

CAMPFIRE HELPS

The campfire program gives staff and campers the opportunity to share their skills, abilities, and talents with each other. Staff members are able to mentor campers interested in campfire leadership. The fellowship shared at campfires is cherished long after camp is over. Songs learned at campfires are remembered for a very long time. Although there are geographic variations in style and words sung to many songs, there is a thread to continuity in church campfires that ties youth together.

The end of the day is a perfect time for celebration. Campfire is a perfect time to rejoice in the happiness of being at camp. The total atmosphere of celebration is enhanced by the natural setting of campfire. The campers are able to express joy in the God's gift, Jesus Christ, to the world. Campfire gives both staff and campers the opportunity to applaud the beauty and goodness of life in a positive way. Campfire offers a time of relaxation and appreciation of the nature settings. The impact of classes and camp responsibilities is balanced by the outlet of energy at campfire. It is also a time for peaceful closure at the end of the day.

Campfire Program Organization

Plan - Campfires should be outlined before arriving at camp. Although there might be a few places to fill, the basic outline for campfires is in place. Make a list of songs sung at campfire and place an asterisk beside favorite songs. Do not introduce a new song on the first evening.

Prepare - If possible, visit the campsite and campfire setting before camp. Assign the role of campfire builder(s) before camp. Have the campfire builder mentor a

younger camper. This is an excellent opportunity to teach campers for future camp leadership roles. Know where the wood for campfire is stored and how much wood is available to the camp.

Practice - A campfire must move at a steady pace or the campers will become bored and restless. Remember the two second rule. If it takes longer than two seconds to move from one song to the next, the campfire leader is in danger of losing the campers. Practice directing songs in an empty room in front of a mirror, in front of family members, or out in an open field.

Punctual - Start the campfire on time, Stay on schedule. A campfire should not last longer than 45 minutes. Sometimes a closing campfire will last longer.

Campfire Music

Music sets the tone for the campfire. It sets the mood, creates enthusiasm, and fosters reflection. The following are a few guidelines to use in campfire music.

Know your music.

Speak loud enough to command attend by the group.

Use the two second rule, if it takes longer than two seconds to move from one song to the next, the campfire leader will lose the group.

Stand on the side of the campfire or behind it when directing songs. The campers need to see your face.

Keep the group together. Use your hands and voice to direct campers whose timing or tone are out of sync with the group.

Father, I Adore You
Peace, I Ask of
Thee
Do Lord

Teach new songs during meals, in classes, or evening activities. The mood a campfire leader sets is easily broken if a new song is taught at campfire.

Serious/Meditative Freely, Freely
I Have Decided to
Follow Jesus
Swing Low, Sweet
Chariot
Jacob's Ladder

Walk among the campers during songs. Announce an upcoming skit. The participants will be able to prepare themselves during a song.

Campfire Cheers

After a skit do a cheer instead of applause. Below are a few cheers a campfire leader can use as a variation to applause.

Pepsi cheer: Pretend to hold a can of Pepsi. Using oral sound effects, pop the can and drink the Pepsi noisily. If the skit is good, say, "Ahhhh," with a lot of enthusiasm.

Round of applause: Clap hands while moving them in a clockwise motion.

Campfire Program and Songs

<u>Sample Program</u>	<u>Sample Song</u>
Campfire Lighting	Each Campfire Lights Anew
Opener/Attention-getter	Alleluia
Fun Songs	Grand Old Duke of York Flea Grey Squirrel If You're Happy Rocka My Soul
Rounds	Orchestra Song Kookabura Scotland's Burning Sarasponda
Quiet Fun	Let Us Sing Together Zum Gali Gali Toviska
Transitional	Give Me Oil in My Lamp I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy

Campfire Closing

The close of campfire is a time for reflection and closure of the day. It is a time to reemphasize the daily theme. As the embers slowly bum, the camper are given an opportunity to hear words of encouragement. This portion should be approximately five minutes. It is also a good time to use meditative instrumental music, vocal music, or a combination of both. Send the campers to their cabins quietly.