

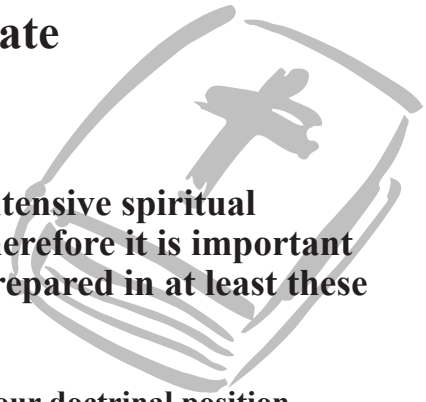
FOCUS 1

"A publication series prepared specifically for training summer camp workers in Lake Aurora programs."

PERSONAL PREPARATION

Spiritual State

Camp is an intensive spiritual experience, therefore it is important that you be prepared in at least these three areas.



1... Understanding our doctrinal position.

We recognize only the teachings of the Scriptures in regard to salvation. The Scriptures clearly teach faith, repentance, confession, baptism, and Christian living as integral to the accepting of Christ as Savior. Doctrinal views that are not consistent with the overwhelming majority of the owner churches view of Scripture are not to be taught here. We are a direct teaching arm of the owner churches.

2... High personal code of conduct.

Because camp leaders are role models to the campers, you must be willing to subscribe to a high standard of moral ethics and to subordinate personal religious freedom for the good of the camper.

3... Advanced prayer and study.

You should prepare yourself mentally and spiritually for the mission you will be undertaking. Consider asking your local elders or congregation to pray for you at a public assembly or to set you apart. Consider a season of prayer and fasting. While any Scripture will be helpful, consider a serious reading of some of the following: Ruth, Esther, selected Psalms, selected Proverbs, Acts, Ephesians, Phillipians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, and James.

Your Specific Job

The Program Director will assign the program volunteers their specific job. Here is a simplified list of typical jobs:

Counselor — Works as the guide/coach for a small group of campers.

Teacher — Will assist or replace the counselor in some class situations.

Activities Director — Will organize daily activities, and will coordinate and support the counselor activity schedule.

Chaplain — Will preach, teach, coach the counselors, counsel campers making spiritual decisions, and keep follow up records.

Missionary — Will generally promote a global view of ministry through formal and informal teaching.

Assistant Director — Will assist the director and be the primary coach and encourager of the counselors.

Program Director — Works with the camp staff in developing a specific program, recruits a volunteer team of program workers, and directs the specific program.

Reference Material Suggestions

Various Bible translations, short devotional stories, skit books, song books, nature I.D. books, rainy day games, short books or pamphlets on critical topics for campers to read, doctrinal tracts, and books on working with children.

Packing Your Bags...

Don't forget to bring— Clothes of a modest nature and suitable for play, aquatic activities, classes and activities, dinner, and worship. Modest shorts, long pants, swimsuit, work clothes, comfortable shoes, and nice leisure wear.

Bible, reference books, writing pad and pen, alarm clock (nonelectric), bedding, towels and washcloths, flashlight, insect repellent, sunscreen, rain gear, snack food to be kept in car or counselor room, note cards for encouraging the campers, spending money and mission offering.

Enough copies of any handouts you may be planning to use. Any specialized equipment, i.e., skits, music, games, audio/visual, camping, hobby, etc.

Leave at home— Chewing gum for distribution, fireworks, shaving cream for pranks, food to keep in the dorm, firearms, pets (without camp permission), video games or movies, ipods, dangerous toys such as giant sling shots, and other things that might distract you from your mission.

Copyrighted Material Policy

The law requires owner permission to copy copyrighted material, thus copyrighted material may not be copied without proper permission.

The Camp has the appropriate licenses for copying songs and using videos, but, all song sheets, transparencies, slides, and videos must contain our license number or the appropriate number for your church.

Please contact the camp office for authorization information.

Personal Equipment Policy

Equipment — The camp cannot be responsible for personal equipment brought onto the campus. Equipment is to be stored safely, so not to form a danger or temptation to campers. Firearms are not permitted. If they are brought on campus by law enforcement personnel or other authorized persons,

the Director of Summer Programs must be notified. Firearms must always be under lock and key or in your personal possession.

Vehicles — Vehicles must be parked in designated areas and only operated on roadways. This includes loading and unloading. Any signs on vehicles that is considered by the camp to be inappropriate must be removed or covered.

Counselor Checkup

When you're in the trenches sometimes it's hard to take time to sharpen the ax. About halfway through the week of camp try this self-evaluation to see how you're doing. Using a scale of 1-6, with 1 being "oops" and 6 being "fully satisfied", rate yourself.

