



# **COUNSELOR MANUAL 2019**

Camp Olympia's Mission Statement

Camp Olympia is dedicated to  
having fun together,  
helping people grow in  
body, mind and spirit.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Each year millions of youth attend camps around the world. The experiences' camping provides have lasting effects on the camper's development and perspective. Indeed, there are many factors which influence the camper. Factors such as location of the camp, the atmosphere of the physical surroundings, the quality of the food, and the examples set by leadership. Yet none of these factors will have more of an influence upon the camper than YOU, THE COUNSELOR.

The information within these pages is designed to help you become the very best you can be in your role as a Camp Olympia counselor. The fact that you're hired for camp means we believe in you! We believe in your ability to give 110% to our kids. Whether you're at camp for a few weeks or all summer you will be faced with many opportunities and requirements. We hope this manual will give you valuable information with which to begin this endeavor.

We are praying for you constantly.

Cody, Michelle, Debbie, Madison, Nick, Madison, Stefanie & Carey

## **CAMP OLYMPIA IS DEDICATED TO HAVING FUN TOGETHER, HELPING PEOPLE GROW IN BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT.**

**Dedicated:** We're sold on the value of camping. The real-life experiences' camping provides cannot be matched for educational value. Preservation of this opportunity for future generations is a must. As we offer a program promoting adventure, challenge, fun and growth to people of all ages, we will continue to affirm the value of camping and its benefits.

**Fun:** Fun keeps people coming back for more. We want our facility and program to be "enjoyable" for everyone who comes through our gates. We create a family atmosphere where FUN begins as an attitude and becomes a way of life. At Olympia fun is second only to safety.

**People:** There is nothing of greater value than human life. We consider safety our top priority in evaluating, planning and programming for any individual or group at Camp Olympia.

**Grow:** The physical, mental and spiritual growth of every person at Olympia is important. We want people to leave Olympia with more esteem for God, others and themselves, and to feel positively challenged to work and plan for a successful life. Our program and facilities have been designed with the positive growth of people in mind.

**Body:** We encourage physical activity and new challenges throughout our daily schedule, allowing time to rest and reflect on the day's events.

**Mind:** We strive to provide a safe haven for working through real life situations and resolving conflict with the help of peers and counselors.

**Spirit:** Growth at Camp Olympia is encouraged daily with a wholesome Christian atmosphere and non-denominational Christian Vespers are offered on Sundays.

## Olympia's Dress Code

In keeping with a wholesome, safe environment we encourage everyone to wear well fitted, appropriate clothes, shoes and swim wear. Camp is a very active place and often guys and girls will be participating together in activities.

Swimwear should provide complete coverage, fasten securely and be designed for active wear. We encourage female campers/staff to wear a one-piece swim suit however two-piece suits are allowed if they have only one tie and accompanied by another fastener. No triangle bikini tops and bottoms that tie are allowed. Also, water shorts are required when participating in lake activities such as blobbing, rocketing and wakeboarding/waterskiing.

Colored sports bras provide adequate coverage and support and are acceptable tops for water activities. However, in all land activities, a tank-top or t-shirt needs to be worn with a sports bra or bathing suit. Tank tops and sleeveless shirts should fit appropriately and not have large, gaping arm holes that hang down past a sports bra or to the middle of the ribs. Shorts should be of a modest length. Closed-toe shoes are needed for all land activities, and lake shoes are recommended for our lake activities. You can help prevent injuries or embarrassing situations by arriving to each activity dressed appropriately.

Counselors will need Khaki dress shorts (please, no cargo shorts) to wear with your Camp O' uniform shirt on opening and closing days.

# SPIRITUAL SIDE OF OLYMPIA

Growth at Camp Olympia is encouraged daily with a wholesome Christian atmosphere.

"We teach what we know; we reproduce what we are."

Dawson Trotman (founder of The Navigators)

Christianity and principles for Godly living are caught, not taught.

1. Our Christian environment focuses on loving our campers and investing in their lives.
2. We are not a Christian camp in that our activities are not centered on a daily Bible Study.
3. We are asking you to live your life in such a way before others that imitating you will make a positive difference in their lives. Being a counselor is synonymous with being a role model. Being a counselor heightens that responsibility.

"The things you have heard and seen and learned in me, practice these things and the peace of God will be with you." Paul to the Christians at Phillipi

4. Camp is unique in that it is accelerated living in a secure environment. As you invest your life in the lives of your campers, they may call on you to share why you are who you are and what you believe. What you share should be simple! If you share your faith in Christ it should be the simplicity of the Gospel - Christ loves me and wants a relationship with me or anyone else because His love is universal. It is not Olympia's mission to save campers, but to focus on investing in their lives. If an individual camper wants more information then you should encourage them to seek you out and you can build a relationship with that camper and determine what their needs are.
5. We are not subversive in sharing our faith. Parents who may or may not be Christians have entrusted us with their children and we are to prove trustworthy. Obedience to Christ is a life of servanthood and self- sacrifice.
6. Prayer is important! Campers will not respond if we pray before or after every activity. Camp will open up with a prayer at each meal. Evening prayers should be encouraged by counselors as campers go to sleep. The best prayers are your individual prayers for your campers. Pray often for them and yourself. Let God do the work for you!