

# School camps With purpose



**CRU**®

Educational  
Camps

# Building character resilience & hope

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# About CRU<sup>®</sup>

Since 1988, CRU Educational Camps (formerly Summit Educational Camps) has been partnering with over 150 schools around NSW and ACT to create exceptional camp programs for their students and teachers.

CRU Educational Camps is a division within CRU, a Christian youth organisation. CRU also runs CRU Holiday Camps for thousands of kids each year, and supports chaplains, teachers and students in Christian ministry in their schools and lunchtime CRU Groups. CRU also operates two campsites, CRU Lake Mac and CRU Galston Gorge, where a number of our Educational Camps are held.



**CRU<sup>®</sup>** | Educational Camps



**CRU<sup>®</sup>** | Holiday Camps



**CRU<sup>®</sup>** | Groups

## More than just a camp

CRU Educational Camps provides more than just amazing camp experiences for students in K-12. Our outdoor education programs are designed to develop students physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually.



### Character

Through the experiences of camp, as well as the teaching and example of our Christian staff, we provide your students a unique opportunity to grow in character, equipping them to flourish as they continue to develop.



### Resilience

The activities and sessions on camp allow students to get out of their comfort zone and build resilience, so they may persevere in the face of the challenges life may throw at them.



### Hope

Students are able to establish friendships, shine as leaders, discover their potential, and explore the Christian faith, building their hope for now and into the future.

We aim to challenge and grow students at whatever stage they're at, giving them the tools and skills needed to thrive in a changing and uncertain world.



Want to find out more? We'd love to chat. Call our friendly team on (02) 9653 1676 to see how we can help you run your next school camp.

# Genuine care for your students

Our camps are run by a dedicated team of approachable, fun and qualified leaders. They are the main reason schools keep returning year after year.

Our leaders run camp from daybreak to bedtime and make intentional efforts in getting to know each student. By spending each meal time, free time and activity with the students, our leaders build a trusting camp community - giving students the confidence to push themselves to go further. On camp, students are also given the opportunity to explore their beliefs alongside our leaders, who are great Christian role models.

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*The enthusiasm, energy and participation of the CRU leaders is amazing. The rapport they immediately build with the students is impressive and is remembered for a long time afterwards. They are totally involved, from the moment we arrive until we depart. It's the main reason we keep returning.*

*- Teacher, Danebank Anglican School for Girls*

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Trained to teach by professional educators

Relational – we build rapport with your students from arrival to departure

Fun, engaging and enthusiastic

Qualified in Outdoor Education, First Aid and Bronze Medallion

*Your camp leaders are:*

Rostered at a 1:10 leader to student ratio

Highly trained by CRU's Registered Training Organisation

Able to connect with all kinds of student personalities

Outstanding Christian leaders modelling excellence and integrity



**400+**  
**minutes**

According to recent research, Australians are spending more than seven hours a day on digital media\*.

## Living in a digital age

Students are living in a world where they are increasingly exposed to advertising messages and social media that can at times promote dangerous self-obsession and greed, as well as breed loneliness and hopelessness. On camp, students are removed from these often-unhelpful messages, and are instead given the opportunity to explore the Christian faith and consider the bigger questions about life and the world, in a way that can provide them with hope.

\* Source: Digital Australia: State of the Nation. The 2017 Edition

# An ideal environment for exploring faith

During camp, students will have the chance to open the Bible and talk about the claims that Jesus makes about Himself, in a non-confronting and supportive environment.

## Engaging Christian discovery sessions



Christian discovery sessions are tailored for each group's age and faith background. These sessions focus on the central message of the Bible, and seek to encourage every student to explore faith, God and Christianity for themselves. These presentations involve engaging elements such as puppets, skits, songs, challenges, talks and activities.

## Supportive leaders



Students also have the opportunity to ask their leaders questions about their faith. The leaders are trained in Christian ministry and are sensitive to the varied backgrounds of students.

## Focus on the whole person



Combined with outdoor education challenges, this approach to students' character development allows them to discover more about themselves and God who loves them deeply.

# Why Estelle keeps *coming back*



**Estelle Stelzer is currently Head of Junior School (Transition to Year 4) at Macarthur Anglican School, located in picturesque Cobbitty in South Western Sydney. For many years Estelle has partnered with CRU Educational Camps - let's find out why she keeps returning!**

**Q: When did you start partnering with CRU for your school camps?**

**A:** I've been teaching for about 28 years and first came across CRU Educational Camps back at the very start of my career. I've been running school camps with CRU ever since!

