

## CORNERSTONE 2022 RESOURCE

### Telling Your Story, Camp in Your Career *Evening Elective*

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<b>SUMMARY:</b>	In this session we will: dive deep into our camp experiences through the power of storytelling, and begin to understand the professional skills and personal virtues we've learned as camp staff that we can leverage to enhance one's career.
<b>ABC GOALS:</b>	<p><b>Affective:</b> Participants will feel....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proud of the work they do at camp</li> <li>• Their work at camp is transferable to other professions</li> <li>• That camp is part of their career arc, not just something fun to do during the summer</li> </ul> <p><b>Behavior:</b> Participants will be able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concretize some of the skills that they have learned as a camp professional.</li> <li>• Translate those skills in tangible ways as they think about their professional trajectory.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cognitive:</b> Participants will know...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That working at camp has given them valuable skills that can be taken into their future professional roles</li> </ul>
<b>AUDIENCE:</b>	Age range: Oldest campers/CITs (entering 12 <sup>th</sup> grade), staff members Group Size: 10-20
<b>TIMING:</b>	75 minutes
<b>APPENDICES:</b>	One Making Mensches Poster, 6 Making Mensches Handouts
<b>MATERIALS NEEDED:</b>	Clipboards Colored pencils Pens Lined paper or notebooks Construction Paper Markers Flip Chart

### SET-UP DETAILS:

Any indoor space that is conducive to both large group work and smaller breakout groups. There should be enough room for a presenter to speak to an audience of 20 people, with enough space to transition into different breakout groups around the room.

### SESSION TIMELINE

00:00 – 00:20 Icebreaker and Introduction  
00:20 – 00:35 Finding Your Story  
00:35 – 01:05 Telling Your Story  
01:05 – 01:15 Closing

### SESSION OUTLINE:

00:00-00:05 – **Icebreaker:** Session leader leads group in a round of introductions (name, pronouns, camp, camp superpower).

00:05-00:12 – **Icebreaker cont., Alien Invasion Game:** Session leader splits participants up into breakout groups of 4-6 people. Each group comes up with a story of how they would use their camp superpowers to work together to fend off an alien invasion coming to infiltrate the camping world.

00:12-00:17 – **Introduction:** Session leaders bring the group back together and use the alien invasion/camp superpowers activity to frame the conversation that will take place. In doing so, the session leader expresses the goals of the program as well as the opportunity that the group will have to reflect (in a fun and playful way) on their camp professional experiences, by articulating how the skills and values that we gain at camp can be applied to one's future and professional career.

00:17-00:20 – **Introduction cont.:** Session leader shares a personal story of a camp experience where they used a skill/learned something from camp that remains relevant and is transferrable to their current professional experience.

00:20-00:35 - **Finding your Story:** Session leader introduces and facilitates a journaling session. Each participant should spend 3 minutes writing in their journals about each prompt, without stopping. Session leader introduces each prompt in 3-minute intervals.

- Think about where you see yourself 5 years from now
- Write about any experiences you've had in the past 5 years that will help you reach this destination
- Think about your counselor experience. Reflect on a moment in camp where you learned something that has helped you grow into the person you are today. (For example, share a story about a moment in camp when you learned something, ie. Skill/Value.) - Session leader encourages the group to think about the following:
  - A story from camp that has had a meaningful impact on shaping your perspective as a current 19-21 year old
  - A moment as a counselor where you were challenged, but overcame it



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- A time when a supervisor of yours disagreed with how you wanted to handle a situation and how you managed it. Did you incorporate the feedback/perspective and/or use your own gut instincts / knowledge?
- A time where you used a skill you learned outside of camp but applied it at camp

00:35-00:65 – **Telling your Story:** Session leader breaks participants into 3 groups. Allow time for participants to look over their journaling holistically, circling anything that jumps out to them from their reflections (2 min). Instruct participants to prepare how they will share their story in their own words (this could be done in any creative/artistic form unique to the participant) (8-10min). Participants will then share their camp story with their group (2 min. Per person), and how it will help them reach their destination through a professional lens. Allow the listeners to reflect back and share what values/skills they are hearing using the following prompts:

- What specific skills are you hearing this person share as they tell their story?
- How do you see the skills this person is sharing as transferrable to their career goals/pursuits?
- Are there specific values (Mensch chart) that jump out at you when you hear the story?

00:65-00:75 – **Summary/Conclusion:** Session leader brings group back together to summarize the session. Depending on time, picks 2-3 participants to share their story and highlight the prof skills/value if they choose. Leave room for any final comments and reflections.

### **BRINGING IT TO YOUR CAMP:**

This would be a great activity for supervisors to do with counselors during staff week. Staff members and counselors should be made to feel that camp is a valuable professional experience, and not only a fun or meaningful way to spend a summer. Given that most of the oldest campers aren't prepared to begin thinking about their careers, the prompts and questions can be modified so that campers and CITS are encouraged to think about the values/morals they learned as campers and how they can apply it as they enter a new social environment preparing for college.