

RAM P

A Summary of Program Objectives, Structure and Guidelines



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RAMP

A Summary of Program Objectives, Structure and Guidelines

Objectives

While the student seeds a year of their valuable young lives to helping others and serving God, the RAMP program assists them in seeking the Lord's direction and selecting a path that leads them to that end. The program builds qualities that help students to live according to God's principals and be effective in that to which they are called. They are introduced to various facets of ministry. They study materials focused on purpose. They face structured challenges in their spiritual, emotional, mental and physical lives.

Core Values

The core values of the RAMP program are:

1. To place God first and foremost; to put Him as the center of all we do, think and speak. God is the foundation for the path we choose, the action we take, the values we treasure and the ideals we uphold.
2. To be people that bring glory to God by demonstrating His love to the world, reaching out to people who are hurting in order to meet their needs and offer them the opportunity to develop or deepen a relationship with Christ.
3. To be people of honor, to offer our lives as a living sacrifice to God and show respect to those with whom we come in contact, including those over us and under us in authority and to our peers.
4. To be people of excellence, to hold ourselves to a high standard; to live our lives as unto the Lord, giving him our very best in speech, thought and action.
5. To be people of physical and moral courage, to choose to do the difficult right over the easy wrong; to face and overcome our fears through reliance on God.
6. To be people of integrity, people of our word, to live and act as we speak, to live so that people know they can trust us.

TRAINING

Spiritual

Students will be challenged to establish a disciplined personal time with God, setting aside daily time devoted to personal prayer, Bible reading, meditation and scripture memorization. Students are also required to establish a corporate time with God. This is accomplished through group Bible studies. Students have a daily class that encourages and assists them to consider God's purpose for their lives and equip them for service. These materials include *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren, *Chasing Daylight* by Erwin McManus, *Battlefield of the Mind* by Joyce Meyers, *Reaching Your Dreams* by Tommy Barnett, *Honors Reward* by John Bevere and Global University publications including *Understanding the Bible, Tents, Temples and Palaces (Old Testament Survey)* and *Kingdom, Power and the Glory (New Testament Survey)*.

Character

Students will experience situations that will help them develop Godly characteristics through trials and challenges encountered during the course of their daily routine. They will face emotional challenges ranging from homesickness to frustration with teammates, from fear to discouragement. They are guided to face such challenges and seek a Godly way of dealing with emotions so that character is developed in the areas of self-control, perseverance, courage and submission.

For example:

- Faithfulness is taught by being held accountable for actions.
- Stewardship skills are gained by learning to care for the items we/they work with and by taking care of the facilities and learning good housekeeping skills.
- Learning to work under authority is taught by learning to respect the leadership of God and those in supervisor positions, to follow instructions and honor those around us.
- Students develop persistence, confidence and compassion. The nature of relief work teaches flexibility as students learn to handle frequently changing and unpredictable situations.

Physical

Physical training, PT, is a fundamental part of the students training. Much of the work they will be training for requires a certain level of strength and endurance. This also provides the arena to develop self-control and tenacity that is needed for effective ministry. Learning how to take care of oneself through good eating habits and wisdom is also part of this training.

Work Skills

As part of the daily routine, students will be assigned to a department within Friend Ships where basic skills are taught, good work ethics are nurtured, accountability and stewardship is expected.

Areas include:

