

Leadership In Camp

Leadership of the camp is the most important single factor in determining the success of the church camp. The creating of the staff is a task which cannot be done in a few weeks, but requires extensive thought and planning of recruiting technique, selection procedures, and training programs.

The importance of the leadership of a camp comes from the fact that it is the staff which sets the "tone" of the camp community, establishes the camp values, determines the achievement of camp objectives and stimulates the continual creative search for greater insight into Christian living through the church camp experience. Indeed, the quality of leadership is the decisive factor in the quality of program.

Selection

Basic qualifications:

The basic qualifications of a leader could well be summarized and perhaps more easily remembered by a slogan: "A church camp leader is a Christian who enjoys creative outdoor work with children" —adapted from Jobe, *The Handbook of Day Camping*.

1. A **CHRISTIAN**—a consecrated individual who is not only well-versed in Christian doctrine, but also who radiates Christian living in their whole being.
2. A Christian who **ENJOYS**—a happy, friendly person; liked by people and more interested in people than things; enthusiastic, confident, poised, neat, considerate, objective.
3. A Christian who enjoys the **CREATIVE**—resourceful, initiative, self-confidence, intelligence, imagination, originality, ability to inspire creativeness in others.
4. A Christian who enjoys the creative **OUTDOOR**—camping interests and skills as revealed in camping experiences and leisure activities; keen appreciation of nature.
5. A Christian who enjoys the creative outdoor **WORK**—camping is a never-finished job! Ability to do physical labor and diligence in work habits are necessary; health, vitality, physical endurance, physical cleanliness, workmanship habits, responsible, efficient, conscientious, faithful, prompt, capable organizer—careful planning and evaluating.
6. A Christian who enjoys creative outdoor work **WITH**—democratic procedures; open-minded, cooperative, tactful, helpful, patient, unselfish, respect rights of others, etc.
7. A Christian who enjoys creative outdoor work with **CHILDREN**—an understanding and liking for children; academic study of the child; voluntary experiences with children; activities enjoy doing with children.