

Counsellor In Training Handbook

Camp Teepee Pole

January 18, 2021



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Written by Steven W. Klassen

www.campteepeepole.org

Welcome

Welcome to the Camp Teepee Pole Counsellor In Training (CIT) program. This program is for boys ages 14-16 who are interested in camp work. Our goal is to train up boys to become leaders in Christian camp ministries. It is a multi-year program, ranging from one to three years depending on how young the boy is when he starts.

Each year the program has a similar structure, but different specific content. This means that you should expect to learn new things each year that you come.

The program is broken down into two main portions. The first, the pre-camp activities, are things that you will do more or less on your own before you come to camp. These are intended to help prepare your heart and your mind for the week of camp. The second portion, the at camp activities are things that you will do with one of the camp leaders while you are at the camp. These activities are intended to help teach you about counselling duties as well as how the camp is physically run.

You should read through this manual shortly after receiving it. You should begin working on the pre-camp activities as soon as possible. You may also read through the at-camp activities before you arrive at the camp. This will give you an idea of what to expect from this program.

Note that if you are involved in a Christian Service Brigade ministry, such as the Battalion program, you may be able to receive some achievement credit for this work. You should show this to your Captain and discuss with him how it can fit into your achievement program. While at camp be sure to get your leader to sign off on the various activities so that you can present this back to your Captain when you return to CSB in the fall.

Good luck and I'll see you at camp.

Steve Klassen
Staffing Coordinator
Camp Teepee Pole

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Who Are We?

What is Christian Service Brigade?

Christian Service Brigade (CSB) is an organization whose goal is “to win and train boys for Christ.” CSB provides weekly programs, partnered with the local church, that are designed to build up the Christian leaders of tomorrow.

This is achieved through the use of a program specifically designed with boys in mind. It is active, understanding that boys learn better by doing than by reading or talking. It has solid Bible based content, understanding that our Creator knows better than anyone how we need to be trained. Finally it is based on relationships. By emphasizing a high ratio of leaders to boys, the leaders are able to make relationships. They become more than teachers – they become friends.

For more information visit christianservicebrigade.ca.

What is Camp Teepee Pole?

Camp Teepee Pole (TPP) is a boys camp associated with CSB. We share the dual goals of not just making converts (to win boys for Christ) but of building up leaders (to train boys for Christ). In doing this we augment the weekly meetings of the CSB programs by providing extended camping experiences especially tuned for boys.

Our campers have a diverse number of activities that they can participate in, teaching them to properly care for the environment and to learn new skills and see and enjoy Gods creation that surrounds this area. The current topography and location of Camp Teepee Pole affords us the opportunity to let our campers participate in many activities. Outdoor education, archery, field sports, rock climbing and white water rafting are some examples.

For more information visit www.campteepeepole.org.

What Camps do we Offer?

These are the camp events currently planned for 2021:¹

- May 15 - Father/Son Team Day (for boys ages 5-18 with their dads)
- June 5 - Spring Work Day (for all who are willing to come and work)
- June 11-13 - Leader's Appreciation Weekend
- June 18-20 - Leader's Training Weekend
- June 25-27 - Tree Climber's Weekend (for boys ages 5-7 with their dads)
- July 4-10 - Leadership Trails (for boys ages 14-18)
- July 11-17 - Adventure Trails (for boys ages 12-14)
- July 18-24 - Stockade (for boys ages 8-11)
- September 18 - Fall Work Day (for all who are willing to come and work)

¹Subject to change depending on the COVID situation.

What is a CIT?

“CIT” stands for “Counsellor in Training.” The purpose of this program is to take boys who are interested in camp work and help prepare them for this ministry. Potential CITs are chosen primarily from the Leadership Trails camp (boys ages 14-18) or from CSB Battalion programs. When considering someone to be a CIT we take into consideration their spiritual growth, maturity and leadership skills. Their overall attitude is also a major consideration. We are looking for boys who are willing to serve and willing to learn.



The CIT program takes place during the Stockade camp which is the camp for boys ages 8 to 11. It may seem a little scary being in charge of boys only a few years younger than you, but it can help if you remember a few things.

First, “*Camp is for the camper!*” If you remember nothing else from this program, at least remember this – you are not coming as a CIT for your own benefit. This isn’t an extra week as a camper – you are coming to camp to help work with the younger campers. Whether it is the food, or the games or the activities, you must always remind yourself that the campers come first.

