

GOOD COUNSELORS MAKE GOOD CAMPS

The beautiful surroundings utilized by Camp Ko-Man-She & Camp Tiponi provide a natural setting for a safe and rewarding camping experience. Specific principles and objectives which include the highest ideals have been outlined for guiding the camp program. But the most beautiful campsite is wasted and the most clearly formulated objectives are ineffective unless they are matched by qualified and trained counselors using appropriate techniques of leadership.

A good leader helps the campers grow individually in their relationships with others by:

1. Keeping your goal clearly in mind.
2. Knowing personally each camper in your cabin.
3. Constantly alert to their needs and interests.
4. Helping campers plan their activities themselves based on their interests and needs as much as possible, depending upon their age and ability.

A. *Children usually try to live up to what is expected of them.* If you have faith in your campers and their ability to handle their own affairs and if you guide them by making helpful suggestions when needed, you will be amazed at the aptitude they will show in democratic planning and the fun they will have in doing things they plan.

B. *Patience is essential.* We can't expect perfection or the sureness and speed of adults from children. Counselors can work with campers in a spirit of friendly cooperation, assuming necessary leadership responsibilities, and delegating so much responsibility to campers as they can successfully take. Some efficiency may be lost but campers will gain.

C. *Recognizing success and showing approval* of a job well done goes a long way in developing cooperative attitudes as well as inspiring campers to more advanced activities.

D. *Stimulating interest and encouraging all campers to participate.* Most of the time campers will be eager to take part in everything that goes on whether it is a hike or cleaning the cabin. When it does become necessary to stimulate interest, be skillful in creating incentive.

E. *Take part and enjoy the activities yourself.* Campers will follow examples set for them, especially those leaders who are enthusiastic and enjoy being in camp. This is the kind of leader every camper looks forward to having as a counselor in their cabin.

F. *Use positive suggestions.* Good leadership is affirmative. Strong counselors can encourage interest without the use of artificial incentives and competitive rewards for achievement and skills. Help campers participate for the fun of the activity and for what they can achieve in proportion to their ability.

G. *Encouraging self-regulation.* There are certain controls necessary for health and safety which the camp must maintain. The majority of campers will want to respect these. Customs, convention, habit and public opinion in a closely knit group will also facilitate desirable behavior among the other campers. In other cases any discipline that may be necessary should be fair and corrections should be made as unnoticeably as possible.

BE AN EXAMPLE OF NEAT APPEARANCE, CHEERFUL AND PATIENT PERSONALITY WITH HIGH IDEALS AND CHARACTER.

COUNSELING TIPS

- Offer suggestions, seldom give orders, but when you do, be positive enough to make them effective.

- Be a leader, not a dictator.
- Know each camper personally.
- Encourage him to talk about himself, hobbies, etc.
- Respect the campers, their ideas and suggestions.
- When talking to your group, talk directly to them. Get their attention and hold it. Use proper vocabulary. Don't talk above them or below them; try not to use slang.
- If you are unable to answer a question, tell the group that you don't know the answer and give the child the means of getting the information.
- Be interested about your group and the activities.
- Use the term "we" instead of "I".
- Believe in the program yourself.
- Exchange ideas with other counselors. Respect ideas.
- Start on time. Be prompt at all times.
- Use all resources available to you in people and materials.
- Be polite and courteous to your campers and expect the same from them.
- Be honest and sincere in what you say and do.
- Be careful of what you say. Don't tell the campers all your personal problems. Don't brag.
- Be careful of "teasing" and kidding. Avoid sarcasm - some do not understand it.
- Practical jokes ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE and will be considered as hazing and can be considered grounds for dismissal from employment. Practical jokes are a form of emotion abuse/harassment and will not be tolerated. ***Practical jokes include drawing/markings on campers and staff.***
- Don't let minor behavior problems become major problems. If you don't know how to handle a problem, ask for help.
- Your job is to help a camper - not punish. Show him he can improve. Use encouragement. Reason with him. Point out his mistakes in a nice way. Call attention to good things mostly. Give a person a chance to save face (self-image). Give him a good reputation.

Think before you act. Think how you would like to be treated if you were the offender. Be fair in your decisions.