

**Camp Maccabee**  
**Diocese of Jefferson City MO**

**Organization Background and Summary**

Camp Maccabee was founded in 2009 with the mission “to form young men into intentional disciples of Jesus Christ and leaders in the Roman Catholic tradition.” Since 2009 the camp has evolved into a much-anticipated summer event for many young Catholics across the Diocese of Jefferson City. The main draws for the camp are the daily adventures experienced by the young men. These adventures have ranged from ropes courses to rafting trips. Along with daily adventures the campers are enriched with the sacraments and thought-provoking reflections. Year after year, young men have left the camp with great friendships and a renewed sense of what it means to be an authentically Catholic man. The name of the camp comes from the Maccabeus clan. This Old Testament family led a revolt against the Greek Seleucid Empire, who was seeking to destroy the Jewish faith and culture. Like the Maccabeus family, the camp seeks to build strong men who will courageously fight for what is right and stand as virtuous Catholic men. Since the conception of the camp we have grown in number from nine to 29 campers, and we have expanded from one to two sessions every summer. We hope to grow this ministry to accommodate even more campers and offer a wider array of activities.

**History**

| Year and Location                   | Participants | Milestones   |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Year 1 (2009) Eaglehurst Ranch      | 9            | Inaugural year, float trip began   |
| Year 2 (2010) Starkenburg           | 14           | Increased staffing   |
| Year 3 (2011) Hermitage             | 10           | Added fly fishing  |
| Year 4 (2012) St. Robert            | 24           | Started governing board, added Facebook page   |
| Year 5 (2013) St. Robert 2 sessions | 26           | Expanded to two sessions   |
| Year 6 (2014) St. Robert 2 sessions | 28           | Added a mud run, purchased fly-fishing rods, started website, set up independent checking account, accommodated English language learner camper, started staff |

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|---|--------------------------------|---|
|   |                                | development, first participant ordained   |
| Year 7 (2015) St. Robert<br>2 sessions          | 31                             | Purchased archery equipment, tents, sleeping bags, air mattresses, additional fly rods, new camp chairs, pavilions, and a GoPro camera. We added Montauk State Park as a destination for the camp. We made improvements to the mud run, and we fully funded both camps. |
| Year 8 (2016) St. Robert<br>2 sessions          | 29                             | Purchased trailer, grill, added a day, added paintball, increased marketing. Took 1st out of state participant. Added stipend for college age staff.  |
| Goal:<br>Year 9 (2016) St. Robert<br>2 Sessions | Goal:<br>25 per session<br>max | Expand warrior dash, extend partnership to Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau  |

## Needs Statement

### *Fulfilling the Needs of the Church:*

Camp Maccabee was created to address key needs in today's society and in the Jefferson City Diocese. In recent years we have seen a lack of young men in leadership roles within families, parishes, dioceses, and community service organizations. Parishes are seeing their registrations plummet, and young people are not stepping into necessary leadership roles within the Church. With those needs in mind, Camp Maccabee annually seeks to build up young men and equip them with necessary skills to be faithful servant leaders.

At this time, there are no other camps like Camp Maccabee in the Midwest seeking to address these needs. There are camps and programs in all Missouri dioceses addressing the spiritual needs of the young lay faithful, but Camp Maccabee is the only one with the sole purpose of building up young men in leadership roles.

### *Fulfilling the Needs of the Camp:*

Currently the camp is financially self-sustaining, meaning that we receive no diocesan funds. While we are self-sustaining, we are trying to grow our ministry to include more powerful experiences that reach more young people. Additionally, we are seeking to make the camp a sustainable organization. The camp currently relies upon the generous donation of time from our many volunteers, as well as small donations from

parishes and other organizations. These donations have fulfilled our needs financially, but only enough to maintain the status quo in our organization.

### **Program Description**

In order to respond the perceived needs, Camp Maccabee seeks to fulfill its mission of *“forming young men into intentional disciples of Jesus Christ and leaders in the Roman Catholic tradition”* through the four pillars of faith, leadership, brotherhood, and adventure.

#### **Faith:**

Communal prayer, the Eucharist, and the sacraments are the basis of the camp’s pillars and its program of faith formation. Campers and staff attend Mass and pray morning, evening, and night prayer together every day of the camp. Additionally, campers are given the regular opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Reflections and talks given each day seek to integrate faith into all the other pillars of the camp. Campers leave the camp with a better understanding of how the sacraments and communal prayer within the Church can lead them into a more personal relationship with God.

#### **Leadership:**

In order to build strong leaders, Camp Maccabee’s talks and activities focus on ways to push young men to take a stand. In events like the mud run and low ropes course, campers are compelled into leadership roles, guiding their teams through physically demanding and complex tasks. Debriefing after each event requires the young men to apply their experiences to real life. Every night, campers are given the opportunity to reflect upon their experiences and integrate the concepts of leadership and a lived relationship with Jesus Christ.

