

Brother-Sister Cabins

The brother-sister cabin concept enables the camp director to organize camp chores. It also gives campers the opportunity to socialize and work with others in small groups. Ideally, each boy's cabin will be paired up with a girl's cabin. If there is an uneven number of cabins it will be necessary for one boy's cabin to have two sister cabins. In order for the ratio of boys to girls to be fairly even, combine two girl cabins that have fewer girls to be paired up with a large boys cabin.

Brother-sister cabins will work together at kitchen duty, camp clean up, campfire skits, plan- fling morning devotions, and friendly competition with other brother-sister cabins.

Camp Service Projects

In the camp planning, the camp director meets with the campground manager. They decide on a service project the junior high campers can perform for the camp. Be careful to select a task that is age appropriate and manageable for the campers. The campground manager provides the camp director with the supplies and helps in the supervision of the project. It should be a one-time project that can be done in a few hours. This activity gives camp ownership to the campers and aids in discouraging vandalism to the campgrounds.

Recreation and Free Time

The afternoons at camp lend themselves to recreation and free time. However, be aware that not all campers enjoy sports and games. Give campers a choice to work on class projects, i.e., camp log, crafts, during recreation and free time. Free time should not last longer than 30

minutes. It gives the campers an opportunity to visit, get organized in their cabins, and plan skits for campfire. If free time is allowed to be an extended period of time, the campers become bored and restless. Non- competitive games allow campers of varying athletic ability to play together in a non-threatening environment. There are many books in the local library or at varying bookstores that will help plan non- competitive games.

Follow Through

At the close of camp, give each counselor a stamped postcard for each camper in his/her cabin. Ask them to write a short note to each camper and have the postcard mailed within a week. Encourage the counselors to write only positive messages to their campers. While this may be difficult in some instances, there is always something positive and encouraging that can be shared.

This gesture is a sentimental follow up to each camper. The campers love to receive mail and it will add an affirmative note to an exciting week.

-1