

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL CAMP

SLEEP:

Plenty of it. Especially first night. Kids don't recognize fatigue in themselves, and need plenty of persuasion to go to sleep. I suggest that the staff make frequent checks in the first hour after lights out and insist on absolute quiet. Children are more likely to fall asleep if they are kept quiet and still, out of boredom if nothing else.

FREE TIME:

None/limited. Make relaxation time active eg. organised (and supervised) sport. "Quiet times" should involve reading or diary writing etc. Staff could be rostered to supervise these activities ... perhaps this is a time for you, as Camp Leader, to have some student free time and recharge your batteries.

DORMITORY COMPETITIONS:

I believe daily dorm inspections are a necessity. Running a dormitory competition has the effect of maintaining good standards of hygiene and cleanliness, as well as developing personal pride and health habits, securing good discipline within the dormitories, and reducing the workload involved in the end of camp clean-up.

POCKET MONEY:

It is suggested to keep pocket money to a small amount. In fact no pocket money at all is worth considering.

SNACKS, LOLLIES, AND SWEET DRINKS:

I strongly advise that these be banned from camp. They cause hygiene problems within the camp; are contrary to the DEWA's School Health Care Policy; and adversely affect the students' behaviors.

MOBILE PHONES:

I see no need for students to bring mobile phones on camp. There have been instances where the inappropriate use of mobile phones has caused unwarranted concerns for parents and unnecessary problems for others, including staff.

WET WEATHER ALTERNATIVES:

Though there is rarely a need ... you never know! Whilst I can usually assist by running some indoor games or suggesting some other solution, this is not always the case, so please be prepared!

COMMITMENT (and safety):

By allowing students (and other staff) to shoulder some responsibility for camp, and therefore responsibility for the camp's success or failure, they will show more commitment. Attempt to integrate the planning of camp into your curriculum, that is, look to share the ownership of the camp experience. If you do all the objective setting, and prior preparation and planning, odds are, you will be the most, and perhaps only one, committed to camp.

Committed, aware people are generally safer, more responsive people!