

A Letter to a Staff Person on their First Day at Camp

There is a lot that Counselors need to know. Today, _____ staff are arriving at camp for the very first time, and you are one of them.

Welcome! This is camp! It is a pretty cool place. There is lots to see, smell, and there are corndogs. There is so much to do: singing, dancing, and laughing. Laughing is the BEST. (Especially when milk comes out of your nose!).

Some days awesome things will happen. Some days you will get ice cream. Some days you won't. Some days your kite will fly high. Some days it will get stuck in a tree. It's just how it is.

There are plenty of reasons to dance – you just have to look for them. Don't worry, though, you won't be doing this job alone. You are going to meet lots of cool people here.

Being a counselor is hard sometimes. You should give campers and each other high-5's just for making it to breakfast. Just treat everyone like it is their birthday even if they don't deserve it. We all mess-up sometimes. The biggest mess-up is not forgiving each other's mess-ups. Maybe you will teach _____ or _____ or _____ . You might even get to _____ or _____.

It's so, so much. It's a lot. Try this. Take a deep breath. It is AMAZING. You're going to do it a lot this summer to keep your cool. Enjoy it. Pay attention. Take brain pictures because amazing things will happen every day. You are going to do so much, but it's not about what you do. It's about who you ARE and you are AWESOME.

We're really glad you are here. We need to say that a lot. Camp gets busy and you are important and you are going to do a lot and you're going to smell great. But, don't get too busy. Remember to let everyone know that you are glad they are here. You don't have to remember this all right now. You are going to need a pep talk sometimes (we call those staff meetings). That's OK. For now, you're here, you're awesome, you're going to have a GREAT summer!!

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