

Working with Young Campers Enduring Stories

Session Type - Specialty Track 3

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| AUTHOR(S): | Asya Gribov |
| SUMMARY: | <p>Enduring Stories. What are the enduring stories that get written at camp? How can counselors be intentional about the experiences and struggles campers have during the summer to leave a positive impact beyond camp? Participants will learn to make personal journals to record meaningful memories. - Submitted by Asya Gribov</p> |
| TOPIC(S): | Gratitude, happiness, lasting impact, book-making |
| LEARNING OBJECTIVE: | <p>Participants will discuss the lasting impact of various experiences at camp. Participants will make journals and learn effective ways to record camp memories for themselves and their campers.</p> |
| AUDIENCE: | group size can vary; staff, specialists, counselors |
| TIMING: | 90 minutes |
| APPENDICES: | Shel Silverstein poems |
| MATERIALS NEEDED: | Paper, pens, markers, yarn, craft supplies, |
| SET-UP DETAILS: | No specific location or set up is needed |

SESSION TIMELINE & OUTLINE:

CREATIVITY

Warm up ACTIVITY:

The poetry and ideas of Shel Silverstein

Participants will pick a Shel Silverstein Poem out of a hat. After reading the poem, the participants will complete the assigned challenge that is inspired by the poem.

Poem: How to Not Have to Dry the Dishes

Activity: Make a list of bad advice for campers or counselors.

Poem: Underface

Activity: What is something about your personality people cannot see easily? What is something about your personality that people notice right away (rightfully or not)?

Poem: Everything On It

Activity: Challenge small groups to see how many random items they can balance on a designated spot.

Poem: The Poet Tree

Activity: Write a few short poems and hang them on a tree.

Last day of camp 2018

LEADERSHIP

Participants will write a “book chapter” (paragraph) about this past summer. What would be the title of the chapter? Using the past tense, participants will reflect on what they have accomplished, how they acted, what goals they have reached and what impact the summer has had on them.

Prompt: Looking back at this summer, I

Leaving a Lasting Impact

FORESIGHT

Discuss as a group:

What experiences make someone a:

- a confident person
- a kind person
- a Jewish person



CORNERSTONE 2018 RESOURCE

Over the summer campers develop:

Jewish identity, Independence, Community Mindedness, Perseverance, Confidence, etc.

If each one of these character traits was a chapter in a book, what experiences have had to have happened in order to write these chapters.

Chapter: Confidence

Ex:

- feeling that I can do anything because I learned to shoot a bow and arrow
- receiving acknowledgement from my counselor when I was learning

Each chapter title is written on a large page. Participants write examples of concrete experiences that had to have happened to write the chapter.

What might be the settings, the conflicts, the relevant characters in the stories? Good books always have challenges or conflicts that are overcome. What might be some of those problems for campers and how might they overcome them? Within a story or a book, it is easier to see struggles as essential parts of learning and persevering.

Make Your Own Book

Participants learn how to bind their own books in a simple and quick way. They decorate, write a title, and label their chapters and include their previous reflection. Participants select a Jewish quote that will frame their summer.

Participants can use this book as a journal throughout the summer.

Participants can make these journals with campers at the start of the summer and use them to record meaningful memories throughout camp.

Wrapping Up

Share something that you learned that gave you a new perspective on working with younger campers.