

# THE "3 R'S" OF CAMP COUNSELING

## 1 ROLE OF CAMP COUNSELORS

### Planning the Camp Program

Counselors should know the needs and interests of campers, the camp site and its facilities, the camp program, and staff. Program planning is accomplished with other counselors and Extension agents.

### Conducting the Camp Program

Carrying out the planned camp program is a combined effort of counselors, camp staff, Extension agents, and program staff. Counselors provide inspiration and leadership to campers.

### Evaluating the Camp Program

Evaluation is continuous throughout the camping period. Counselors should be close to campers, knowing their likes and dislikes about camp, and should suggest changes as needed. Counselors should be involved in evaluating the total 4-H camp program at the end of camp and should make recommendations for improvement for the next year.

The counselor performs many roles at different times, including:

- Planner
- Leader
- Participant
- Friend
- Analyzer
- Cabin leader
- Group leader
- Example setter
- Resource person
- Organizer
- Good worker
- A person that likes people
- A reliable person
- An alert person
- Good listener
- Teacher



CAMP COUNSELORS:  
THE HUB OF THE WHEEL

## 2 RESPONSIBILITY OF COUNSELORS

Counselors are responsible for helping each 4-H member get the most out of camping. The effectiveness of the camp program—and its true value to the camper and the county 4-H program—are determined by the counselor's interest in, participation in, and appreciation of the camp program and its values.

Counselors are responsible for:

1. Developing skills in handling camper activities and understanding the actions and behavior of the campers.
2. Developing skills in planning and teaching one or two program phases.
3. Developing the ability to provide leadership, and with a group or committee, plan and carry out a particular program activity.
4. Being alert to the health, safety, and needs of campers.
5. Working as a team member with other counselors, Extension agents, and staff.



## 3 RELATIONSHIP OF COUNSELORS

The job of counselor brings you in contact with many types of people involved in the 4-H camping program. The expectation placed on counselors is high, and satisfactory relationships with others is necessary for a successful camp. You should develop good relationships with the following groups:

**The campers.** Take a genuine interest in your campers. Help them with problems, talk to them, be friendly, and set a good example. Try to get each camper involved.

**Other counselors.** Respect other counselors and their ideas. Discuss ways to improve camp with them. Be willing to assist them with their program needs.

**Extension agents and other staff.** Assist Extension agents and other staff in planning. Carry out the planned program activities and your responsibilities. Offer suggestions at counselor meetings. Report problems or emergencies immediately. Be loyal and respectful.

**Permanent camp staff.** Get to know permanent camp staff, their jobs, and their responsibilities. Keep the staff informed of program activities. Request program needs well ahead of time. Inform camp staff of program changes. Respect camp property.

**Parents.** Meet the parents when your campers arrive. Introduce yourself both to parents and campers. Show them the cabins and other facilities. Take an interest in "their" child.