- ◆ 6-week boot camp: Orientation into RAMP. This period includes training of basic skills such as how to clean, iron and take care of personal items. It includes skills needed for disaster response such as food service, safe food handling, first aid, base camp set up and procedures, safe operation of equipment (forklifts, vehicles, etc.) and basic crisis ministry skills.
- ◆ Food service: Basic food preparation and cooking skills, management of food stores and service skills.
- ◆ Mechanics: Basic vehicle maintenance and repair skills with an emphasis on preventative maintenance.
- ◆ Marine engineering: Basic marine engine room maintenance and care of mechanical systems on board ship with an emphasis on preventative maintenance and routine function of systems.
- ◆ Deck: Basic skills needed to work as part of a ship's deck crew, including basic rigging, rope work and lashing, painting and preventative maintenance of deck equipment.
- ◆ Base operations: An introduction to the various aspects of the operation of Port Mercy (Friend Ships Home Port) including warehousing, office and the care of grounds and facilities.
- ◆ Special projects: Various tasks that are not part of routine operations. Past projects have included the design and construction of containerized medical clinics, the construction of warehouses, various ship renovation projects and participating in public relations events.
- ◆ Emergency services: This builds upon some of the basic skills that were taught in Boot Camp in the areas of Medical, Fire and Search and Rescue. This is done as a RAMP class rather than just a small team. Open water SCUBA diving is also included in this.

Evangelism

Training in how to be an effective soul winner through both active methods (sharing one's testimony and leading people through the salvation scriptures) and passive methods (prayer, friendship, meeting physical needs and support services). This is conducted and integrated into all mission deployments and service activities.

Ministry

Students will experience the basics of humanitarian aid, disaster relief, medical missions and food distribution. They will be introduced to methods of creating environmentally friendly projects in the areas of food rescue and production, power generation and general conservation of resources. They will experience various methods of evangelism and discipleship, learn to present the Gospel to oral communicators and learn to plant churches through inductive Bible Study.

GRADUATION STANDARDS

By the end of the program each participant will be expected to demonstrate the following skills and characteristics:

- A disciplined personal time of devotion and Bible study
- A willingness to serve
- An active member of a team
- Take proper care of personal items and spaces
- Take proper care of ministry items and spaces
- Core values of RAMP are modeled in their lives
- Completed the physical training walks:
 - 5 Mile
 - 10 Mile
 - Nighttime walk
 - 100 mile walk week
- Demonstrate competence in the following skills:
 - Base camp set up
 - Safe equipment operation
 - Rope work and lashing
 - First aid
 - Evangelism
 - Work skills units
 - Manners
 - Weekly scripture memorization
 - Safe food handling
- Demonstrate and explain an alternative means of food or power production.

BOOT CAMP

The first 6 week section is Boot Camp. This is where students will be introduced to the RAMP program. Much of the training in this section is in the area of basic life skills that are needed as a foundation for the training that will be introduced later in the program. This includes:

- How to keep your room clean and tidy
- How to clean bathrooms and showers
- How to take care of personal equipment
- How to take care of ministry equipment

Students will also be introduced to the work of Friend Ships in the area of disaster response. This will include training as well as hands on practice of the support functions of a disaster base camp. This includes:

- Disaster food services
- Community emergency response team training
- Basic first aid
- Layout and set up of a base camp
- Introduction to disaster ministry
- Care and safe operation of equipment

Although skill training is important, the primary focus of Boot Camp is on character development. Students will learn how to become self-disciplined in their personal time with God when facing extreme circumstances as well as how to show Jesus to people through their actions and attitudes. Some of the challenges that students will face include:

- Living in close quarters with others
- Starting their day early
- Being accountable to others for their actions
- Meeting the demands of a physical fitness program
- Flexibility

During the course of boot camp, the students are introduced to the core values of RAMP as listed above. Each week of the entire RAMP program, a new core value is emphasized and this system is continued in the work skills units.

PACKING LIST FOR RAMP 2009

Uniform list

BDU pants (Olive)	3
T-Shirts (Olive)	8
Field Cap (Olive)	1
BDU belt	1
Black work boots (Steel toe)	1 Pair
Watch Cap (Olive)	1
Sweatshirt (Hooded, Olive)	2
Sweatpants (Grey)	1
Shorts, Running.	2
Short sleeve shirt (Olive)	1
Running shoes	1 Pair
Work socks	10 Pair

