

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 winter 2024 issue of **In-Rhythm**, the project newsletter for the Rhythms of Faith Project. These updates include the latest findings from the current phase of the project, what the 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

Phase 1 Concludes · Phase 2 Launches

The Rhythms of Faith Project has completed Phase 1, the Exploratory Phase, and has officially moved on to Phase 2, the Action Research Phase! We continue to finalize, report, and write about the powerful learnings from Phase 1. More of those learnings are shared in this edition in the "What We're Learning" section.

We currently have 2 peer-reviewed academic journal articles and an article for a Christian magazine in process and we looking forward to sharing those once published.

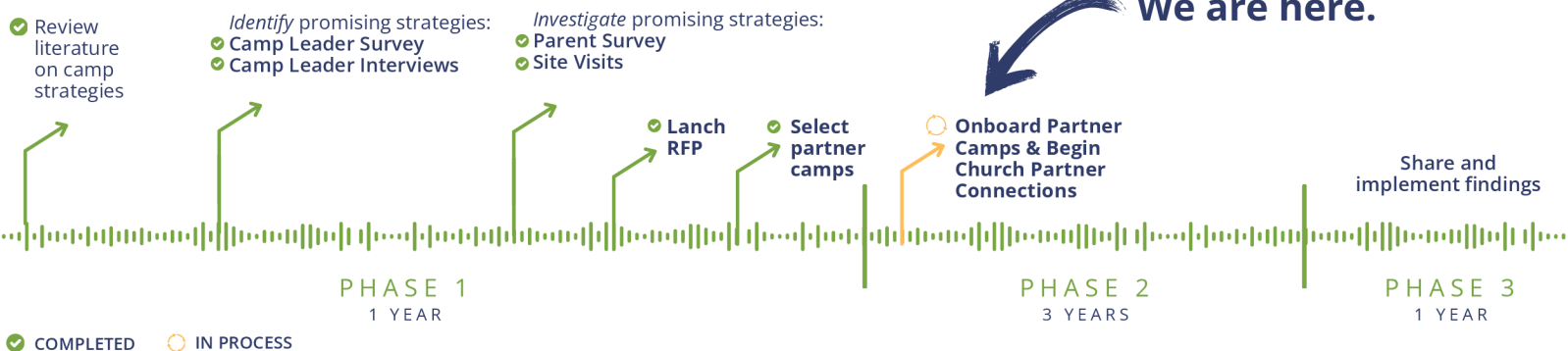
This fall, we launched a request for proposals for Rhythms of Faith Project partnerships and subgrants. In the last month we've been thoroughly reviewing the proposals and the project research and advisory teams have chosen the 9 camps we'll be partnering closely with over the next three years.

We're in the process of onboarding the leaders of those organizations and taking preparatory steps for what's ahead. In the next edition of In-Rhythm, we'll share those 9 camps and more about the groundwork they are laying in connecting camp, church, and home.

Rhythms on the Road

As planned and promised, we're sharing everything we're learning along the way. This fall and winter, and continuing into the new year ahead we've had the opportunity to join academic and outdoor ministry professionals at conference and gathering to share about the project and all we've learned so far. We joined or will join:

- **Association of Youth Ministry Educators** OCT 2024
- **Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Conference** NOV 2024
- **Campfire Collective Conference** NOV 2024
- **CCCA Annual Conference** DEC 2024
- **Six CCCA Sectionals** SPRING 2025
- **UMCRM Annual Conference** JAN 2025
- **American Camp Association Conference** FEB 2025





What We're Learning

PHASE 1 FINDINGS

PHASE 1.4

Site Visit Thematic Summary



SACR.PL/VISITSUMMARY

We completed site visits at 11 camps during the summer of 2024. There are narratives from each of these site visits available on the project website. The Site Visit Thematic Summary is the product of hours of processing and coding visit notes and interviews. Thanks to our research team for their diligent work! Below, you'll find a summary statement for each of the four themes we identified as promising strategies for camps to truly serve as catalysts for family faith formation.



Theme 1

Christian summer camps are broadly effective at impacting the personal faith and practices of participants, although they frequently lack a holistic approach to faith formation aimed at influencing faith beyond the camp experience.

Theme 2

While some church leaders, parents, camp professionals, summer staff and camp leaders who are highly engaged in camp through long term involvement and participation envision camp as part of a faith formation ecosystem, many, particularly those that are less deeply engaged in camp, often lack that vision and view it as a standalone, disconnected experience.

Theme 3

Camps have the opportunity to expand their influence in faith formation by serving as training centers for equipping campers, parents, and church leaders.

Theme 4

Robust models that incorporate camp into family faith formation include strategies focused on campers, parents, and church leaders at each phase of the experience: before, during, and after camp.



Camps as catalysts for family faith formation

By Meggan Manlove, Jake Sorenson | October 8, 2024

FINDINGS ARTICLE

Living Lutheran Article on Phase 1 Promising Camp Strategies

In October 2024, Project Co-Director Dr. Jake Sorenson and Advisory Team Member Bishop Meggan Manlove published an article for Living Lutheran magazine on the Promising Camp Strategies uncovered in Phase 1 of the project.



What's Next

PHASE 2

TAKE ACTION

Review & implement findings from phase 1.

All our published learnings (so far) from Phase 1 are available at rhythmsoffaith.com/findings. Review the articles and reports, and consider a 1-2 ideas and strategies you might implement now.

Stay tuned for upcoming engagement opportunities

Soon, we'll be sharing more ways to engage with and be part of the project including resources and refined strategies to use in your own camp and church ministry now.



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