



SENIOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

For boys entering the 10th & 11th grades

Senior leadership development is a continuous process. Various skills acquired by returning senior campers serve as a foundation for their training to become future leaders and eventually counselor staff members. A feeling of loyalty to the camp and a familiarity with its traditions turn into great assets for campers ready to assume more responsibility. In other words, a leadership development/training program translates camper experiences into counselor expertise.

Former campers generally are well-adjusted to camp routines and practices. Their comradeship, energy, enthusiasm, expression of warmth, love and affection towards camp life are all qualities that are immediately recognized by others who are new to the experience. They represent “camp spirit” sought by children, parents, and alumni.

A senior summer at camp is a unique youth oriented living/learning experience. Relationships between camp directors and campers are based on feelings of mutual trust and confidence. Time is invested by both through acceptance and supervision of “jobs”, encouraging the development of a sense of responsibility and an understanding and appreciation of the camp operation. For the entering 10th grade campers (14 to 15 years old) a selection of camper/worker assignments are provided. These encourage the development of a sense of responsibility and an understanding and appreciation of the camp operation. For the entering 11th grade camper (15 to 16 years old) a camper/waiter program is provided which emphasizes field experience and “hands-on” training for the position of camp counselor.

The culmination of this program is realized when the senior camper is invited to return as a staff member. This achievement nurtures self-esteem and personal satisfaction, which are essential for healthy, maturing youth and future counselors.

BASIC PREMISES INFLUENCING ATTITUDES AND PROGRAMS FOR TEEN-AGE CAMPERS

A camper's leadership grows from grass roots involvement in all aspects of camp life. Campers start early by learning to participate in planning schedules and programs for themselves and others in camp. They share in arriving at their own individual and group goals for each

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season. A result of good communication by directors and staff, is that campers learn what makes camp really “tick”. Eventually they enter into a program that allows them to “experience by doing” through a gradual assumption of a variety of work responsibilities. Follow-up sharing sessions, and further demonstrations of instructional, leadership, and motivational techniques continue to reinforce the basic skills that were already acquired. Senior campers are given opportunities to understand the total camp process including different management functions.

SENIOR CAMPER PROGRAM & RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to participating in a full camp program as campers, the entering 10th grader has a wide variety of options and choices for involvement in our leadership program. The following include some of the many possibilities:

1. Assist with the maintenance of sports and play areas.
2. Help at the waterfront and instruction.
3. Officiate junior and intermediate leagues.
4. Assist younger campers during clean-up.
5. Serve refreshment and snacks.
6. Assist at pajama parties and other special evening activities.
7. Assist in other types of camp activities such as: music, drama, crafts, radio, photography, video, overnight camping, newspaper etc.
8. Assist in dining room.
9. Assist Web Master ... Post digital photos for the on line photo gallery.
10. Video tape ... assist log events of the summer ... sports, tournaments, plays, special events, etc.
11. Participate in the “camp-buddy” program which involves writing to a new first-year camper, greet them on the first day of camp, monitor their progress throughout the summer.

CAMPER/WAITER PROGRAM AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The camper/waiter program is for boys entering the 11th grade. It is a transitional year ... the final experience as a camper and the initial experience as a counselor-in-training. The waiters have their own counselors who guide them through the summer and supervise their work in the dining room, during activities, in the bunk, and on out-of-camp trips. In addition to participating in a full camp program, the waiters enjoy special status as leaders in camp life.

In the dining room, waiters:

1. Set tables
2. Serve meals
3. Clear tables etc.

As counselors-in-training they:

1. Lead “Army/Navy Day” and “Indian Olympics” as team captains.
2. Elect the Bazaar Chairmen and assist the chairmen in organizing and running the carnival.
3. Participate in leadership training sessions with key staff members and directors.
4. Serve to assist “O.D.’s” (counselors on duty at night) watch campers before and after bedtime.
5. Plan and organize special events, evening activities, and rainy day activities for campers.
6. Serve as a counselor assistant one period a day to train in an area of program specialization.(see enclosed form to assess and indicate strengths and interests.)