#### **Brotherhood:**

To sustain a community of faithful men, we believe that campers need brothers who can hold them accountable and push them to reach their potential. Through bonding activities like the float trip and collaborative tasks like the mud run, campers grow in brotherhood with the campers around them. Every day campers learn and reflect upon the need to have a band of brothers to hold them accountable. Their relationships are strengthened through fun activities and their exposure to one another in a life-changing atmosphere.

## Adventure:

The pillars of faith, leadership, and brotherhood are conveyed through daily, masculine adventures including fly fishing, hiking, a challenge/obstacle course, and canoeing/floating. We believe that experiences in nature give campers the ability to see God's creation, while relating their faith journey to the camp's daily adventures.

Through these four pillars Camp Maccabee seeks to fulfill three observable and measurable goals:

1. Seventy-five percent of young men who attend Camp Maccabee will be involved in a leadership role within the Church within the next 10 years.
2. Achieve a visible rise in vocations among campers to committed married life, professed religious vocations, and priestly vocations.
3. Build a stronger community/network of young men who meet regularly to pray and hold one another accountable in their faith journey.

## **Sustainability and Long-Term Vision**

Currently Camp Maccabee is not sustainable in its practice or finances. Over the next year the following steps will be taken to ensure sustainability:

1. Write a camp manual with assigned roles and a curriculum rotation to ensure that the camp contains viable information regardless of who is leading it.
2. Expand prior staff formation with spiritual and leadership exercises. Staffers serving on the camp will receive faith formation before ministering to those attending the camp.
3. Establish a donor and camper database to follow up for donations and further faith formation.
4. Increase the camp's presence in social and new media through our website and Facebook account.
5. Raise \$30,000 to fully fund the camp through next year.

In the next three years we will seek to undertake the following steps toward sustainability:

1. Secure a \$75,000 endowment to have each camp funded for the next three years. That would allow us to focus our time and fundraising on growth.
2. Continue paying college-age staff a stipend to cover travel expenses.

3. Create a support network and program throughout the diocese for young men to be fed spiritually throughout the year.
4. Expand the camp to accommodate more than 50 participants.
5. Increase collaboration and support with Camp Siena, seeking to teach campers to value and respect their female counterparts.
6. Increase from 2 sessions to 8 sessions to accommodate more youth from the diocese.

### **Budget/Estimated Cost**

| Items                               | 2016 Expenditures<br>(28 Campers)   | 2016 Budget<br>(30 Campers)  | 2017 Proposed<br>Budget<br>(30 Campers)   |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Religious items and books           | \$1839.   | \$2,500  | \$2,000   |
| Promotional Material<br>(Marketing) | \$3410.   | \$900.00   | \$2,000   |
| Equipment                           | \$6017  | \$2,500  | \$2000  |
| Office Supplies                     | \$49.   | \$100  | \$150   |
| Hall Usage                          | \$1,500   | \$1,500  | \$1,500   |
| Van                                 | \$2102  | \$2,800  | \$4,500   |
| Gas                                 | \$301   | \$500  | \$500   |
| Food                                | \$6069  | \$2400   | \$6,000   |
| Activities                          | Mud Run: \$150<br>Float Trip: \$1250<br>Fishing: \$100<br>Lodging: \$1250<br>Paintball: \$1192. | Mud Run: \$500<br>Float Trip: \$1300<br>Fishing: \$900<br>Lodging: \$1,500 | Mud Run:\$500<br>Float Trip: \$2,000<br>Fishing: \$100<br>Lodging: \$1,500<br>Paintball \$1,400 |
| Equipment                           | fly rods, building materials for obstacle course, grill, trailer                                | Cots<br>Archery Equipment<br>Fly Rods<br>GoPro<br>Tents<br>Camping Gear    | Rock climbing activity<br>Survival training equipment   |

|                                       |          |                             |                      |
|---------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
|                                       |          | Storage Equipment<br>\$5200 |                      |
| Stipends                              | \$3800   |                             | \$3800               |
| Insurance                             | \$1167   |                             | \$1200               |
| Total Expenditures                    | \$30,400 | \$22,900                    | \$29,650             |
| <b>Revenues</b>                       |          |                             |                      |
| Camp Fee (paid by campers)            | \$4350.  | \$5,250 @ 30 Campers        | \$5,250 @ 30 Campers |
| Minimum Fundraising Needed to Operate |          | \$22,100                    | \$24,400             |

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Current Balance | \$204 |
|-----------------|-------|

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| <b>Fundraising</b> |   |
| 2014 Funds Raised  | \$17,000  |
| 2015 Funds Raised  | \$21,000  |
| 2016 Funds Raised  | \$23,372  |
| 2017 Funds Goal    | \$75,000 (Covers camp costs and future endowment) |