

Camp Olympia Manual

Section 4 Activities



I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day,
 I'd rather someone would walk with me than merely show the way.
 The eye is a better student and more willing than the ear,
 fine counsel is confusing, but examples are always clear.
 And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds,
 For to see good put into practice is what everybody needs.
 I soon can learn to do it, if you'll let me see it done,
 I can see your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.
 And the lectures you deliver may be very good and true,
 But I'd rather get my lessons by observing what you do.
 For I may misunderstand you and the high advice you give,
 But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

RUNNING ACTIVITIES

COUNSELOR SCHEDULES

Counselors are placed into activity groupings and will focus primarily on these activities due to their competency and ability to teach particular activities based on their activity skill sheet. Activities are camper centered and should be organized as such. Counselors will assist activities with which they are not skilled. The role of the assistant is to interact with kids and keep a watchful eye to ensure a safe environment. Remember, activities should be SAFE and FUN!

PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION OF ACTIVITIES

Since a large portion of the camper's time is spent at activities, the planning and organization of each activity is very important. You will receive an activity handbook for each activity that you will be responsible for teaching. This can be used as a guide for how to run the activity. You can also access other resources in the Activity Director's office. (Numerous references are located there and are provided to help guide the instructor.) Activity handbooks are available to be picked up when picking up your term's schedule.

Each activity area of camp is overseen by either a Director of that area or the activity team. You will meet these leaders at Counselor Training School (CTS). During CTS, counselors will have the opportunity to participate in activity planning, which will help bring enthusiasm and new ideas to our program. Counselors will also be able to learn from other staff members regarding what has been successful in prior years.

CAMPER SCHEDULES

All campers are given a sheet before camp for class registration. They choose and list in order fifteen activity choices. This is entered into a computer and each child is scheduled according to his/her choices. It is our intention that all campers get three out of their top five choices. However, this is sometimes

not the case.

Each child receives a computer printout of their schedule. It should be copied into the cabin book, a copy made for the younger kids to wear on their D-Pin and a copy taped to the wall by their bunks. A copy is retained in the radio room to reference in case of an emergency or just to help a camper remember their next activity.

Counselors need to be sure to record all schedules in the cabin book. We allow schedule changes once during each term at a specific time during Break-out. Campers can only change into an activity they listed as a preference and they may not change out of anything listed in their "Top 5". After that, only changes due to illness or injury will be allowed.

Please note: If you have a camper that is very unhappy with his/her schedule after attending a particular class, please talk to the Director in charge of scheduling. Although we do not make schedule changes we will make exceptions as we want the campers experience to be positive and FUN!

CLASSES

Classes are divided up by boys and girls and by division (Some classes are coed). Counselors receive rosters the first Tuesday morning of camp for every class they are to teach. (Please check the back of the chow hall for the file of rosters.) Included are the names of any assistant instructors, and the camper number and name of each child in the class. Care should be taken to make all the proper notes concerning camper health restrictions. This information can be taken from a health sheet circulated by the Nurses. Schedule updates after Tuesday will be posted in the daily memo and/or new rosters will be distributed. Please cross reference these to your rosters. Rosters can also be used to keep track of scores in individual sports and levels for lettering purposes.

Assistant Directors are in charge of setting up all schedules, double-checking them and making changes. They must also derive the counselor schedules from this information. Counselor class assignments are **NOT** negotiable.

OPERATION

The first thing every counselor should do is check the roll and make sure all kids are accounted for. Use an assistant to hunt down missing or late kids if necessary. Each child is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. Take D's for late arriving campers, especially repeat offenders.

Learn all your kid's names. Use the merit system freely but wisely.

NO MORE THAN ONE MERIT AT A TIME FOR ANY REASON.

Counselors should always participate fully in the activities and be enthusiastic. Counselors should strive to make classes fun as well as educational.

Safety and fun can go hand in hand and is the number one priority. Make sure the activities are picked up after and equipment is always in good repair. Report broken or dangerous items to the Activity Team. Counselors in the last class of the day should secure the activity completely for overnight.

A counselor should always be the last to leave an activity. Make sure that all campers know the equipment is not to be touched until their counselor has arrived. D-Trap.

LETTERING

Each activity will have a standardized skill level. There will be listed standards for achieving Beginner (B), Intermediate (I) and Advanced (A). The levels are determined by counselor intuition and a skills test given to each child the last week in each activity. Campers may choose not to participate in skills tests. However only those campers participating are eligible to letter. This is important so that every child feels that he/she had an opportunity to achieve a level. NEVER tell a kid that they cannot test because they are not capable.

The skills testing goes on during Tuesday 1-4 and Wednesday 1-6 of the last week of camp. Lettering rosters should be brought to lunch on the last Wednesday of the term for T/T/S classes and the last Thursday breakfast for M/W/F classes. Please turn them in promptly to the Activity Team.

The activity team will also discuss with all their instructors and choose a Most Improved and a Most Outstanding camper in each activity.

COUNSELOR AWARDS

TCB Hat: Awarded at the end of each term, these coveted hats are given to the select few counselors who have shown the greatest desire to work. The award was begun by Dave Jones in 1983.

The Blue and Red Ragers: Based on the story of the "Ragpicker" these are given to the boy and girl counselors voted each week as most outstanding by their peers. The "rags" are worn that week by the ragers and are a highly respected symbol of Olympian excellence.

The Gold Ragger: Based on the same principle the Gold Rag is worn by the counselor voted most outstanding by the Administrative Staff. They are also awarded an I. C.A.R.E. t-shirt.

The Oil Ragger: Awarded weekly for excellence at work detail.

The Coach of the Week: Awarded to an outstanding coach from Spartan/Athenian who works with their team and encourages and motivates them.

Teacher of the Week: Awarded to an outstanding teacher for their ability to teach activity skill and make them fun.

SPARK: Awarded to one counselor at the end of the term by the administration, who exemplifies the traits of what the award stands for.

Flame: Awarded to the most popular male and female counselor of the term. It is voted on by all the campers.

Counselors also receive year awards beginning with the fifth year.