

Ideas for a Great Opening Day

A. Starting off Right

1. Wear your staff shirt and nametag. Give each camper a **cheerful** welcome with enthusiasm. Speak clearly and distinctly. Learn each camper's name.
2. Make sure all money has been turned in for Camp Cash.
3. Help camper select a **bed**, and place their **clothing** in the proper area.

B. When All Campers Have Arrived

1. Conduct a group meeting
 - a. Ask your campers **questions**, such as:
 - "Who got up the **earliest** this morning?"
 - "Who got up the **latest** this morning?"
 - "What do you think you'll like **best** about camp?"
 - "Are there any **first timers** here?"
 - b. Go over camp activities and electives.
 - c. Pray together.
2. Take campers on **tour** (if time permits).

Breaking the ice is important to the overall camp feeling!!!

C. KEEP ALL LISTS NEAT AND EASY TO READ. GIVE YOUR PERFECTED LIST TO YOUR HEAD CABIN LEADERS A.S.A.P.

"Logical Consequences" to Maintain Discipline

If a camper is defying you or disturbing others, handle the situation **immediately**. First, call the camper by name to help him understand you are speaking specifically to him and not making a general announcement. If he/she persists in unacceptable behavior, use **reality discipline**, also known as a logical consequence.

... If your campers are talking in church, separate them and place one beside you.

... If a camper breaks into the lunch line, send him/her to the back of the line.

... If a camper comes to the pool improperly dressed, send them back to get what they left in the cabin.

... If campers are roughhousing, separate and seat them.

... If they cannot get along with others, isolate them for a short period of time.

Overcoming a Negative Response

Some campers have a problem cooperating and submitting to a cabin leader's authority. Always **remain calm** and give careful responses. When something is said that you don't know how to respond to, be honest and admit that you will not respond until later.

CAMPER'S ATTITUDE CABIN LEADER'S RESPONSE

1. "This is boring"..... "So is life, but you'll probably enjoy it once you get involved."
2. "I don't want to"..... "Give it a try" or "I'm not crazy about it either, but let's do it."
3. "This is dumb"..... "That's what makes it fun" or "Dumb stuff is fun."
4. "I hate camp"..... "Give camp a chance. We gave you one."

*A good, positive remark
will offset any negative — if
done quickly enough!*

Last Night and Morning Check List

1. ____ The afternoon before camp ends, help each camper gather all personal articles and clothing. Make sure everyone has only the items belonging to him/her.
2. ____ Once you return to your room the last night, instruct younger campers to pack their camp purchases and other keepsakes in their suitcases so they will not lose or forget them.
3. ____ On the final morning after breakfast, all campers and cabin leaders must pack all items and have their luggage at the foot of their bunk/bed before attending the Award Ceremony. The rooms and bath room must be tidy and ready for inspection prior to leaving. Keep your sign-out sheet with you at all times and turn it in to the Head Cabin Leader before leaving. No cabin leader may leave the grounds without the approval of the Head Cabin Leader.

FORMS AND RECORDS ARE IMPORTANT

1. Your evaluation of camp will be helpful for future planning.
2. The Check-Out and Spiritual Results Form are a must. Write down all spiritual results each evening during your devotional time.

Things Never to Do

1. Never **threaten** a camper!
2. Never **manhandle** or hurt a camper!
3. Never publicly **embarrass** a camper!
4. Never **betray** the camp guidelines to gain popularity with your group!
5. Never play favorites or give **unearned** privileges!
6. Never steal the **spotlight** away from a camper!

After Service at Night

Keep your eyes open during night outdoor activities (especially with teens). **Do not allow** campers to leave their assigned areas. Some of your campers may try to sneak away...this cannot be allowed. We must all work together and be **alert** at all times!

Devotion Time with Your Group

In the morning, before coming to breakfast, have a brief prayer/devotion with your group. Quote together your scripture motto, if you have selected one.

At bedtime, have a devotion with your group. This might include testimonies about any spiritual experiences your campers received during the service. You might ask questions about the message or a point made in Bible class. Make sure the campers are involved, and that you do not do all the talking or praying.

Practical Suggestions

Leading Your Group

1. Give advance notice of each activity. Try never to **surprise** your campers with a call for immediate action. Always give them time to get ready.
2. Try to ask instead of ordering, but be **clear and direct** in giving your instructions.
3. Campers will do what you **inspect**, not what you **expect**.

Procedures for Dormitory/Cabin Clean-Up & Awards

1. Each room is to be cleaned daily and left in order by campers under the supervision of their respective cabin leaders. The floors are to be free of trash, beds made, clothing put in order, and the room left with a neat appearance.
2. The bathrooms are to be cleaned each morning and evening. The toilet, sink, and shower areas should be cleared, the floors swept and mopped, and the trash emptied. (where applicable)
3. The Head Cabin Leader will check all rooms each morning immediately after breakfast.
4. Clean room awards will be presented at a time decided by the Head Cabin Leader and the B.O.D.