



Telling the Camp BlueSky Story: A Guide

Below are two versions of a presentation that introduces BlueSky Global Ministries as a whole and Camp BlueSky in particular - a 2 minute version and a 10 minute version. Key phrases or words are highlighted to help you understand the language we typically find helpful to share our vision, heart, and work.

If you're sharing about BlueSky to someone in your life or with a group, you don't have to say this word for word, but we hope it helps you feel confident as opportunities arise to tell the Camp BlueSky story!

If you are sharing with a young adult who is curious about serving with Camp BlueSky, sometimes it's helpful to start by asking them a few questions before or even throughout your telling of the Camp BlueSky story. **This can help you connect with them and know what to focus on and turn a "presentation" into a conversation.** After all, one of our core values is Relational!

Here are a few questions we have found effective:

- What made you curious about Camp BlueSky? OR What have you learned about BlueSky already that resonates with you?
- What are you passionate about / interested in?
- Have you ever worked at a camp / with kids before? What was that like for you?
- Have you traveled internationally? If so, what were you doing? If not, is serving in international ministry something you've ever considered?



“Back-of-a-Napkin” Version (approx. 2 min):

BlueSky Global Ministries works in Nairobi, Kenya, **to build relationships through adventure in order to see the multinational community transformed by the gospel and equipped to influence the world for God’s glory.** [vision and mission]

BlueSky’s heart is to reach the **diverse** community of people from many nations and cultures whose children often attend the **international schools** in Nairobi. The kids from these families come from all over the world and many different religions, but they share a deep need to **experience authentic community** and **encounter Jesus**.

BlueSky runs a rock climbing gym, team building programs, a Christian summer camp, and year-round student ministry. Through these various adventure platforms, BlueSky staff gets to **invite individuals into the greatest adventure of their lives - following Jesus!**

Every summer, 20-30 college students **serve** as camp counselors and program aids at Camp BlueSky, where they engage these **multinational kids** with the love of Jesus through **friendship** and **adventure**. In addition to 6 weeks of camp, the camp team also spends 4 weeks throughout the summer in **team building, cultural and ministry learning, and enjoying the beauty of Kenya** with some amazing outdoor adventures! The **seasonal camp team is multinational** like their campers, with passionate young adult believers coming from the U.S., Kenya, and around the world.

Another ministry of BlueSky, BlueSky Community, is also developing a 10-18 month apprenticeship program for year-round student ministry, which we hope to launch by the end of 2021.

All these roles offer many opportunities for **cross-cultural friendships**, rich **conversations about life and faith**, and **Christ-centered care and discipleship**, along with personal, spiritual, and professional **growth** for Camp BlueSky’s staff members.

[Action steps] Would you be interested in starting an application or having a BlueSky staff member to reach out to you?

[Yes] Great! Let me get your contact info and I’ll submit a referral for you.

[Not sure yet] That’s ok! Why don’t you take this card and my contact info (or Carrie’s contact info), and if you want to learn more at any point, just let me know. You can reach me at _____.



“All-in” Version (approx. 8-10 minutes):

Hi Everybody!

Thanks for joining me today. I'm excited to be here with you representing BlueSky Global Ministries. My name is _____ and _____ **[briefly, how you are connected to BlueSky and how it has impacted you].**

BlueSky is an **international ministry** that has been working in Nairobi, Kenya, for the last **20 years using adventure.**

[Who we serve] BlueSky serves a unique group of people in East Africa - the **multinational community**. This group includes international and national business and government leaders, NGO and foreign service employees, and mission workers - and their kids. They come from dozens of countries, cultures and religious backgrounds and are **mobile, urban, global influencers**. And there is great need for them to hear, embrace, and see the Gospel of Jesus and his Kingdom demonstrated. **BlueSky Global's vision is to see the multinational community in Nairobi spiritually transformed and equipped to influence the world for God's glory.**

[What we do] BlueSky pursues this by **building life-giving relationships through adventure. Adventure** - where people experience new or challenging activities or explore beautiful places - can be deeply impactful when it happens in a **healthy community** with others, especially **alongside sincere followers of Jesus**. We've seen this again and again!

