

IN • RHYTHM

THE LATEST FROM THE RHYTHMS OF FAITH PROJECT



The Rhythms of Faith Project seeks to empower parents and caregivers in family faith formation by leveraging the power of camp experiences.

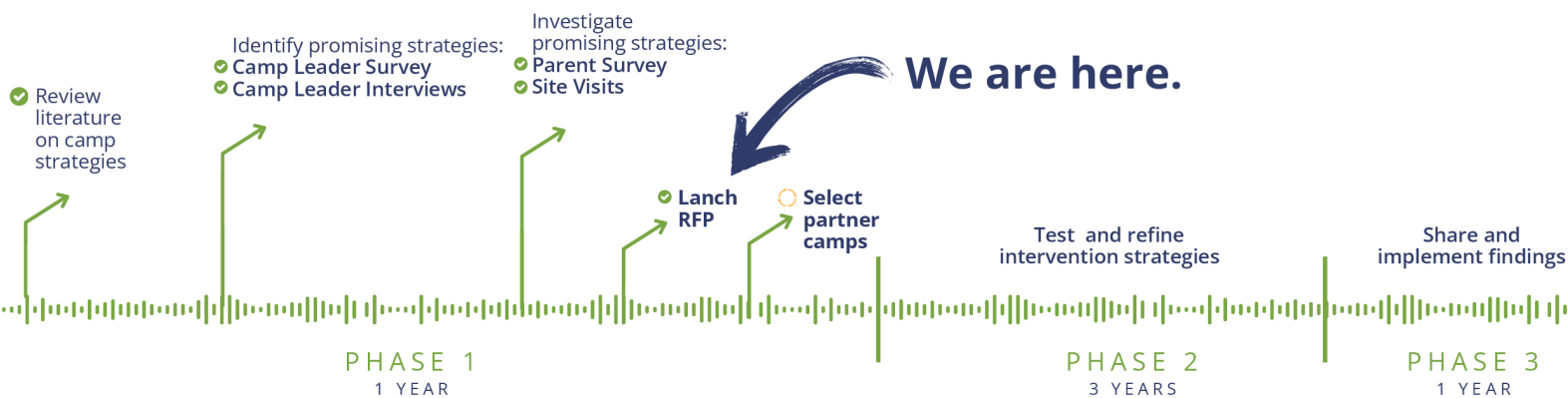
Welcome to the early fall 2024 issue of **In-Rhythm**, the project updates newsletter for the Rhythms of Faith Project. These updates include the latest findings from the current phase of the project, what the project team has been working on, and what's ahead for the project, including ways camps and churches can engage. Our hope is to provide an overview of our learnings as we proceed through this multi-year process so that camp leaders, church leaders, and families have real-time access to resources and ideas that will strengthen their ministries. We'll also communicate opportunities to get involved with the project as they arise.



What We've Been Working On

The Rhythms of Faith Project is nearing completion of Phase 1, the exploratory phase. The leadership and advisory teams have been working together to complete a thorough literature review on outdoor ministry across decades of camping, surveys of outdoor ministry leaders and camper parents, interviews with camp directors, and 11 in-person site visits during the height of summer 2024 ministry.

We've been compiling the findings and sharing them in a variety of ways. See the "What We're Learning" section for info about the insights gathered so far. We're in the midst of a shift to the next phase of the project, during which we will follow a group of camps for 3 years, helping them implement interventions to more effectively impact family faith and tracking their progress along the way. **Right now**, there is an open request for proposals for sub-grants that will be awarded to 9 partner camps we'll engage with for 3 years, testing and refining strategies to catalyze faith formation practices in families by leveraging powerful camp experiences. See the "What's Next" section for more details and instructions on how to submit a sub-grant proposal.



✓ COMPLETED ○ IN PROCESS



What We're Learning

PHASE 1 FINDINGS

Site Visit Narratives

CLICK THE IMAGES TO READ THE SITE VISIT NARRATIVE OR VISIT RHYTHMSOFFAITH.COM/FINDINGS

We completed site visits at 11 camps during the summer of 2024. We learned much from these camps and their leaders about impactful outdoor ministry. Complete with pictures, stories, and ideas of creative programs and experiences, each site visit narrative highlights one or more promising strategies that connect and catalyze family faith formation.



TAKE ACTION

Promising Camp Strategies

Phase 1 exploratory research analysis resulted in six themes, outlined in the Promising Camp Strategies report and accompanying infographic. We encourage any camp leader to use this graphic as an actionable process for selecting and implementing one or more of these promising strategies right now in your ministry. Here's how:

STEP 1 Start with Philosophy

Consider where your camp is right now in core camp philosophies around the level of faith integration into all aspects of camp, as well as understanding and emphasizing the nature of camp experiences as impactful temporary experiences that are part of a larger ecology of faith formation that also includes key permanent spaces like the home and the local church.

STEP 2 Choose Promising Strategies

Explore the sets of promising strategies in the graphic. Choose a strategy for each audience - campers, parents, and churches - and consider options while at camp and while away from camp.

STEP 3 Practice Adaptive Leadership

Be prepared to adapt to needs and desires of your most important constituents, and plan to pivot when opportunities to connect arise. Consider intentional training and education around adaptive leadership for your team to build this skill.



Download the Infographic sacr.pl/promisingstrategies



rhythms.of.faith@wheaton.edu



facebook.com/rhythmsoffaithproject



What's Next

PHASE 2 LAUNCH

TAKE ACTION

Request for Proposals for Rhythms of Faith Sub-grants Open Now

Since the fall of 2023, we have been investigating the most promising strategies of overnight Christian summer camps to influence faith formation in the home. Now it is time to test and refine these strategies at camps across the country. The evidence is clear that if we want to have lasting impacts on campers, we must influence faith in the homes and local churches of our camp families.

We are seeking up to 9 Christian camp organizations to commit to journeying with our team for a period of 3 years from January 2025 through the fall of 2027.

Together, we will use action research to test and refine strategies for influencing faith practices in the home through interactions with our camps. Interested camps should be committed to influencing faith in the home and open to implementing new strategies, in partnership with families and local churches.

As a temporary community, camp operates best when it works alongside permanent spaces, such as home and the local church. We hope to help camps strengthen these partnerships.

Proposals are due by October 15, 2024 and must be submitted by filling out the form found at rhythmsoffaith.com/rfp or by scanning the QR code above.



Camps that are selected to participate will receive resources, training, and other benefits. We will then evaluate the effectiveness of those strategies over successive years, refining them along the way. Selected camps will receive the following:

- Grant funds
- Training
- Ministry Resources
- Research
- Consultations
- Incentives & Camperships



LISTEN UP

Promising Camp Strategies on the Sacred Playgrounds Podcast

Project Co-Directors Dr. Jake Sorenson and Dr. Rob Ribbe sat down with host Jared Rendell on the Sacred Playgrounds podcast to share what we're learning so far, especially breaking down the 6 promising camp strategies we uncovered in phase 1 of the project. Find the "Sacred Playgrounds Podcast" where you get your shows or head to the link below.

sacredplaygrounds.com/podcast



rhythmsoffaith.com