Second, “*You are here to serve!*” There is a reason that as a CIT you don’t pay fees – you are expected to help. While at camp you will spend some of your time doing work projects, some of your time leading campfire things, and some of your time leading the boys in games and Bible studies.

Finally, “*You are here to learn!*” This is a training program – training to be a camp counsellor. Some time will be spent in training sessions, but mostly you will learn by doing – after all that is how we boys learn best. You will do most of the things that counsellors do - teaching the boys, leading games, helping in the kitchen, and so on. You will do most everything that counsellors do, but with the help, instruction and supervision of the more senior staff.

CITs are responsible to their own counsellor at all times. If the

counsellor needs to be absent (such as early morning devotions or leaders' evening meeting), the CIT is in charge of discipline and keeping the cabin in order. The CIT is to fulfill II Tim. 4:12 through being an example for the boys to follow. He is to be quiet during down time after lunch, attentive during Bible exploration, and responsive to help his counsellor as needed. He is to remember that what he learns, he will someday pass on to others when he serves as a counsellor.

CITs are to help the counsellors during events times, out trips, play in the games (remembering that the games are for the boys and that they are there to help as well as have fun), and assist during campfire time by sitting among their cabin of boys. After campfire, the CITs are to assist in getting their boys to bed orderly and quietly.

— Camp Teepee Pole Policy Manual

A Warning!

Becoming a counsellor is not for everyone. Consider the following:

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

— James 3:1

It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin.

— Luke 17:1

The Scripture warns us that those who teach, especially those who teach children, will be judged more strictly than others. I don't write this to scare you away, but to have you examine yourself and your motives in becoming a CIT (and then a counsellor). If you want to be a CIT simply to get another week of camp, then perhaps you should consider something else. But if you are coming because you want to serve God in a camp setting, then I encourage you to come.

Pre-Camp Activities

To be properly prepared you need to prepare your heart and mind before camp begins. As part of your training we would like you to perform three tasks. This involves some Bible study, some memory work, and prayer.

Memory Work

You should memorize the following passage before you come to camp and be prepared to quote it sometime during camp.

The passage as written here is from the *New Living Translation* which is the version we mostly use at camp. You may use another version if you want.

Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed? If anyone is ashamed of me and my message, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in his glory and in the glory of the Father and the holy angels.”

— Luke 9:23-26

Don't let the size of this passage frighten you - it is only four verses. See the section later in this booklet entitled “How to Memorize Scripture” for some hints that may help you.

Bible Study

Before camp begins you should do some Bible Study on your own. The following study is intended to provide you with six short study sections. We suggest you do one a day.

In each study you will be given a section of scripture to read and a few questions to answer. These questions are intended to get you to think about the passage you just read. I'm not going to be marking them.

As you read each passage, don't just skim over it and forget it—think about what you are reading. If you have more than one version of the Bible available to you, try reading the same passage multiple times in different versions. Then think about the differences that you find between the version. That is a good way to gain an understanding of the the Scriptures actually mean. Remember that these passages were not written in English. They were written in Hebrew and in Greek. By reading multiple translations you can gain confidence that the translators have done a good job.

At camp we will be studying how God calls us and what He calls us to. When you think about the six passages you have read for this assignment, what do you think it means today to be called by God?

How do you think God calls us to His ministry today?

Is there anything we should be specifically looking for?

Study	Notes
1	<p>King David (1 Samuel 16:1-13) <i>How was David chosen to be king?</i></p> <p><i>What was the key feature that God told Samuel He was looking for? (v.7)</i></p> <p><i>What do you think went through David's mind when Samuel anointed him?</i></p>
2	<p>King Josiah (2 Chronicles 34:1-7) <i>Josiah was very young when he became king. What did he start to do at age 16? (v. 3)</i></p> <p><i>After he dedicated himself to God, what actions did he start to take?</i></p> <p><i>How do you think these actions would have affected the general population?</i></p>
3	<p>Jeremiah the prophet (Jeremiah 1:1-19) <i>How did Jeremiah receive his call to be a prophet?</i></p> <p><i>What were some of the concerns that Jeremiah had?</i></p> <p><i>How did God deal with Jeremiah's concerns?</i></p>

