

Planning Information When You Are A Dean

These ideas will help you have a successful camp session. Whether it's a week or 72 hours or something else. They are in no particular order. I hope they are helpful as you plan.

1. Remember the schedule you created is a guideline. Some lessons or activities make take longer or go faster than you anticipated. You may need to switch things around for weather or some other reason. It's fine. However, keep the kitchen aware of any lateness in terms of meal times. Don't go over 15 min if you can help it.
2. Always think about multi-intelligence and multi-modalities. Have bible words prewritten on cards for younger campers. Include movement. Make lessons interactive. Some can write better than they draw or talk about it better than either of those. Some can act it out. Some enjoy making things with their hands. Use visuals where possible and object lessons.
3. Consider the attention span of your age group. You may need to do part of lesson, break for a minute win it game or associated activity and then come back to the lesson.
4. Remember to have the campers line up for meals. Be creative with it. They can line up tallest to shortest, by birthday or some other creative way you can think of. Perhaps those who learn their memory verses go 1st or best bunk goes first. Always pray as a group before meals. And make sure counselors sit with the campers not at a table by themselves.
5. Remind cabin moms and dads to pray with the campers in the cabin before or at lights out.
6. Over prepare for rainy days. Have some minute to win games at your finger tips and some little or quick crafty things to do like painting, coloring card games.
7. Sometimes lessons go quickly or campers are antsy, you can give quick bouts of free time for 10-15 minutes. Be careful with free time, too much free time is not a good idea. Especially younger campers: keep them busy and moving.
8. Cabin rest time is a great thing after lunch. It allows campers time to think about lessons, separate and rest, make connections in their cabins and gives you time to organize your next steps. Counselors need to take a break as well.

9. **Be sure to let the kitchen staff know on the 1st day if you will need popcorn for movies or have some special event like ice cream social planned. Be sure to give them a copy of the schedule day 1!**
10. Have a camp clean up time scheduled daily so the last day of camp is not a giant mess. Assign teams or small groups to different areas of the camp to clean. On the last day of camp be sure cabins have been swept, trash emptied and that all "Lost and Found" items either have been collected by their owners or thrown away. **WE DO NOT DO LOST AND FOUND.**
11. On the last day of camp please use this time to talk about salvation and with the older kids about making a commitment to Jesus. If someone wants to get baptized, be sure to call parents for the OK and contact their home church pastor.