

Being a Camp Counselor

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What is your role as a camp counselor?

In short, the role of a counselor at camp is to build relationships with students and to help provide the best possible atmosphere for God to touch their lives. What you do while here at camp may make an eternal difference for your campers. You will have the joy of knowing you were used by the Holy Spirit and you will experience the presence of God in a mighty way.

Some thoughts and tips

1) Camp is for the camper

This simply means that our focus at camp is on the students. Put them first in your time and attention.

2) Counselors set the mood

In one short week, most of us will spend more time in close contact with our students than during all the rest of the year. Set a great attitude and tone for the week. Be excited, enthusiastic and optimistic about what God can do in their lives during their camp.

3) Lead by example

- In your daily devotion time
- In your attitude
- In your heartfelt praise and worship during chapel times
- By your participation and enthusiasm during recreation
- By following camp guidelines

Every part of your lifestyle this week will be observed. Be a great role model!

4) Spend time with your students

This sounds simple enough, but often it's easier for us to hang out together with other counselors than spend quality time with the students in our cabins. Make the most of the time you have been given!

5) Keep control of your cabin group!

Remember, you're in charge! Don't be afraid to have your students clean up their messes, throw away their trash, etc. Don't let students trash their cabins because ultimately they will have to pay for any damage. Relate to your students, but don't forget, you're the adult.

If you want to stay up late with your students, that is your decision as long as your lights are off at the right times and the talking is not loud enough to be heard outside your cabin. Keep discussion topics appropriate. You set the tone and are keeper of the boundaries in your cabin.

6) Report serious problems to the camp dean

We don't need or want to know about every little situation (most you can and should handle). However, if a serious problem arises or if a situation comes up that you don't feel confident dealing with, be sure to contact your youth pastor and the camp dean. We are here as a team.

7) Pray for your students

Pray that your students have a life-changing experience at camp. Pray for them as you watch them in chapel. Pray for and with them as often as you can. Remember, God has chosen to work through prayer!

Rules - - - Who Needs 'Em???

Rule #1: Love one another as I have loved you.

John 15:12

Rule #2: Obey Rule #1

Super Seven Guidelines (To help you obey rule #1)

1. No girls in boy's cabins or boys in girl's cabins (that includes the porch). They are the only private place in camp. We will respect each other's privacy and property.
2. From cabin devotion time until 7:00am, no one leaves the cabin unless instructed to by an adult or-the cabin is on fire!
3. No one is allowed to leave the camp property at any time unless accompanied by a counselor and cleared with the Camp Dean.
4. When hiking or going anywhere out of the central camp area, inform your counselor and take at least three people. That way if one is injured, one can stay with the injured person and the other goes for help.
5. Don't possess or use anything on the published 'What Not To Bring' list.
6. Attend all meals and meetings, no messin' around, and be modest.
7. Love, NOT 'scam'!

How to Have a Great Time at Camp

- ✓ First, make a decision to have a great time at camp!
- ✓ Decide that you want to grow this week. Whether you realize it or not, Jesus wants to teach you this weekend through the camp speakers, your counselor, your friends, God's word, worship, and lots of unexpected ways. Be ready for what he wants to give you.
- ✓ Make some new friends to care about.
- ✓ Follow the guidelines at camp. They are there for everyone's safety. If you aren't clear about a rule, it's your responsibility to ask a counselor. Don't just "assume" something is o.k.
- ✓ Spend some time alone with God. If you aren't sure how to do this, ask your counselor. God would love to meet you in a special way while you're at camp!
- ✓ Try some new activities. Have you ever been down a 400-foot zip line upside down? How about making something out of stained glass? Aim at a friend on the paintball field. You get the idea. There's a lot to do!

Counselor “Do’s”

- Sit among your students during programs and meals
- Encourage and build up students - even those not in your cabin
- Set a good example at all times
- Have tons of patience... even when exhausted!
- Look for loners and include them in conversations & activities
- Be a servant to students and other leaders
- Maintain your composure
- Recognize that you are here to minister to students
- Be flexible and reflect this to students
- Always be at scheduled events with your students
- Attend all counselor meetings - on time
- Participate with students in activities

Counselor “Don’ts”

- Don’t ever yell or discipline out of anger
- Don’t participate in gossip or jokes targeted at others
- Don’t be concerned with winning over sportsmanship
- Don’t set a bad example by yelling, arguing or treating others poorly
- Don’t get in situations that could be compromising to yourself or your students
- Don’t ever complain
- Don’t give in to student peer pressure - be the leader
- Don’t counsel students of the opposite gender

Leading A Person To Christ

Read appropriate Bible verses to those who have demonstrated a desire to confess their faith in Christ:

- * God loves you and made you to be unique and wonderful with a plan for your life. (John 10:10, John 3:16, Ephesians 2:10)
 - * All have sinned and fallen short of God’s standard. (Romans 3:23)
 - * Our sin results in death and separation from God. There is an alternative. (Romans 6:23)
 - * Explain the way of confession. (1John 1:9)
- Describe how Jesus is knocking at the door of their heart right now. (Revelation 3:20)
- * Tell them that it is God’s desire that no one should die (2 Peter 3:9)
 - * Ask if they are ready to give their life to Christ. (2 Corinthians 6:2)

When the camper is ready to receive Christ as Savior and LORD, lead them in prayer. This prayer should include professing their faith in Jesus, asking Jesus to be their Savior and LORD, and repenting of their sin and asking for God’s forgiveness. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill their heart with His presence to guide and lead them in the way of the LORD. Close the prayer expressing thanks for God’s saving love and for His sacrifice on the cross for us.

Share the following verses encourage the camper in his/her new faith:

- * 1 John 5:11-12, Romans 10:9-10: Assurance of salvation.
- * 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Deuteronomy 6:5: Living for God.
- * Hebrews 13:5-6: God is with us.

We strongly encourage you to have all decisions recorded on a camp decision card. These will be given back to youth leaders after camp.