**Q: What keeps you coming back to CRU Educational Camps?**

**A:** CRU offers camps that are professionally run. The team are always attentive to detail and organization is always clear. The team is trained with their outdoor abilities - things that I can't offer in a school context, CRU can offer. Also, safety is paramount - the staff are very clear on their instructions for children and have procedures in place to ensure they are safe.

I always tell parents that that their children will be well cared for, and how things will go smoothly. And every time, camp has run smoothly!

**Q: Can you describe your booking experience with us?**

**A:** The communication is fabulous! The process is just very fluid and there's lots of communication - it's really helpful because it keeps me up to date and on top of everything. As soon as we've finished a camp, feedback is given and taken on board. Then we start planning the next year and make sure we've got our booking dates locked in a couple years ahead! We love to know we've got what we want for our next camp.

**Q: What can you expect on a day of camp?**

**A:** Everyone's camp will be different, but at ours you can expect that the leaders will get the children up in the morning - meaning that you can have a shower if you'd like to! You can expect good food and lots of it, that the leaders are engaged with the children, and that things will be organized and safe.

You can expect that the kids are kept busy, but not exhausted, and that there will be opportunities for the children to have some downtime and some free play.

**Q: What is your experience with our camp leaders?**

**A:** The team is very personable and the leaders genuinely want to engage with the children - they want to know our kids and understand them! They have conversations with the children, sit next to the children, eat meals with children, talk about life with them and build relationships. The children love the leaders, they think that they're great! The leaders ask us about the children so that they can make appropriate adjustments, whether it's for a diagnosis they have or any behaviours they need to consider. They really want to help the children succeed in the activities. They are also joyous and enthusiastic and the students feel that energy, which is great.

**Q: How are the activities on camp?**

**A:** Both the students and teachers enjoy the variety of activities on offer, including the different activities for consecutive grades - it's something the students look forward to and there's a progression of skills each year. They encourage team building and communication between children. We purposely put kids in activities who might not necessarily be in the same class as each other just to mix it up, just to build relationships and have different experiences.

**Q: How have you seen your children grow as a result of being on an Educational Camp?**

**A:** One of the main reasons why we run school camps is that it provides the opportunity to develop different skills that can't be done in a classroom. We see lots of kids, who struggle in an academic environment, shine in an outdoor environment! They realise they have they can have confidence and skills in a different area. It's very encouraging. It's why I love camp. The children also get to see each other in a different light and interact with each other on a different level. They get to see each other's strengths in different areas rather than just in a school room. The kids get an opportunity to just to enjoy being outdoors, have conversations, and build relationships with people that they might not normally don't sit next to in the classroom.

**Q: How has camp helped your students explore and grow in their faith?**

**A:** At school, we have our daily time in our classroom, our chapels and our Christian groups. But having the camp leaders talk to them about Jesus, share stories, and ask questions is really good. It's great that the students hear from someone else - someone young who they perceive as cool. They see that Christianity is not just for old people! After camp, a lot of the kids want to think about where their relationship with God is at and want to know how to read the Bible for themselves.

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**Since the CRU leaders run our camp program and activities, it allows staff to participate... alongside the children. There are great opportunities for conversations with children, relationship building, and enjoying experiences together.**

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**Q: What is your experience as a teacher on camp?**

**A:** Since the CRU leaders run our camp program and activities, it allows staff to participate and be alongside the children. There are great opportunities for conversations with children, relationship building, and enjoying experiences together. It's nice to take a backseat, and it's really good to get a perspective on children from a non-academic angle. Camps are also great for building relationships between staff because we get to have some downtime and have some fun together. That's important too - as a Head of School, I want to interact with my staff on a different level and not just always in a pressured situation, where we're talking about academics or the next thing that's due. Camp really helps with building those relationships.

# We share the load

We know that planning for camp (and being on camp itself!) can be a substantial task for teachers. This is why we aim to share the load and support you as you organise your camp. Spend less time running the camp and more time building relationships during the unique out-of-the-classroom experience that camp is.

## What to expect on camp:



### CRU leaders run the program

Our trained and qualified leaders run the full program, from wake up to bed time! You'll rarely have sole responsibility for your students,\* so you can focus on building rapport with students rather than having your attention drawn to running activities or meal times.



### Comfortable accommodation

Teachers are accommodated in twin-share, ensuite rooms with linen provided.\*\* We hope to make your stay away from home and family as pleasant as possible.



