

Camp Counselor Guidelines

Thank you for volunteering your time, money and energy to help us create a special camp for our NC Jr Campers. We couldn't do it without you! You will be the primary care for a select group of male or female campers aged 8 to 12 years old.

Please make sure you have read and signed our NC Interaction Policy for Minors detailing our Safe Church procedures and policies. Listed below are some additional thoughts and responsibilities.

Note

- Counselors must be at least 18 years old, approved by Pastor, have no criminal record, and never been convicted of sexual or physical abuse of minors.
- It is preferred to have a 6 month minimum involvement with your local church and experience working with children in some capacity.
- Only those registered for NC Jr Camp will be allowed to stay overnight on campus, including Thursday evening. No underage siblings will be allowed to stay per insurance purposes.
- Once on campus, counselors need to remain on site until check-out on Friday morning when all campers in your care are checked out. Check out is complete when approved by the head counselor once all rooms are cleaned.

Responsibilities

- Be with your assigned group of campers at all times. Help campers behave appropriately and follow the rules. Be particularly vigilant during unorganized activity times such as free play, clean up, lunchroom and bathroom transitions as these times can create opportunities for misbehaviors.
- Attend every scheduled event and make sure campers are on time. Please help breakout teachers during morning sessions to maintain order in the classroom. Your group will love to have you participating with them making memories.
- Encourage your group to be in the choir. Pair up with another group and split those who want to sing and those who don't so you will have a counselor with each group. Those who don't sing may play outside or hang out in the dorm room as long as they are with a counselor. No child should be left alone. There will be no other organized activity during choir practice time.
- Try to encourage campers to eat appropriately all week at meal time and monitor snacks in the dorm rooms. Many children are too excited to eat or they eat too much sugar late which keeps them from sleeping. Help campers stay hydrated. Help keep the cafeteria clean by having campers throw away trash and clean up spills.
- Lights out will be at 10:00 pm each night unless otherwise announced. At lights out, all kids should be in bed attempting to sleep. Groups on top floors, please be mindful of campers beneath. It is highly recommended for campers and counselors to try and sleep to keep from needing naps or falling asleep during services.

- Make sure campers use the restroom prior to service and only leave out if it's an emergency. If campers must use restroom during service, an adult must accompany them. Do not allow campers to use restrooms to the front of the sanctuary behind the platform. Hallways will be monitored and campers will be sent back to the sanctuary if they are without a counselor for safety.
- Help campers remember to see the nurse for medications if applicable.
- Help campers dress appropriately and look their best for services.
- Encourage worship during services by participating as well.
- Any student who has medications will get them from the nurse on Thursday night prior to dismissal on Friday morning.

Camper of the Year

Female counselors will vote for girl campers of the year and males will vote for boy campers of the year. There will be a 2nd and first runner up as well. Here are some attributes to consider when voting:

- Good attitude and respectful nature
- Participates in camp events with excitement
- Team player
- Keeps area in room clean
- Involved in worship during the service and prayer at altar time
- Be sure to look for campers in and out of your own personal group
- Names will be collected by head counselor by 3:00 pm on Thursday

Discipline

If behavior becomes an issue while campers are in your care, please try to adhere to the following procedures:

- Give campers clear and concise dorm room rules you would like them to follow. For example: no wrestling, rough housing, fighting, tickling, touching each other inappropriately, bullying, pranking, stealing,
- Give camper warnings when inappropriate behavior is happening. Tell what is not acceptable and discuss a more appropriate response
- With repeated inappropriate behavior, give camper a time-out from the activity, a chance to think about behavior and modify actions
- Offer restorative suggestions to correct actions based on situation and give another chance
- If nothing else works, speak with head counselor, then staff ministry team for assistance.

Check Out Procedures

- Help campers make sure they have all personal items packed for dismissal
- Clean rooms - sweep floors, clean mirror, clean toilet, wipe down sink, throw out all trash
- Campers must be checked out with head counselor before you leave