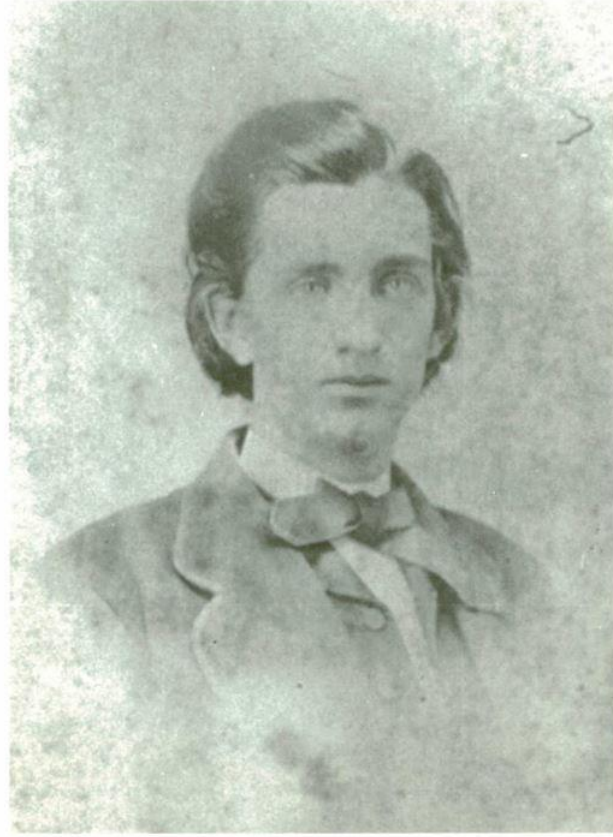


SAM DAVIS

CHRISTIAN YOUTH CAMP



PVT. SAM DAVIS * COLEMAN'S SCOUTS * ARMY OF TENNESSEE
CHRISTIAN, MARTYR & HERO



COUNSELOR

HANDBOOK



Counselor Commandments

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,² With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;³ Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:1-3 KJV

- Counselors will work in pairs. There will ALWAYS be at least two counselors present while any campers are being supervised.
- All Conferences or private discussions with individual Campers MUST be attended by at least two senior counsellors.
- Being a counselor takes time. Plan on it. Make it happen.
- Keep the confidence of the campers. Something may be humorous to you, but not to them.
- Maintain a cheerful objectivity. Getting emotionally involved will not help the situation. You are the adult. Act in that capacity.
- Be careful in giving advice. Guide the camper to come up with possible solutions.
- Stay within your ability to counsel.
- Expect patterns of behavior. For example, young people often make little problems into big problems.
 - If you run into a counseling problem, ask for help.
- Encourage independence from you and dependence upon God.
- Don't make promises that you can not or should not keep.
- Intentionally violating camp policies and rules is NOT part of the camping experience. Do not encourage it or allow it to happen.
- Base all teachings on scripture, not opinion.
- Involve the campers.
- Stay on track.
- Pass by questions that are not pertinent.
- Avoid talking over the camper's heads.
- Use variety.
- Discuss a question as a group with you as a moderator.
- Give a verse or two to look up and discuss them.
- Ask a question and get different answers.
- Tell a story.
- Use a visual.
- Try an object lesson.
- Do not mock, nor allow others to mock any camper.
- Let one of the campers give a devotional.



SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR JUNIOR COUNSELORS

- A. Try to avoid showing any favoritism to individual campers.
- B. Remember there must be two counselors present at any function involving campers- especially if it is necessary for one on one. One on one does not exist at SDCYC. It is two or more on one at all times.
- C. Save for minor counseling, serious talks with individual campers should be referred immediately to the senior staff.
- D. Boys can not escort girls back to their dorms – only female junior and senior counselors may perform that function.
- E. Set an example for campers under your charge.
- F. If you pay attention to the lectures – those under your charge are more likely to follow your example.

What is your role as a camp counselor?

