



Northeastern Conference Convention International Camporee Presentations Session 1 Notes January 13, 2023

Presenter: Pastor Ron Whitehead
Executive Director for the Pathfinder International Camporee

- One of the top 3 favorites at Camporee is the Drum Corps.
- We spent 20 Years at Oshkosh. We baptized 1,320 at Oshkosh 2019 and ran out of Bibles.
- International Camporee is the least expensive event of its kind in the world. Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts Jamboree price point starts at \$800/\$900. Ours is \$225.
- Our theme is taking us to Egypt. We are working on some special effects, including perhaps, combining the concept of the Nile River and baptism.
- **Everybody should subscribe to the quarterly newsletter.** Visit camporee.org and scroll to the bottom.
- There is no other gathering of this age group larger than Pathfinder International Camporee
- There is more under roof at Gillette, Wyoming. This allows more predictability for location of activities. We usually use 10K chairs, 3K tables.
- Hotels are closer to the grounds at Gillette, Wyoming. There is a community college there who gave us access to their entire stadium which is a round arena. We have been given access to everything including the sound system. They have cameras there. We will be able to stream our basketball finals. They have good fields for soccer. Sports bring people together. It teaches how to handle competition which is a part of life.
- There are several gyms. There will be more 3 on 3 basketball tournaments because they are faster. The college has a huge water slide.
- The downtown paraded is being brought back. We can't take everyone. Therefore people will be selected.
- New: There will be an orchestra at Camporee. Online auditions will be held.
- Please have everyone subscribe to the monthly newsletter. It has a lot of helpful information like which world record we are trying to break this time around. We beat the largest human cross record at Oshkosh 2019 by 180 people. Everyone's participation matters and is appreciated. You can visit the



Guines Book of World Records and you will see our Pathfinders: You will see the largest human cross. The second world record we established was the largest Master Guide scarf. It was previously held by the Boy Scouts. Our weighs hundreds of pounds and we used 2 giant cranes to get it up. The slide alone was 550lbs. We now hold the record.

- About 32k to 33k people come in on Monday. About 15k to 18k, sometimes up to 20k people on Tuesday. All the activities start at noon on Tuesday. Opening night is Tuesday night. Saturday night is the final night. There is nothing going on on Monday night. You can come in on Monday if you desire. The gates will open at 7am or so. If you are in leadership, and you have a special pass as a Conference or Union Youth Director, you can come in a week before to start setting everything up. They are asking to have no kids arrive early.
- The newsletter will give you information about world records as well as online auditions. For example, if you want to be part of the acting staff, online auditions will open at the end of January 2023. If our youth would like to be part of the 300-member choir, the newsletter will inform readers when those online auditions begin. There will be rehearsals before arriving to Gillette, Wyoming.
- Usually about now, a year and 5/6 months before Camporee, there are 9K subscribers of the newsletter. Right now we have 26K. This demonstrates a high level of interest in Camporee.
- Do not wait to purchase your tickets. Don't wait to see who is coming and who is not. You can purchase them a few at a time.
- The first 2500 who registered received a special pin and a backstage pin. The last incentive was a drawing for two people to visit the Holy Land. There is an upcoming incentive from January to the Summer to purchase tickets. All information is found in the newsletter.
- The Camporee Administration is working with Nissan to donate a Nissan Pathfinder at Camporee.
- Transportation: The airport at Gillette is small. Flying into Rapid City, South Dakota is not a good option because there will be a Biking event going on. Some are flying into Salt Lake City and going to see Yellow Stone then come into Gillette. Most people are flying into Denver, getting a coach bus and driving 5 hours to Gillette.
- Two Conferences are going to charter a plane. It is ten minutes between the Gillette Airport and the camp site.