Study	Notes
4	<p>Peter (Luke 5:1-11) <i>What was Peter's career when Jesus called him?</i></p> <p><i>Do you think he was having a successful career?</i></p> <p><i>Peter has three different reactions to Jesus in this passage. What are they? (vs. 5, 8, 11)</i></p>
5	<p>The Seven (Acts 6:1-7) <i>What was the problem that these seven men were chosen to solve?</i></p> <p><i>How were they chosen?</i></p> <p><i>What does it mean that "they laid their hands on them?" (v. 6)</i></p>
6	<p>Paul (Galatians 1:11-24) <i>What was Paul doing when God called him?</i></p> <p><i>Whose approval did Paul think he needed? (vs. 16-17)</i></p> <p><i>When he was ready to begin his ministry what did he do? (v. 18)</i></p>

Prayer Journal

When Jesus' disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray, part of His answer was Matthew 6:9-13. This prayer can be outlined as follows:

1. Praise God. (vs. 9)
2. Pray for things that you know are His will. (v.10)
3. Pray for what you need. (v. 11)
4. Ask Him to forgive you and to help you forgive others. (v. 12)
5. Ask Him to help you with the things you are struggling with. (v. 13)

For six days pray following this pattern. Read Matthew 6:9-13 each day before your prayer time and write down what you want to pray about on each day. Note that a prayer journal is private—you don't have to show these pages to anyone if you don't want to.

- Pray for the director (Adam Lazenby) as he prepares for the week of camp.
- Pray for the other leaders.
- Ask God to prepare the hearts of the boys coming to camp. If you know some of them, pray for them by name.
- Pray for yourself that God will give you a servant's heart.

Day 1: Praise

Pray for His will

Pray for your needs

Ask for forgiveness

Ask for help with your struggles

Day 2: Praise

Pray for His will

Pray for your needs

Ask for forgiveness

Ask for help with your struggles

Day 3: Praise

Pray for His will

Pray for your needs

Ask for forgiveness

Ask for help with your struggles

Day 4: Praise

Pray for His will

Pray for your needs

Ask for forgiveness

Ask for help with your struggles

Day 5: Praise

Pray for His will

Pray for your needs

Ask for forgiveness

Ask for help with your struggles

Day 6: Praise

Pray for His will

Pray for your needs

Ask for forgiveness

Ask for help with your struggles

At-Camp Activities

In this section we describe the activities that you will do while at camp. To perform these you will meet together with the other CITs and with the CIT director. These activities are things that we will perform together.

Bible study session

In your pre-camp Bible studies you looked at six different examples of how people were called to serve God. At camp we will examine this question again. Just how are people today called to serve God? And what specifically are we asked to do?

Counsellor training session

One of our group sessions will concentrate on counsellor training. In this session we will look at how to react to boys—especially the ones that are “difficult” to handle.

Camp infrastructure session

In your house if you are cold you probably turn up the thermostat. If things are dark you turn on the lights. And if you want something hot to eat you turn on the stove. Perhaps you never actually think about how the gas or electricity gets to the places that need it. In this year’s infrastructure session we will look at how the gas stoves in the kitchen are operated and how the electricity comes in and is controlled at the camp.

Kitchen duty

Meals do not just magically appear at camp. Like anywhere else they take a lot of work. One of your at-camp activities will be to assist the

cooks with some form of kitchen duty. The CIT director will arrange this with the cooks at the start of camp.

Work program

Another form of “behind-the-scenes” activities that are required to make camp work are the maintenance tasks. These consist of cleaning buildings, fixing things that are broken, obtaining firewood and any other physical tasks. While at camp we will perform one form of a work project. The actual work project changes from year to year based on the needs of the camp. The CIT director will arrange this with the maintenance staff at the start of camp.

Games

On one evening this week you will lead the wide games. You won’t have to do this alone—you will be grouped with one or two other CITs and will have at least one senior counsellor to assist you—but you CITs will be in charge of the evening. Which evening you will do this will be arranged with the director before camp. The director may also have some direction for you to follow (a sport, a wide game, etc.). See the section “How to lead games” in the resources section of this booklet.

