



4-H Camp Counselor Training—Walworth County

Keys to a Positive 4-H Camping Experience

<p>Goal:</p> <p>Counselors will be introduced to the eight essential or key elements of positive youth development programming and understand how each applies to the camp experience</p> <p>Counselors will become familiar with the importance of their role as a caring counselor (caring adult) at camp</p>	<p>KEY: POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH A CARING COUNSELOR</p>
<p>Life Skills:</p> <p>Concern for others Nurturing relationships Leadership</p>	<p>BACKGROUND:</p> <p>Camp counselors are key to the success of any 4-H camping program. They serve as role models for campers and provide leadership to camp planning and camp activities. Their impact on the campers is a lasting one, and it's essential that they understand and work to employ the eight essential elements of positive youth development in the camp environment.</p> <p><i>Note: This was presented as the first in a series of Camp Counselor Training sessions in 2004.</i></p>
<p>Suggested Grade Levels:</p> <p>9th and 10th graders</p>	<p>WHAT TO DO:</p> <p><u>Activities</u></p> <p>Activity 1: Ask teens to individually brainstorm a list of the <u>key</u> ingredients or activities of a successful camping program, writing each ingredient on a separate Post-It note.</p> <p>Introduce the Positive Youth Development "pie" model with eight essential or <u>key</u> elements identified (see handout). (Note that framework is research-based, etc.)</p> <p>Discuss and describe each element of the model, and ask teens to post their ingredients in the appropriate pie section—i.e. "archery" is posted in the "Mastery" segment of the pie; "circle dance" is posted in the "Welcoming Environment" segment. Find a place for each ingredient or activity brainstormed by teens. Discuss how each camp activity fits into a piece of the pie, how camp offers activities in each piece of the pie, and how camp is a positive youth development program.</p> <p>Activity 2: Distribute Pony beads and key ring packets and use them to create a key chain reminder of the eight key elements of a positive 4-H camping experience: add different color bead for each key.</p> <p>Activity 3: Divide the teens into four small groups. Give each group one of the "Caring Counselor" assignment cards. Give the groups about 10-15 minutes to complete the assignment on the card. Ask each group to report back on its assignment to the total group.</p>
<p>Time:</p> <p>45 minutes</p>	<p>TALK IT OVER:</p>
<p>Supplies needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pony beads of 8 colors - Key rings - Lanyard string - Easel pad, markers - Post-It notes - Handouts - Clay - Pencils, paper 	<p>Reflect:</p>
<p>Do Ahead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare "Pie" chart model of positive youth development - Prepare bead kits with one bead of each color, key ring, and lanyard string to facilitate distribution of materials 	<p>Do the eight key elements of positive youth development programming apply at camp?</p> <p>What does it mean to be a caring counselor?</p>
<p>Adapted by:</p>	<p>Apply:</p>
<p>Carolyn L. Belczyk, 4-H Youth Development Educator, Walworth Co UW-Extension carolyn.belczyk@ces.uwex.edu</p>	<p>How will what we've learned about being a caring counselor help you prepare for your role at camp?</p> <p>Adapted from: "Unlocking the Key Elements of Positive Youth Development" presented by Theresa Ferrari, Joe Campbell, Niki Nestor McNeely, Sara Kleon, and Vicki Schwartz, Ohio State University Extension, Galaxy II Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah, September, 2003.</p>



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