

Guidelines For Camp Counselors

As a counselor, you are charged with the great responsibility of leading, not driving, your campers in a week of spiritual development. You can make a week at camp one that will never be forgotten. It is possible that you will lead some young soul to a total dedication to Christ. This is a serious undertaking and you must set the example of this if it is to be accomplished.

As a guide to what campers expect of you, the following summary from Camping and Education by Mason should be helpful:

"Campers favor counselors:

1. Who are agreeable, friendly and approachable.
2. Who are strict and can maintain order.
3. Who participate in all activities with the campers.
4. Who are sympathetic and understanding.
5. Who are fair and who have no favorites.
6. Who are efficient in their assigned work in camp.
7. Who are not over-bearing, "bossy" and conceited.
8. Who are not unnecessarily severe."

You can demonstrate your leadership at camp in the following ways:

1. Be an optimist in all kinds of weather. Never complain about the weather – whether hot or rainy. Point out to the campers how much fun a rainy day can be. Never grumble. Remember: *"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."*
2. Work hard, by yourself and with others. Camping can be pleasant, but it is not a holiday.
3. Health and safety consciousness is most important. Be aware of the state of your camper's health. Take all precautions to prevent accidents.
4. Be courteous, unselfish, prompt, and reliable. Follow the daily schedule of activities very carefully.
5. Be agreeable and firm, not bossy and naggy.
6. Be friendly but never partial. It is easy to like the likeable, amusing and talented camper. The camper with a problem is often the quite one.

7. Be interested in your camp, its traditions, and ideals; in all events and activities of the camp; in all its campers – their ideas, undertakings and problems.
8. Abide by the camp rules. Set the example for the campers – never complain about the rules, but follow them and see that your campers do the same.
9. Help campers prevent homesickness by being cheerful and by keeping them busy.
10. Assist with recreational programs by coaching and refereeing. Encourage all to participate and give praise to the loser and to the one who is not so athletically inclined as well as giving praise to the winner.
11. A Christian example at all times is indispensable – you may be the camper's pattern – the person they admire and want to be like some day.
12. Enjoy your camping activities and love all your campers.