

Building A Proper Camp Staff

It's simple. If you have a good staff, you will have a good camp. If you do not, you will not. Saying that is the easy part. What is hard is to build the proper staff. The following suggestions will help make camp a spiritual feast and an enjoyable experience.

Start your search early.

Start searching for next year's staff as soon as possible after camp is over. If you wait, you often end up with "whoever" is available. This weakens your camp staff.

Select sound Christians.

If one of your staff is outstanding in some skill, your campers will be open to anything he/she says. It is essential, therefore, that you select staff very carefully. Campers deserve solid teaching and direction when they go to camp, not just recreation, crafts and good camp food.

Clarify staff responsibilities.

There needs to be specific information outlining all expectations from each staff member. It should be in their hands well ahead of camp time.

Conduct staff meetings before and during camp.

If possible, meet with your staff before camp. Many details about the camp program can be worked out, increasing the effectiveness of camp. **During** the camp session, staff meetings are essential. Not only does the daily routine need to be discussed, but special problems can be brought up and dealt with on a daily basis. Staff meetings help increase morale and strengthen staff ties. *{Prayer should always be on the agenda! ~ Editor}*

Select your staff with a "camp situation" in mind.

Camp is not church. Camp is not school. Camp is not like anything else. Those you ask to serve must have a love for the camper and a desire to serve them. There must be enthusiasm toward all camp activities, and, in addition to their ability to teach, counsel or whatever, the ability to have fun and interact with the camper. There is no other part of camp planning as important as selecting and training the right staff. These guidelines will serve you well toward having a good camp that builds spirituality and causing campers to want to return next year.

*Excerpts from article by Warren Wilcox, Denver, CO
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