

# “The Bright Red Line”

## Clarifying Boundaries and the Concept of Boundaries

What’s appropriate to share with campers  
in terms counselors can relate to!

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- The Challenge:** Because of the over-stimulating and ubiquitous nature of the Internet and media, children—and *staff*—are less aware of what is appropriate and what are good “boundaries,” especially in the casual environment of a place like camp!
- The Set Up:** First, discuss the concept of boundaries: What is personal, private and what is shared only with your best and closest friends. Discuss the idea of “partial disclosure” –that we don’t have to tell *everything all the time!*
- For Greater Effect:** For visual effect hang a bright red piece of rope or line (you can use a red streamer) vertically from the rafter or top of the meeting room. *This is “the bright red line” that adults do not cross with campers!*
- Breakout:** Have your staff break into groups of 5-6 per group. Announce the 5 categories as follows:  
①popular songs ②movies ③TV shows ④jokes  
⑤personal disclosure.  
Assign one category to each group of counselors.  
(There may be duplicate groups, like two groups focusing on jokes). Each group is to come up with three examples of a song or joke, etc.—one that is appropriate to share with campers; one that is borderline or questionable and one that is clearly “over the bright red line!”
- Reporting Back:** **Establish ground rules about sharing—that what gets said in this meeting *stays* in this meeting!** Each group reports their results, starting with the appropriate example and ending with the inappropriate one.
- Debriefing:** Talk about what is and is not ok to share with campers and establish a rule about “when in doubt, check it out!” “What you do at home is your business...*and*...here at camp we don’t say that!”

*“...have you been Ditterized?”*

**Robert B. Ditter, M.Ed., LCSW**

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