### Flexible and fully-customisable camps

You will be assigned a dedicated Program Coordinator who will work with you to develop a custom camp program that will fulfil your school's aims and outcomes. This same Program Coordinator will also work with the coordinating teacher to arrange the administrative details for camp.



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*Pre-camp organisation was outstanding. It was very easy for me to organise my end of the camp due to the emails and downloads that I was given.*

*- Teacher, Galston Public School*

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\*Teachers are responsible for students during shower/free time each afternoon as well as overnight while students are in cabins.

\*\*Twin-share accommodation is the default accommodation at CRU Galston Gorge and CRU Lake Mac but may vary depending on group needs and location.



# So much more than just a school camp

By **Graham Anderson**

– Principal, Arden Anglican School

A few decades ago being a youth leader at churches, a key discussion point was always about what to call our youth group – which name would best attract young people? Pithy, groovy names that would attract hip, cool, teenagers to the group were regularly reviewed. Single syllable words like “Rage”, “Hub” and “Glow” were required, as well as for the name of the venue: The Hub, The Shack, or The Room were also popular. The very Australian way of abbreviating or lengthening particular names was also important. (Of course, my common moniker has been “Ando”.)

Over time, one name that has stuck has been the abbreviation for Crusaders - “CRU”. However, the constancy with CRU has really been the constancy of the truths that sit behind its work: the opportunity for young people to hear of God’s truth and hope in a changing world; a constant reminder for young people to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ – to lay a foundation for the relationship we may have with God. The capacity for truth and hope is crucial to CRU.

But CRU’s constancy doesn’t end there. CRU Educational Camps are constant in their striving to provide excellent outdoor education experiences that grow students in their resilience and personal development.

After 17 years of partnering with CRU Educational Camps for our school camps, I have experienced firsthand their commitment to working alongside schools to deliver camp programs that meet the unique needs of the school and its students.

CRU Educational Camps allow students to grow and learn in a fun, social and balanced environment. At every camp, students are matured in their ability to overcome academic challenges at school, provided with opportunities for social development in a different environment, learn leadership and teamwork skills, and grow in their confidence. However, for Arden, the main benefit of these camps is simple – students can explore their faith in a safe environment. Many young people have become Christians or recommitted their faith through these camps.

Community is about interdependence, relying on constant renewal of personal relationships. Yet Louise Newman, Professor of Psychiatry at Melbourne University among others, finds it heartening that people pulled apart by the COVID-19 pandemic had tried to recreate a spirit of community and connection with others.

There is no greater example of real community than a CRU Camp for our young people. All CRU staff foster community with the students and teachers throughout camp as they sincerely seek to know them, look after them and guide them.

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**CRU doesn’t run camps with a one size fits all approach. They get to know your school, your staff and importantly the students, as if they were planning to spend the rest of the year with you.**

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The leaders endeavour to meet the students where their needs are – CRU doesn’t run camps with a one size fits all approach. They get to know your school, your staff and importantly the students, as if they were planning to spend the rest of the year with you.

This relationship building and servant leadership are concrete examples of what living a Christian life looks like, and makes a CRU Educational Camp so much more than purely a wonderful outdoor education experience. Every year at our Year 12 Valedictory Dinner, the highlight of any particular year for our Year 12 students in their learning journey is the CRU Camp that occurred that year!

CRU Educational Camps are unique. At Arden, education within a Christian worldview intersects beautifully with CRU promoting living within a Christian worldview.

The CRU Educational Camps that have been part of the fabric of Arden for many years have provided great support and impetus to the vibrant Christian ministry happening at our school.

It was a Year 4 CRU Educational Camp that was the genesis of our Junior School CRU Group. A group of boys, with no previous church or Christian background, individually made commitments to following Christ at the camp. The next week, they began meeting at lunchtime with the Chaplain, to read the Bible together and learn more about what it says. They invited other friends to join them; and the group continued to grow and extend to become the ‘CRU Crew’ group that continues to flourish in our primary campus today.

CRU Holiday Camps have also contributed to preparing our secondary students for life after school – particularly the HSC Study Camps, which have been a means for our students to invite their friends to Camp to study together, and also hear the gospel proclaimed clearly and relevantly.

Many of our Year 12 students have grown in their faith through these camps, strengthening them to face the challenges and competing claims to truth that they encounter in the world beyond school.

CRU provides more than just consistently wonderful outdoor education experiences. Their camps are personally designed to allow your students to flourish, meet the school’s desired outcomes, and provide an authentic example of real community.

