the recreation time. It can be on any day and multiple days, and in the recreation time (3:00-5:50 p.m.) or in the free time 1:00-3:15 p.m. Let the AdminCoor know the schedule at or before the Registration packet info due date (usually mid-March). Children really do not like missing this, so having it on the schedule that gets distributed in advance is good.

- Arrange ahead of time for four to five adults with cars to agree to drive children and to supervise the children while at the pool. There are life guards.
- Call the pools for current fees and schedules. Reservations are not necessary.
- At Annual Sessions, post a sign-up poster for swimming. Post the fees and instructions that children must put on swim suit and sun screen (if applicable) before leaving the ILYM campus and that they should bring a towel.
- Make sure that a binder with a permission slip for every child going to swimming, goes on this pool field trip.
- Decide which pool is preferable given the weather conditions. There are 2 pool options:

- Henry Outdoor Pool: Rt. 89 south, west on Rt. 18. Go over the bridge and turn left at the 1st street. Pool is 2 blocks further, on the left (600 Front St., Henry, IL 61537, 309-364-3339).
- Hennepin Indoor Pool: Rt. 89 north to McNabb Rd. west. Rt. 26 north to Hennepin-Florid Rd. Left to 6th St. Left to T, left to pool. (Box 259, Hennepin, IL, 815-925-7319).

Hike:

- In some year, David Wixom has been organizing a hike to Matthiessen State Park on Thursday afternoon. It is an activity for adults and children. Children must have a responsible adult with them for this outing. The Overall Program Coordinator should check in with David or anyone who has shown interest in leading this to confirm it. Who ever is leading it might prefer to schedule it during free time rather than recreation time when worship sharing and workshops are happening.

All Ages Workshops: Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 3:15-4:30 p.m.

The Overall Program Coordinator can collaborate with the Workshop Coordinator, so that there are truly all ages workshops offered. It is up to the facilitator to designate their workshop as all-ages (or older children and adults), though the Workshop Coordinator with CREC might proactively seek some out.

All Ages Worship Sharing: Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 4:45-5:30 p.m.

Though not done before, the Overall Program Coordinator can collaborate with the Worship Sharing Coordinator, so that there are multigenerational worship sharing groups with queries appropriate for all ages, or a certain aged children and adults.

Variety Show: Saturday, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

- Confirm an MC before Annual Sessions—this is a great job for an AYF or HS Friend. This is a hybrid program. Note that mics are directional mics, so performers need to speak/sign directly into them. We have not had much luck at position mics to pick up musical instruments or group singing (unless each person has a microphone).
- People from the Program group will need to rearranged and put back in place the stage area for the Variety Show.
- Post a signup. Be sure to define the tone of performances as light and fun. In 2015, due to concerns about the show lasting too long, the signup sheet included the note: “Please! No more than 2 acts per participant and no more than 5 minutes per act. We only have one hour to showcase all who want to participate.” It also included lines for only 15 acts.
- Some acts might want to practice/test out the room before the performance. If needed work with the AdminCoor for this.
- Make sure that the stage area and other space used for the variety show is returned to the original set up.