



FOCUS TRAINING 2

Publication series prepared specifically for training summer camp volunteers.

CAMPER-CENTERED PROGRAM



Camper-centered programming allows for campers to be placed into small groups so they can have the maximum experiences while having constant supervision. It also ensures that each camper will receive individual camper.

Since campers are being supervised by the same person day and night, you will have a great opportunity to minister to each camper.

COUNSELOR QUALIFICATIONS

Junior Counselor

- Be at least 14 years old and under 18
- Have completed one J.C. Bootcamp Session
- Must be at least 2 years older than the oldest camper of the session you serve
- Upon completion of J.C. Bootcamp, must contact the dean of the week for approval

Adult Counselor

- Must be 18 years old and above
- Must be 2 years older than the oldest camper of the session you serve
- Must contact the dean of the week to be approved as a Volunteer
- Must review all FOCUS Training Materials
- Complete Background Check
- Must be Mentally, emotionally and spiritually stable

GOALS FOR COUNSELORS

1. Take the opportunity to talk with each camper concerning their walk with the Lord. Follow up on the openings that develop from that conversation.
2. Help the campers find the value of quiet time as well as active time.
3. Help them develop an environmental awareness by keeping the campus clean.
4. Help them learn to make good decisions and accept responsibility for their decisions. Show them how to apply Biblical principles to their thoughts and actions.
5. Contrasts you may encounter include:
 - Love/Hate
 - Forgiveness/Retaliation
 - Mercy/Consequences
 - Acceptance/Rejection
 - Fairness/Unfairness



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FIND THE TEACHABLE MOMENT

Many teaching opportunities present themselves because of the 24/7 learning environment that camp provides.

Classes will serve as the foundational material, but the real teaching opportunities will probably come at other times.

Your every action and attitude will be scrutinized and your opportunity to say or do the right thing may take place without you even knowing it. You will literally be living out the message of the Bible.

The camper-centered programming will help you build a bridge you can cross to present the Gospel. Do not be surprised if that opportunity comes at an unusual time.

Being with the campers for a long period of time will give you more opportunity for ministry.

Be prepared to seize that teachable moment.

8 TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL COUNSELING

1. Try to gain the respect of the campers by showing them individual attention.
2. Try to build bridges to each camper over which you can walk to share the Gospel.
3. Look for that "teachable moment" in the life of the camper and be prepared to seize it.
4. Help your group of campers to learn to function as a unit, thus they will help each other and lighten your load.
5. Learn each camper's name quickly.
6. When communicating with a camper, first try to understand their view before trying to get them to understand yours.
7. Help the camper develop a routine that includes personal responsibility.
8. Share with the campers your personal expectations of them.

HOW TO GET TO KNOW YOUR CAMPERS

- Ask leading questions: Have you been here before? Where are you from? What is your home church? Have you met any new friends yet? What is your favorite part of camp so far? I am here to help, so let me know when I can help you, okay?
- Observe them.
- Be interested in them.
- Help them believe you are approachable.
- Look for ways to show them your kindness.
- Don't try to act like them, they need someone to respect.
- Always let them know where and how to find you.

CHECK-IN

Plan to be at camp prior to the time campers are ready to check into their dorms. The dean you are helping may specify an arrival time for counselors. This will be your opportunity to welcome the campers and meet the parents.

If a camper has any special needs, this would be a good time to discuss it with the parents and the Dorm Parents. It is important to get acquainted quickly with the camper to build a bridge of friendship.

You can establish your role quickly by helping the camper to get adjusted to camp life. This will identify you to the camper as a valuable part of the camp program.



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MEAL TIME OPPORTUNITIES

1. You will eat with your group of campers or among campers at all meals.
2. Model and teach good manners.
3. Encourage the campers to eat rather than play with their food.
4. Meal time singing can be fun and help with camp spirit. It should compliment the meal and not compete with it.
5. Shoes or sandals are required in the dining hall.
6. Support the dining hall staff by following the serving and clean-up procedures completely. Encourage your campers to go the extra mile in clean-up.
7. Encourage the campers to drink plenty of fluids - at least 2 glasses at each meal. Dehydration is real and dangerous.
8. Help develop a respect for property. Do not allow standing on chairs, banging of dishes or tables, or sitting on tables, etc.
9. If you have complaints about the food, express them privately with the appropriate person.
10. Help the campers find the food they like. Since most campers are not used to eating a variety of food, you may need to encourage them to try something new.

Adapted from the FOCUS Series created by Barna and CCCA.

AGE GROUP CHARACTERISTICS

Grades 1-3	Grades 4-6	Grades 7-9	Grades 10-12
<p>Physical: Active and energetic, boys and girls are about the same size and strength.</p> <p>Emotional: Immature, cry easily and comforted easily, believes what adults say without much question.</p> <p>Social: Limited expression, loves personal attention from the teacher, likes group activities but will have individual differences with who gets to go first, etc.</p> <p>Intellectual: Interest span is 7-15 minutes, needs visuals and aids to keep attention, first graders can barely read, good imaginations and memorization.</p> <p>Spiritual: Bible stories are "real," develop understanding of right and wrong from Bible stories.</p> <p>Responding to 1-3 Graders: Ask volunteers to read, like rewards for job well done, patience and short teaching times, plan activities to expend energy, most are not ready to make a decision for Christ.</p>	<p>Physical: Strong, healthy, active.</p> <p>Emotional: Little control of emotions, doesn't rely on adult approval, but needs adult relationships, wide range of emotional maturity.</p> <p>Social: Dislikes outward display of emotion, indifferent or antagonistic to opposite sex, hero-worshiper, healthy respect for authority, friends are a major role in lives.</p> <p>Intellectual: Memorizes easily, great curiosity, demands fairness and justice.</p> <p>Spiritual: Developing value system, capable of making decision for Christ, emotions mix with Bible knowledge.</p> <p>Responding to 4-6 Graders: Use Bible memorization contests, activities to expend energy, ask volunteers to read, act, etc. give responsibilities, don't be critical or nag, use humor and love, emotions are touched off easily, group with same sex, stress Christian moral code.</p>	<p>Physical: Quick growth, sexual maturity, often tired, clumsy, hungry.</p> <p>Emotional: Unpredictable, can be embarrassed, temperamental, self-image based on physical factors.</p> <p>Social: Security with peers, critical of others.</p> <p>Intellectual: Begin to think abstractly and logically, impulsive decisions, desire to be treated like an adult.</p> <p>Spiritual: Voice doubts and even disbelief in God, keen sense of right and wrong, wants to serve, ready to make decisions for Christ.</p> <p>Responding to 7-9 Graders: Don't degrade looks or compare to others, spend time with them, be patient, give specific facts and proofs in teaching, demonstrate how God can use them NOW, model right behavior, choices-giving freedom to choose.</p>	<p>Physical: Habits forming for life, extreme concern for appearance, excessive appetite.</p> <p>Emotional: Emotions intense and fluctuating, need for excitement and stimulus, desires group security.</p> <p>Social: Attraction to opposite sex at times, rebellious to authority, copies what they think is "grown-up," likes a crowd.</p> <p>Intellectual: Needs reasons for everything, idealistic, concern for the future.</p> <p>Spiritual: Doubts arise, has ability, may desire to serve, religion becomes personal.</p> <p>Responding to 10-12 Graders: Don't degrade their looks, model right behavior, including proper motivation, earn their respect, encourage and counsel, stand firm when right.</p>