Book list

1. *Purpose Driven Life* – Rick Warren
2. *Chasing Daylight* – Erwin McManus
3. *Battlefield of the Mind* – Joyce Meyers
4. *Reaching Your Dreams* – Tommy Barnett
5. *Honors Reward* – John Bevere
6. *Understanding the Bible* – Global University
7. *Tents, Temples and Palaces (Old Testament Survey)* – Global University
8. *Kingdom, Power & the Glory (New Testament Survey)* – Global University

Other Required items

- Passport
- Bible
- Notebook and note taking supplies
- Backpack (approx 3,500 cubic inch, suitable for multi-day deployments)

Other required items, Continued

- Daypack (suitable for day hikes)
- Sleeping bag
- Sunday dress clothes (suitable for speaking in a church)
- Robe (for walking between shower and cabin)
- Sleepwear
- Small battery alarm clock
- Personal hygiene items
- Shower bag
- Flashlight
- Shower shoes (Flip-flops)
- Sun screen
- Work gloves

Recommended items

- Bug spray
- Ear plugs
- Sunglasses
- Casual “off duty” clothes
- Letter writing material
- Camera

ALL items must be clearly marked with your initials.

What Not to bring:

Please leave behind anything that may be or become a distraction to you. This includes such things as TV gaming systems and anything that may be inappropriate.

LIFE AT RAMP

Life at RAMP / Friend Ships is different than what you may experience at home. Your time here will be one of seeking God's will for your life. You will have a minimal amount of free time.

Your days will be structured with set wake up, study, meal, work and free time. The day starts with personal time spent with God setting the atmosphere for the rest of the day by giving God the "first fruits" of our time. The remainder of the day is split up into chores, physical exercise, work skills training, outreach projects, group Bible study, meals and free time. There will be reading and study as well as scripture memorization that will need to be completed in your free time. We encourage you to spend your time wisely and get the most out of your experience here at Friend Ships by building relationships with your teammates and with God.

Church attendance, at a congregation of your choice, is required by all those that participate. There are many good Bible believing churches in Lake Charles that you may attend.

Cell phones may be used during your free time; otherwise they will be left in your cabins/rooms. Access to the internet may be limited.

Because one of the ministries Friend Ships operates is disaster response, we sometimes have to veer from our normal schedule in order to provide help to people in their time of need. There may be times when everything will change on a moment's notice and you must be flexible. At these times, our daily routine may include deployments that require around the clock staffing and you may find yourself on a different schedule than some of your teammates. There is a time when we are on a mission that the day will not end until the work is over and this may mean having to work extremely long hours with only short periods of rest.

You will be living onboard one of the ships that are owned and operated by Friend Ships Unlimited and that in itself is a great change from what you may be used to. Ship life requires one to lay down their lives for their brother. Sleeping quarters are tight and space is limited. You will be sharing your sleeping quarters with up to 5 other people (in some cases more). Storage space is very limited. Each student has a locker about the size of a full length gym locker and bunks have storage units under the bed. If you don't

absolutely need something or if it will be distracting to your focus on the Lord, leave it at home.

We enjoy many comforts that other missionaries don't; such as good meals, clean bathrooms and a safe living environment. However, it often takes time to adjust to the changes that you will face. One of the most challenging is living in a communal environment and working as a member of a team rather than acting as an individual. You will meet people that are from different church, social, educational and cultural backgrounds as you. It will be important to learn to love and not judge your brothers and sisters. Give yourself time to adjust to these conditions. Remember that God is with you in this time and that He is a good and faithful God.

You will face many changes and challenges during your time here in RAMP and many of them will be difficult. Remember this: if the task was not difficult then anyone would be able to do it. God is calling those that are prepared to step up to do not just the difficult tasks but, with Him, the impossible. Are you prepared to step up?

Sample day (Monday – Friday)

05:00 Wake up call
05:30 Personal devotion time
06:00 Physical training
06:45 Breakfast
07:15 Morning Refreshing
08:00 Housekeeping chores
09:00 Work Skills
12:00 Lunch
13:00 Work Skills
16:00 Run / Neighborhood project
17:30 Dinner
18:30 Team study
19:30 Free Time
22:00 Lights Out

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