Cabin devotional

At some point during the week you will lead the devotional for your cabin. You may do this more than once, but we want you to do it at least once. Just when during the week you will do this is something you will arrange with the counsellors in your cabin. If you have never led a Bible study before, then you may want to wait until after we have completed our counsellor training session which, this year, is centred on how to lead a Bible study. See the section “Leading a bible study” in the resources section of this booklet.

Campfire duty

You will assist with a campfire duty at least once during the week. This could mean giving your testimony, or performing a skit with your cabin, or perhaps reading some Scripture or, if you are more musical, helping with the choruses.

While we will help you think of ideas as a group, you will be expected to arrange this yourself. This may mean asking the speaker what you can do to help, or arranging something with the music leaders, or talking to the director or campfire leader.

What Happens After Camp?

Why am I depressed?

In 1 Kings 18 the prophet Elijah confronts king Ahab, defeats the prophets of the false god Baal and starts the nation of Israel in a revival for God. But in the next chapter we find him fleeing and discouraged. So much so that God decides his ministry is over.

What happened here? How can a leader go from such a victory to defeat so quickly?

You have just survived a week as a camp leader. You may have found that this week was one where you personally found yourself coming closer to God. You may have even decided to rededicate yourself to Him, either privately or even publicly. Can your victory turn bad as quickly as Elijah's? Yes it can!

Although enjoyable, camp is also a time of some stress and exertion. Physically you are probably tired. By the end of the week a leader can often be running on adrenaline. That is not just an expression. Adrenaline is a drug that your body naturally produces to help you through those hard times. But just like any other drug the artificial high that it gives you can turn to an artificial low when it wears off. Camp leaders can often find that they get depressed a few days after camp is done. And this physical change is one of the reasons.

So what do you do about this? There are a few things that I recommend.

First, don't let it surprise you. It is common. Don't think that you are necessarily under the attack of the devil. That can happen too, but the devil isn't all-powerful and he isn't all-present, so don't assume that he is the cause every time you feel low.

Second, don't make a major decision while you are depressed. This isn't the time to decide you aren't going back to school, or that you are done with church, or anything like that. Remind yourself that this is a feeling, and it will pass. Wait for it to pass.

Third, if the depression lingers, talk to someone. Your parents, your pastor, your senior counsellor, your other camp leaders. We all want to

see you succeed, and we are willing to help.

Finally, maintain your spiritual discipline. Get into the Scriptures and spend time in prayer every day. And don't ignore your church or your weekly Battalion meeting (if you have one available).

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

— Hebrews 10:24-25

Contacting the Campers

We encourage you to follow up with your campers when camp is done. Add them to your Facebook, email them, send them cards at Christmas. These things can really help encourage the campers throughout the year.

But don't ask me for their addresses! Sorry, but part of our privacy policy states that we will not give out the boys' addresses without the permission of their parents. But you can give them your address so they can contact you, and they can give you theirs if they want to.

Becoming a Counsellor

The purpose of the CIT program is not simply to provide young helpers for camp. The goal is to train you to become a counsellor. So how does this happen?

First I will be observing you as a CIT. I will also be talking with your senior counsellor after camp to get his impression on your work. This will be a strong determinant on if and when we choose to graduate you to a counsellor position.

Second you need to keep evaluating your own heart and mind. Remember the warnings given near the start of this paper. If you want to teach youth, the Scriptures teach that you will be judged more strictly than others.

Third you need to remember that becoming a counsellor does not

mean less work—it means more work. Instead of being assigned work tasks we expect you to be able to spot things that need to be done and to complete them yourself. Watch the senior leaders at camp and you will get a good idea of just what I mean.

Finally don't get discouraged if we ask you to be a CIT again before becoming a counsellor. Typically we will want you to go through this program twice and sometime three times before we graduate you. This isn't an indication that you are not "good enough" or "spiritual enough," sometimes we just want to allow you to mature a little more before putting you in a position of greater authority.

An elder must not be a new believer, because he might become proud, and the devil would cause him to fall.

— 1 Timothy 3:6

Resources

Statement of Faith²

This statement of faith forms the foundation of the ministry done through CSB Ministries. All CSB staff and board members subscribe to it. As a CSB related ministry we require all Teepee Pole staff to also subscribe to it.

We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired by God and inerrant in the original writing, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life.

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Father, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is true God and true man.