[How we do it] We build relationships through adventure using three platforms:

- **BlueSky Adventures**, which includes a public **rock-climbing gym** in the heart of the city, outdoor **adventure trips** and **team building programs**.
- Student ministry - including youth groups, smaller **discipleship** groups, and **life-on-life relationships** - with international school students. This is **BlueSky Community**.
- **Camp BlueSky**, Christian camp programs that allow us to connect with multinational kids through **fun, challenge, and friendship**.

All these platforms - individually and as they overlap - provide **organic opportunities for friendship, rich conversations about life and faith, and Christ-centered care and discipleship.**

[Serving with BlueSky] We need people on both our short-term and long-term teams who have **adventurous spirits**, a deep **love for Jesus and his Gospel**, and a **passion for kids and adults from around the world** to encounter Christ.



The main way that college students can serve with BlueSky is by joining our seasonal Camp BlueSky team, so I'll give you more info on that specific ministry platform today.

[What camp is] At Camp we typically serve **over 800 kids, both girls and boys 7-18 years old, who mostly live in Kenya but are from around 30 nations and cultures and multiple religious backgrounds.** We're a residential camp, so kids spend a whole week with their counselors and cabin mates **living, playing, enjoying new challenges, and hearing God's Word together.** Activities vary by age group, from a messy olympics with the youngest campers to an overnight camping and rafting trips with the highschoolers. Intermingled with all the fun, multiple times a day are chances to worship with music, hear Biblical messages around that season's theme, and opportunities for reflection and discussion within cabins.

The diverse makeup of our campers means that some, who come from Christian homes, may already be sincere believers longing to deepen their relationship with Jesus, while others may have never even heard of him. That's a challenge, on top of so many cultures being represented, but it's also a gift and joy to **meet each camper where they are** and even for campers to share their varying spiritual journeys with one another!

[Who staff are] But that gift isn't just found among our campers - our **seasonal staff are also diverse,** often coming from the U.S., Kenya, and multiple other countries. But though their cultural backgrounds may differ - as well as personalities and strengths! - they are unified by their love of Jesus, desire to walk in his ways, and a heart for his Kingdom to come among all nations! Campers regularly comment on **how impactful it is to see their counselors loving, serving, and forgiving each other regardless of their differences,** and it is a powerful testimony to Christ's love.

Seasonal staff are either **Counselors, who live with and are directly responsible for a cabin of kids,** or **Program Aids, who organize and run the day-to-day programs** each week. We haven't been able to set exact dates for 2021 yet, but the camp season typically runs from late May - early August, about 10 weeks. For camp staff that includes a week of on-site training, 6 weeks of camp, and 3 weeks of travel for **team building, cultural and ministry learning opportunities, some rest, and exploration** (Kenya is an amazing country!). Virtual pre-field training starts in February 2021.

All of BlueSky's ministry staff (seasonal and full-time) raise support to serve in Kenya, since our camp and student ministry programs are not for profit. For a seasonal camp staff member the cost is \$4,000 plus round-trip airfare to Nairobi for the full camp season of 10 weeks. That may feel like a lot, but **it covers all travel, living, and ministry expenses** - basically everything but snacks and souvenirs. Full-time BlueSky staff provide **resources and coaching throughout the support-raising journey** of every staff member.



The goal of the camp leadership team is to provide **a healthy, sustainable work and cross-cultural ministry environment** where our staff can **grow** in their faith, **experience Christ-centered community**, **develop** personally and professionally, and **use their unique gifts** in Christ's Kingdom work. We also want their **vision of international or cross-cultural missions to broaden and deepen** as they experience an extended season of ministry and by interacting with other ministries and believers in the Nairobi area.

Thanks for letting me share all about Camp BlueSky - I'd love to hear any questions you have!

[Action steps] If you would like to start an application or have a BlueSky staff member reach out to you, you can grab a card from _____ on your way out and share your contact info with me by _____ [writing it on the sheet at the back, texting me at this number, etc.]. I'd also be glad to chat with you more. You can reach me [or Carrie] at _____.

If you have time...

[Q & A] Refer to the FAQ document as needed, as well as your own experience with BlueSky: www.blueskyglobal.org/camp-staff-faq