Session 2 Notes

January 14, 2023

- One of the World Records we are trying to establish at Gillette is with the Gillette Razor Company. More information to follow.
- There will be flush toilets available during the day from 9am to 5pm.
- The script for the play about Moses takes two years to write. Seminary professors are used to review the script for theological and historical accuracy and input. There will be lots of Special Effects, especially with the portrayal of the plagues.
- Accommodations: There are more hotels around the Gillette site. Hotel reservations can usually be booked one year in advance. Booking more than a year in advance may not be possible. The cheapest hotel at the moment is Days Inn at \$33 a night for a room and \$44 dollars a night for a suite. You really just need a place to sleep and take a shower.
- Travel: The least expensive way to travel to Gillette is to fly into Denver, CO (Frontier Airline offered round trip flight to Denver from the New England Area for \$187 without baggage.)
- The Governor of Wyoming has offered the assistance of the National Guard for medical support.
- It is hot during the day and cold at night so bring a jacket for the evenings.
- Do not send your best towels and clothing to Gillette. Just bring regular, non-name brand clothing and inexpensive luggage.
- Keep your uniforms looking sharp!
- Leadership: The style of leadership where the leader keeps all the information and disseminates it to whomever they choose is over. Be sure that information is accessible to ALL around you.
- Actors arrive 4 to 5 weeks early. The evening program will be streamed. There will be a live anchor desk there hosted by Voice of Prophecy.
- As of now, International Camporee is the LARGEST Adventist Gathering on the planet. It is bigger than General Conference Session.
- At the location, Adventists have our own radio station, fire department, medical team, etc. If we happen to get rained out, kids can listen to the nightly program on the radio station.
- Fundraising: Make it visual, perhaps a visual in the lobby and in the bulletin. Allow kids to promote briefly during the service.
- The camporee website (Camporee.org) will show you all your planning routes. Depending on where you are leaving from, it will show you the academies, colleges and universities along your route. You may contact them and make arrangements to have someplace to lay down your bedding, rest, grab a shower and keep on traveling.
- Consider traveling at night. You may make some good time because of reduced traffic.



- Bus company Coach USA: If you contact the number on the website, they will give you the best prices (because you are not going through their corporate office). Coach USA has a depot in Gillette, Wyoming.
- There is a Walmart in Gillette where one can pre-order and pick up items instead of having to personally walk through the aisles to collect items.
- If flying into Denver, CO, you can stop by Costco or Sams along the way to purchase needed items.
- It is NOT recommended to fly into South Dakota because they will be having a biking event around the time of Gillette that may significantly delay your travel.
- While traveling through Wyoming there is a Dinosaur dig along the way sponsored by Southwestern Adventist University.
- Equipment: One Conference is renting a semitrailer and renting out pods to various clubs and areas to carry their equipment to Gillette.
- There is a location onsite to place all items mailed to Gillette, Wyoming in advance of International Camporee. Check the newsletter for information on how far in advance items can be mailed (not a year in advance).
- There are flights to Gillette, WY from Denver, CO. United Airlines flies into Gillette, Wyoming. The airport manager has given us permission to have our kids on the tarmac with drum corps and color guards to greet dignitaries and other travelers.
- Promo videos are on the website: camporee.org.
- The last five camporees sold out. You cannot lose by buying a ticket now. Demand is so high you can resell it if purchaser cannot make it. If you have a ticket to resell, notify the Conference Youth Department.
- A little more than 5K tickets have been sold for BTP to date.
- RVs: Be mindful 150sq ft has been allotted per person. Too many RVs will eat up the space quickly. Youth Department will decide how many RVs are allowed. The pumping of fresh water and grey water will be at the expense of the RV owner/renter, not the Camporee.
- Honors Goal: goal is to offer 200 honors at BTP. 30 of them will be International Honors that can only be obtained at International Camporee.
- Baptism: Kids receive a special baptismal certificate and special baptismal pin with the BTP logo.
- Master Guide Investiture: Similarly, those who get invested at BTP will receive a special Master Guide pin with the BTP logo. 500 to 600 Master Guides were invested at Oshkosh 2019.
- All dignitaries purchase their own tickets. They do not attend for free.
- We will be leaving a statue of Moses at Gillette, Wyoming.
- Pastor Ron's emails are pastorron@andrews.edu and whitehead@andrews.edu.