We believe that man was created in the image of God; that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death which is separation from God; and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are sinners in thought, word and deed.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice; and that all who believe in him are justified on the ground of his shed blood.

We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in his ascension into heaven, and in his present life there for us, as High Priest and Advocate.

We believe in the personal and imminent return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit, and thereby become children of God.

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the everlasting punishment of the lost.

²www.csbministries.org

The Romans Road

So what do you do when one of your campers asks you how to become a Christian? (Yes, sometimes they do make it that easy.)

This is one of those things you need to be prepared for well ahead of time. Whether you think you do or not, you know the correct answers. If you didn't you wouldn't have become a Christian yourself! But sometimes the mind likes to "draw a blank."

There are a lot of really good resources on this topic. You are encouraged to know one or two before you come to camp. The one presented here is a portion of what is called *The Romans Road* because all of its verses are found in Romans. This doesn't make it better than others, but it does make it easy to remember.

I must also emphasize that you need to keep yourself studying the Scriptures and in prayer. These three verses aren't any sort of "magic bullet"—but they are a good fallback when you seem to forget everything else.

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

— Romans 3:23

A good place to start is the fact of sin. You generally don't need to dwell on this too much—everyone pretty much knows their own faults.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

— Romans 6:23

This verse clearly states that there is a penalty for our sin, but also that there is hope.

Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

— Romans 10:9

And finally we have the statement of what must be done—how to obtain that hope.

How to Complain

Want to complain about something? There are only two things you need to do.

First you need to check your own attitude. Do you wish to complain to make things better for the boys, or for yourself? Do you wish to complain because there is really a problem, or just because something is not being done the way you would like it done? Perhaps you don't need to complain, perhaps you need to learn to be content.

Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

— Philippians 4:11-13

Let's suppose you get past point one. That is, you really do believe there is an issue that needs to be raised. Then you need to understand the next point.

Complaints go "up" not "down." You don't complain to the campers and you don't complain in front of the campers. You bring your complaint to someone above you. If you are a CIT or a Junior Counsellor you can raise the issue with your Senior Counsellor. If you are a Senior Counsellor you can raise the issue with your Director or another senior staff member (you will know who they are). If you are the Director you can raise the issue with the Board Representative that will be at camp with you. If you are the Board Representative, you bring the issue up with the rest of the Board.

Remember that complaints are contagious. A minor complaint in front of the campers becomes a major complaint by the campers. So for your week of camp you like the game that is being played—even if you don't, you like your other leaders—even if you don't, and you like porridge—even if you don't!

How to Memorize Scripture

In our camps we often want the boys to memorize Scripture passages. When asked to do this, it can help a lot if they see their leaders memorizing those same passages—leading by example. Do you struggle to memorize? Here are some things that may help.

- Memorize the verses in the version that you normally study. The version we officially use at camp is the *New Living Translation*, but when it comes to memory work it is best to stick with the version you normally use. Also watch the boys. If you have one using the *King James Version* or something equally difficult, and if they are struggling to read/memorize, then you may want to suggest they try an easier version. The camp has copies of *New Living Translation* that you are free to give to any of your campers who need one.
- Concentrate on one verse at a time. When you have learned them all individually, place them together.
- Don't just read the verses, write them out. To begin with just copy the verses while looking at the original. After you have written them a few times, try writing them without looking at the original. This can be a lot of work, but it is especially helpful if you struggle to memorize.
- Practice saying them to your campers (and get your campers to practice saying them to you). Don't be embarrassed if you don't learn them as quickly as they do—a little humility is good in a leader.

How to Lead a Bible Study

Prepare your heart

I can be singing for Jesus, tellin' people how it should be. But I can't bring them any farther, than I've let Him bring me.

You can hear of Scripture that convicts you, like the sharpest blade of a knife. But prayin' and repentin' means nothin' if it doesn't make a change in your life.

— Servant - Rockin' Revival

Perhaps the single most important thing you can do in preparing a Bible study is to ensure that your own heart is in the right place. As the lyrics of the song quoted above state, we can't lead others properly if we are not allowing God to lead us. Jesus said something very similar to His disciples.

“And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can't see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.”

— Matthew 7:3-5

Jesus' statement also reminds us to guard our attitude. We must be careful that we do not become judgmental or take a “holier than thou” attitude when we teach.

