



4-H Camp Counselor Training—Walworth County

Keys to a Positive 4-H Camping Experience

<p>Goal:</p>	<p>KEY: <i>AN INCLUSIVE/WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT</i></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 their role in creating an "Inclusive/Welcoming Environment" at camp</p>	<p>BACKGROUND:</p>
<p>Life Skills:</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>Nurturing relationships Accepting differences Leadership</p>	<p>An inclusive and welcoming 4-H camp environment is one that allows for a sense of belonging to develop, encourages and supports all campers, and offers encouragement with positive and specific feedback. Healthy 4-H camps embrace diversity among their campers, welcome first year campers, and make accommodation for special needs. All youth are welcomed, regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender, religion, or disability or handicap.</p>
<p>Suggested Grade Levels:</p>	<p><i>Note: This was presented as the first in a series of Camp Counselor Training sessions in 2005.</i></p>
<p>9th and 10th graders</p>	<p>WHAT TO DO:</p>
<p>Time:</p>	<p><u>Activities</u></p>
<p>90-120 minutes</p>	<p>Activity 1: Ask teens to make their own nametags using supplies provided. (Do upon arrival; 10 min):</p>
<p>Supplies needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nametag supplies: pre-punched craft foam pieces, markers, foam stick-on shapes, beads, lacing, etc. - Easel pad, markers - Handouts - Clay - Pencils, paper - Hard candy (for splitting teens into small groups) - Game booklets and equipment (balls, blindfolds, etc.) 	<p>Introduce camp counselor training series, develop ground rules for training, etc. (5 min)</p>
<p>Do Ahead:</p>	<p>Activity 2: Ask teens to sculpt an animal, real or make-believe, from clay and use it to introduce themselves to the group. For example, I might sculpt a purple cat because purple is my favorite color, I like cats, and I think I'm "Purrr-fect!" Yes, I have an attitude problem! Ask teens to introduce themselves using sculptures, display sculptures. Activity "borrowed" from Tim Talen. (20 min)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare copies of handouts 	<p>Introduce the Eight Key Elements of Positive Youth Development (see handout). Note that framework is research-based, etc. Discuss what each element means and how it relates to camp. Ask teens for examples, etc. (15 min)</p>
	<p>Activity 3: Introduce tonight's training emphasis on an "Inclusive/Welcoming Environment." Discussion questions: What are some of the considerations at camp (diversity of age, maturity, gender, abilities, and culture and background); Whose responsibility is it to ensure that we've created an inclusive/welcoming environment at camp? (Everyone campers come in contact with, especially cabin counselors with whom they have the most contact); Where do we make our first impressions? (Registration, bus, cabin time); What happens if we fail? (The camper doesn't have fun, doesn't return to camp, spreads negative word of mouth about the program, quits 4-H, etc.) (10 min)</p>
	<p>Activity 4: Divide the teens into four small groups by asking each to select a hard candy from the bag. Ask teens to review "Guidelines for Leading Games" handout in their groups and plan an icebreaker/get-acquainted game for camp using what they've learned about creating an inclusive/welcoming environment and the information in the handout.</p>

	<p>Provide game books and equipment for their use if needed.</p> <p>Ask each group to lead their game for the total group of teens. Process each effort with what do you think? questions including the game's appropriateness for setting, audience, etc. (30 min)</p> <p>Activity 5: Using same small groups, distribute one situation statement per group. Ask teens to read and discuss their situation, suggest ways to solve it, decide on the best solution as a group, and report back. Discuss. (20 min)</p> <p>Wrap Up: Remind youth of schedule of upcoming sessions; etc. (5 min)</p>
	<p>TALK IT OVER:</p>
	<p><i>Reflect:</i></p>
<p>Adapted by:</p> <p>Carolyn L. Belczyk, 4-H Youth Development Educator, Walworth Co UW-Extension carolyn.belczyk@ces.uwex.edu</p>	<p>Do the eight key elements of positive youth development programming apply at camp?</p> <p>What does it mean to create an inclusive/welcoming environment at camp?</p>
	<p><i>Apply:</i></p>
	<p>How will what we've learned about creating an inclusive/welcoming environment 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>