I have taken the "spiritual temperature" of each camper. (I know whether or not they've accepted Christ, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	6
I am aware of the general family situations of each camper.	1	2	3	4	5	6
I feel I am well prepared for our devotionals and other teaching times.	1	2	3	4	5	6
I feel I have been fair and effective in discipling campers.	1	2	3	4	5	6
I am putting the interests of my campers before my own.	1	2	3	4	5	6
I am setting a good Christian example for campers.	1	2	3	4	5	6
I am confident and comfortable with my leadership abilities. (e.g. punctuality, organization, enthusiasm, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	6
I am confident in my ability to explain Christ to campers.	1	2	3	4	5	6
I am getting enough sleep to function well.	1	2	3	4	5	6
I am spending personal time with God.	1	2	3	4	5	6
If camp ended today, I would go home feeling that I had a successful experience.	1	2	3	4	5	6

(Reprinted from Christian Camping International Magazine May/June 1996)

RESOURCES

"How to be a Successful Camp Counselor!".....David Burrow
"The Christian Camp Counselor".....Lloyd Mattson
"The Christian Camp Counselor.....Jim Badke
"The Camp Counselor's Handbook of Over 90 Games and Activities Just for Rainy Days!"...David Burrow
CCCA Focus Series.....Christian Camp & Conference Assoc.

These resource materials are available from the camp office for loan or purchase. Also available at Amazon.com in Kindle version.

Finding your Place on Campus

Campus Map



Small Group Meeting Spaces

- 10. Picnic Oak
- 11. Farquar Deck
- 12. Oak Dorm Oak
- 13. Pine Gazebo
- 14. Dance Oaks
- 15. Bell Patio
- 16. Chapel Porch
- 17. Eagle's Nest
- 18. Quail's Roost
- 19. Fox's Den
- 20. Tire Swing Oak
- 21. Din.Hall Gazebo

Legend

- 1. Staff Housing
- 2. Staff Housing
- 3. Staff Housing
- 4. Low Ropes Course
- 5. Waterfront Swim Area
- 6. Garden Court
 - a. Program Director Apt.
 - b. Infirmary
- 7. Port Aurora/Zoom Floom
- 8. Maintenance Shop Area
- 9. Blue Heron Shelter
- 22 Pedal Karts
- 23 Target Sports
- 24 Nature Center/Leathercrafts
- 25. Egrets Landing/Life EX

C hecklist for Service

You may be a veteran camp counselor or you may be embarking on this rewarding adventure for the first time this summer. Whatever your experience, these “Focus” letters are here to help you.

The checklist to the right is to help you prepare and keep track of your training and preparation. The information in each of the series in the “Focus” newsletter has been designed by camp counselors and what they felt would be helpful in knowing prior to arriving.

So relax and take heart that this commitment to young people will be a life changing experience...for them as well as you.

- Studied FOCUS #1
- Studied FOCUS #2
- Studied FOCUS #3
- Studied FOCUS #4
- Studied FOCUS #5
- Studied FOCUS #6
- Studied FOCUS #7
- Completed *Volunteer Worker Application*
- Screening Information
 - Affidavit of Good Moral Character
 - Release/Authorization for Screen
 - LiveScan Fingerprint
- Health Form Completed
- Received specific assignment from Program Director
- Spent time on the Camp property
- Notified the Camp of any special needs
- Copies of study handouts

PERSONAL WORKER CONTRACT

I, _____, agree to serve Christ by helping in the Lake Aurora summer camp program on _____. I will prepare myself mentally, physically, and spiritually for this ministry opportunity.

While at camp I agree to love and guide any young person God places in my charge, regardless of his race; and to make a special effort to understand that camper who is difficult to love and accept.

I will cooperate with the camp’s policies and will do everything in my power to live at peace with my fellow workers. I will support the Program Director and do all I can to be a team player.

I will pledge myself to be held accountable for my actions, will seek appropriate counsel in difficult situations, and will assist my fellow workers in glorifying Christ.

I recognize that I will be putting my personal pleasures aside, so that I can give my whole self to ministry.

I will thank God daily for the great privilege of serving Him by ministering to His children.

Signed _____

Printed Name: _____

HOW TO USE THIS ARTICLE

Program Directors: Make as many copies as you need to distribute to your counselors and administration.

Counselor: Study this “Focus” training material and request the next number in the series from your Program Director.

Highly Recommended Reading:

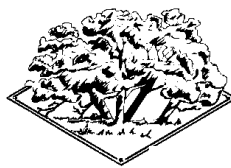
The Christian Camp Counselor

by Jim Badke
Qwanoes Publishing

Available from Amazon.com as a paperback or Kindle

Whether you are veteran staffer or have never been to camp before, this book is for you!

- Get your heart ready for the spiritual challenge of camp leadership.
- Consider why you are going to camp, and what will be expected of you.
- Learn what makes kids tick, and ways of developing healthy relationships.
- Prepare to lead effective Bible discussions.
- Gain skills in managing issues and problems.
- Become confident in sharing your faith in Jesus.



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