

# Camp Chaperon Guide

Thank you for agreeing to let God use your gifts and talents to lead our youth as a chaperon at this year's Summer Camp. Your commitment and sacrifice during this strategic week is what makes camp such a wonderful time. We appreciate you very much!



## **Chaperon Job Description:**

1. Personally supervise an assigned group of girls or guys as assigned by the Youth Minister.
2. Initiate relationships with every student in your family group over the course of the week.
3. Be willing, prepared and able to communicate the saving grace of Christ through personal testimony and verbal witness as the opportunity arises.
4. Abide by ALL pre determined schedules and rules throughout the week.
5. Guide youth to participate in every aspect of camp.
6. Pray for the *heart condition* of every student in your care during the week.
7. Assist youth with special needs that arise.
8. Lead youth to obey the rules while lovingly enforcing them as well as helping them follow the schedule in being where they are supposed to be.
9. Help youth locate their room and bunk as well as trouble shooting, listening and sharing.
10. Initiate a brief closing prayer in the bunk area each night. *This may be led by the chaperon, CIT or capable youth. This is not a time to preach or re-teach the days lessons, but a time to listen, wind down and close the day out in prayer.*
11. Chaperons who are comfortable with counseling youth in faith decisions should be available at the close of each service and be familiar with the counseling information and decision cards used at Camp.
12. Bring a notepad, pen and a watch. Keep a schedule with you at all times.
13. Quiet Time Guide Sheets: Each student will be given a prepared quiet time guide sheet each morning. Each student should be encouraged to make some type of effort at having a "quiet time". These sheets will be made available for each room and it is the responsibility of the chaperons to see that each youth has one. Label each sheet with the names of the youth in your room so you know who has gotten theirs and who has not.

## **Helpful Information**

- ☞ Any chaperon who examines his or her lifestyle and feels it would currently be hypocritical to be a Christ like example to youth should quietly disqualify him or herself to the Youth Minister or Team Leader immediately.
- ☞ Youth love to stay up. However, this is not a YMCA camp. Assist youth lovingly and firmly about obeying lights out time and getting to bed.
- ☞ As you have occasion to visit privately or semi-privately with students, try to ensure that you are not isolated with the opposite sex or away from the group for long periods of time. 20 min. is adequate time to spend with a student. If more time is needed, make arraignments to follow up later during camp or after the week is over.

- ☞ Please report any irregularities to the Camp director or Youth Minister. Examples: A name appears on your rooming list and the youth does not show up. A youth moves his/her stuff to a different room. You are asked to perform two ministry tasks at the same time, etc.
- ☞ It is much better for youth to learn "AFFIRMATION " at camp than how to become a better prankster. Lead your group to do an act of kindness toward another group rather than random negative pranks. Examples: *Give out sticks of gum, do a group chant about another grade, serve a meal to another group in the cafe, read a statement of support, a scripture or a challenge to another group, positive notes or posters on doors. There are many affirming actions that will create great memories.*
- ☞ Youth should not be allowed to do anything during the week that could be interpreted negatively by their parents, the Youth Pastor or the church in general. Have fun and lead them to make encouraging memories. There is no one who needs to be out past the lights out time. Do not let the excitement of youth persuade you to do something that could be dangerous or negative. **Pump your group up by using ideas that build others up.** Remember that the church is liable for anything that happens while you are in charge.
- ☞ There are generally three types of phone calls made at camp. 1. Someone who feels convicted about a spiritual matter and needs to contact someone who is not at camp. 2. Calls made to parents or guardians and 3. Calls due to an emergency. *(All emergency calls will be made with adult supervision)*
- ☞ Pray fervently about the Youth you will lead and watch God do something wonderfully unexplainable.

### More Information

- = In the event a youth breaks a rule or displays negative behavior that is potentially harmful to the integrity of the camp purpose, the chaperon is the first line of corrective response. In cases where a youth repeats the offense or repeats the same display of negative behavior, the Youth Minister should be notified as soon as possible.
- = In the event a youth discloses sensitive information (or) you are privy to information directly or indirectly that: 1. Could prevent a dangerous, deadly or destructive situation. 2. Suggests these acts have or might have been committed. 3. Confirms or suggest that immoral, abusive, destructive or violent behavior has or might be committed, CHAPERONS MUST NOTIFY THE YOUTH PASTOR IMMEDIATELY, PRIOR TO THE NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER PERSON.
- = During an emergency, the chaperon is to initiate any care deemed necessary while notifying the Youth Pastor as soon as feasible.
- = The Youth Pastor and Camp Director should be notified of any situation that might have a serious impact on the life of a youth, the camp, camp participants, the church or the youth pastor.

### Suggestions on calming youth for lights out and sleeping.

1. Gather students together and have them each get into his/her bunk. Read a scripture or tell a story/illustration. After a few minutes have a youth pray or you pray a closing prayer for the day. By this time, many of the youth will have fallen asleep during the scripture, story or prayer. ☺
2. Enlist an older student to be a bunk captain. He/she will work to assist in getting you squared away and in bed, leading in a devotional, telling a biblical story illustration.
3. Tell the youth when they are all in their bunks that we are going to close the night out in a few moments of silent prayer requests. Give them three things to specifically pray for and begin a time of silent praying. Close out or have a student close in prayer after 3 minutes of praying. If they have not drifted off to sleep during this time, they will at least be calmer for sleeping.
4. In extreme cases where calming ideas do not get the desired results. Pull out the king-pin disrupter(s) and lead him/her to a open room or outside for a few physical reminders of why we need our sleep. Put him/her through a few exercises that will help them WANT to go to sleep. If they refuse to exercise, you can bring them to the youth pastor. If they refuse still, then bring them to the Camp Director. *Exercise examples are:* Jumping jacks, push ups, sit ups, bear crawls, crab crawls, arm rolls, leg lifts, squats, squat thrusts, etc. They will ask you to go to sleep!