In short, the role of a counselor at camp is to build relationships with students and to help provide the best possible atmosphere for them to learn. What you do while here at camp may make an eternal difference for your campers.

SOME THOUGHTS AND TIPS

1) Camp is for the camper.

This simply means that your focus is on the camper. Put them first in your time and attention.

2) Counselors set the mood.

In one short week, most of us will spend more time in close contact with our campers than during all the rest of the year. Set a great attitude and tone for the week. Be excited, enthusiastic and optimistic!

3) Lead by example.

- In your daily devotion time.
- In your attitude.
- In your heartfelt praise and worship during chapel times.
- By your participation and enthusiasm during recreation.
- By following camp guidelines.
- Every part of your lifestyle this week will be observed. Be a great role model!

4) Spend time with your campers.

This sounds simple enough, but often it is easier for us to hang out together with other counselors than to spend quality time with campers in our cabins. Make the most of the time that you have been given!

5) Keep control of your cabin group!

Remember, you are in charge! Do not be afraid to have your campers clean up their messes, throw away their trash, etc. Do not let campers trash their cabin because ultimately they will have to pay for any damage. Relate to your campers, but do not forget that you are an adult. If you want to stay up late with your campers, that is your decision as long as your lights off at the right times and the talking is not loud enough to be heard outside of your cabin. Keep discussion topics appropriate. You set the tone and are keeper of the boundaries in your cabin.

6) Report serious problems to the camp director. (THIS IS IMPORTANT!)

We do not need or want to know every little situation that most of you can and should handle. However, if a serious problem arises or if a situation comes up that you do not feel confident dealing with, be sure to contact a senior counselor or the camp director. We are here as a team.

7) Pray for your campers.

Pray that your students have a life-changing experience at camp. Pray for them as you spend time with them at camp.

GENERAL RULES

"That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

JOHN 15:12 KJV

Six Guidelines to help you obey John 15:12

1. No girls in the boy's cabins or boys in the girl's cabin (that includes the porch). These are the only private places in camp. We will respect each other's privacy and property.
2. Following tattoo, no one leaves the cabin unless instructed to by an adult or the cabin is on fire!
3. No one is allowed to leave the camp property at any time unless accompanied by a counselor and cleared with the camp director.
4. When hiking or going anywhere out of the main camp area, inform your counselor and go in groups of at least four. That way, if one is injured, one can go get help while the others stay with the injured.
5. Do not possess or use anything on the published "What Not to Bring" list.
6. Attend all meals and meetings, and dress modestly.

How to Have a Great Time at Camp!

- First, make a decision to have a great time at camp!
- Decide that you want to grow this week.
- Make some new friends to care about.
- Follow the guidelines at camp. They are there for everyone's safety. If you aren't clear about a rule, it is your responsibility to ask a counselor. Don't just "assume" something is O.K.
- Try some new activities.

Counselor "DO's"

- Sit among your campers during programs and meals
- Encourage and build up campers – even those not in your cabin
- Set a good example at all times
- Have tons of patience ...even when exhausted!
- Look for loners and include them in conversations and activities
- Be a servant to students and other leaders
- Maintain your composure
- Recognize that you are here to minister to campers
- Be flexible and reflect this to campers
- Always be at scheduled events with your campers
- Attend all counselor meetings – on time.
- Participate with campers in activities



Become familiar with the [SDCYC Camper Handbook Section 1: Camper Rules](#).

Counselor “DON”Ts”

Don't ever yell or discipline out of anger

Don't participate in gossip or jokes targeted at others

Don't be concerned with winning over sportsmanship

Don't set a bad example by yelling, arguing or treating others poorly

Don't get in situations that could be compromising to yourself or your campers

Don't ever complain to your peers or campers

Don't give in to camper peer pressure, be the adult

Don't counsel campers of the opposite gender



A NEW COMMANDMENT I GIVE TO YOU,
THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER;
as I have loved you,
THAT YOU ALSO LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

JOHN 13:34