*Graham Anderson is the principal of Arden Anglican School and has partnered with CRU Educational Camps to run their school camps for the past 17 years. Arden is a co-educational school in the northern suburbs of Sydney, with a Junior campus located in Beecroft and a Secondary campus in nearby Epping. When invited by CRU, Graham was delighted to share his experiences and write this unsponsored guest article.*



# Beautiful Sites

CRU's wonderful campsites at Galston Gorge and Lake Macquarie are where the majority of CRU Educational Camps are run. Both sites have been specifically designed to cater for schools and provide a fantastic camp experience for your students.

## CRU Lake Mac

- Just 1 hour from Hornsby or Newcastle
- Stunning lakeside and bush setting
- Brand new facilities in 2020:
  - Air-conditioned ensuite accommodation for up to 280 students
  - Access to a new climbing tower, stand up paddle boards, archery, sailing and more
  - Multiple meeting rooms and breakout spaces with A/V
  - 40 hectares of adjoining bushland, allowing for introduction to Duke of Ed programs, orienteering, rogaining and bushwalks



## CRU Galston Gorge

- Just 20 minutes north of Hornsby
- Beautiful bushland setting
- Air-conditioned ensuite accommodation for up to 200 students
- Multiple meeting rooms and breakout spaces with A/V
- Excellent outdoor activities including abseiling, indoor high ropes, BMX, pool and many others



## Other sites

While most schools prefer to stay at CRU campsites, we understand that the needs for every camp are different. To allow for a wider variety of programs, the CRU Educational Camps team can run camps at different locations around Sydney, NSW and the ACT. This is especially the case for schools where we run camps for consecutive year groups.










? **Have questions? Call us on (02) 9653 1676 to chat about your camp needs.**

# Amazing camp experiences

## Outdoor activity camps

CRU Educational Camps is a leading provider of outdoor education experiences, with students staying in cabins at either of our sites, and enjoying outdoor activities such as rock climbing, archery, sailing and laser tag.

Depending on what the aims and goals for your camp are, students can enjoy a number of other camp experiences including:

-  Leadership camps
-  Day programs
-  City adventure camps
-  Stage 3 Canberra trips
-  Study skills camps
-  Bivouac camping experiences
-  Life skills camps
-  Introductory Duke of Edinburgh
-  Curriculum based camps including experiences in ecology, sustainability and Indigenous education

**We run camp experiences for students in Years K-12 with camp sizes of 30-280+ students.**

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*The program was flexible and could be changed to meet the needs of the teacher. No event was too much trouble for them to plan and organise.*

*- Teacher, Calrossy Anglican School*

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# Camps *tailored to* your students

As we work with schools, we aim to sequence multiple camps in order to build on student outcomes over their years of schooling. Here are examples of different camp types and how they could be sequenced to give students differing and expanding experiences from Years K-12.



These are just an example of the types of programs we can deliver, and most of these camps can be catered to different year groups. Our team is able to book camps for multiple year groups alongside each other, especially during Terms 2 and 3.

**If you would like to explore new opportunities for your year group, contact our Programming Team on (02) 9653 1676.**

# Start your CRU Educational Camp journey



1

## Initial consultation

We'll come to you to discuss your aims and outcomes



2

## A tailor-made solution

Your experienced Program Coordinator will seek your input and work with you to design the ideal camp for your students.



3

## Booking confirmation

Once you are happy to proceed, we will confirm your booking. We value loyalty, so you will be given first priority for recurring bookings, according to the school week.



4

## Prepare for camp

We will send you some documents to help you prepare for camp. It will include all administrative requirements.



5

## Finalising details

Send us final information. This will allow us time to confirm details and ensure that every student is well catered for.



6

## Camp

See your students enjoy an amazing camp experience! Your camp will be directed by one of our experienced outdoor educators.



7

## Feedback

We welcome your feedback and action changes to ensure that your camp improves year on year.



8

## Rebook

If you would like to, you can confirm future camp dates 2 years in advance.

Enquire Today

 [educationalcamps@cru.edu.au](mailto:educationalcamps@cru.edu.au)

 [www.cru.edu.au/educationalcamps](http://www.cru.edu.au/educationalcamps)

 (02) 9653 1676

# Building character resilience & hope



CRU Educational Camps is a division of The Crusader Union of Australia  
ABN 90 213 359 332  
8 Crusader Road Galston, NSW 2159  
[www.cru.edu.au](http://www.cru.edu.au)