Learn the material

The next step is to ensure that you know the material you are going to teach. Often you will be given a Bible study so everything will be put together for you. If this is the case you still need to spend time on your own ensuring that you understand it. It is best (but not entirely necessary) if you can get to the point where you will be able to teach the study without having to look at your “teacher's copy.”

If you have to provide your own material then I suggest that you base your study on something that you have recently examined in your own

personal Bible study. Or if you are given a topic to follow, perform your own personal study on it first.

Presenting the study³

If you have been given a pre-made study then it will probably include the necessary presentation instructions. If you are making your own, then the following is a useful pattern to follow (it's not the only pattern, just one that I've found easy to use and remember). Just remember four words: hook, book, look, and took.

Hook In the first section you want to get the boys' interest. You can do this using an object lesson, a short activity, or perhaps just by asking them to close their eyes and "imagine if ..." where you give them something related to what you will be talking about.

Book This is a Bible study, so it had better include a study of the Bible. It may be a passage that you want them to read, or perhaps a "sword drill" that covers a topic, or perhaps a paraphrase of a Bible story. But it should be clear to the boys that this is the Word of God and not something coming from yourself.

Look After the initial Bible reading (or story or drill, etc.) the next step is to take a closer look at the material. For teenagers this can be a fairly in-depth discussion delving into spiritual matters that you may not even yet be ready to answer. (And, by the way, there is nothing wrong with admitting that there are things you do not know so long as you promise you will try to find out.) For children it will need to be simpler. Often asking them to fill in words, or quizzing them on why someone did something is a good way to proceed.

Took Of course this "means nothin' if it doesn't make a change in your life." You want the lesson to "take." Ask the boys how they would apply this to their lives. Get them to give examples not just of how "people" would do something but more specifically what they can do. For example, in a lesson on love you may try to get them to suggest things they could do for their mom or their little sister, etc.

³Adapted from Creative Bible Teaching by Richards.

Additional hints

Finally we will give you some more or less random hints that can help you when leading a Bible study.

Eyes You need to look the boys in the eye and get them looking back at you. This implies that you need to know your material as you can't look at them when you are reading from your papers. So get to the point where you can teach the study without having to continually read it. Often looking a boy in the eye is also a good way of getting him to stop fooling around and to pay attention.

Voice Don't talk with a monotone voice. Talk faster and louder when you are excited and calmer, lower, and slower when you want to build suspense. And the younger the boys, the more you will need to exaggerate the changes in your voice.

Hands Move them. Wave them. Make little shapes. Especially with younger boys, speaking with the hands can help keep their attention.

Time Young boys don't have a long attention span. So you need to keep things moving. With teenagers you can spend a significant time looking at something in detail, but with children you will need to move from topic to topic fairly quickly. It can help if you have a lot of little sub-topics to move between that you can bring together in the end.

Amount Especially with young boys, don't try to teach too much at once. It is better that they remember one thing than forget three things.

How to Lead Games⁴



FUN! Fun is not the only reason to play games. But it's a valid one. Games promote physical development. Games provide meaningful social interaction—particularly team games. Games can stimulate mental development through decision making. Games always have rules to follow and the need for

self control promotes emotional stability. Enthusiasm and excitement are often brought out during a good game. Games give opportunity to put into practice concepts that otherwise are only theory such as fairness, honesty, and self respect.

Game planning

1. Know the group who will be participating—age level, group number, and skill level.
2. Know the facilities and resources available. Do you need certain equipment? Have it ready to use.
3. Know the rules. Anticipate questions for varying situations.
4. Use variety—avoid repeating the same games over too soon. Have active games first, then, some that are less active.
5. Consult game books but alter the rules to fit your situation.

Game participation

1. Get the attention of the group so everyone knows you are in charge and have instructions. Tell rules clearly and concisely. Your enthusiasm will affect their attitude.
2. If teams are needed, divide equally and evenly. Not all games need teams. Try non competitive games where everyone wins.

⁴Taken from the *Leadership Trails* portion of the Christian Service Brigade achievement program.

3. Demonstrate how so they can visualize the game. Start the game as soon as enough have caught on.
4. Keep the group aware of the rules and be fair and consistent in all decisions. Some games need constant refereeing.
5. Play for a short while, then make any adjustments necessary to maximize the enjoyment and fairness.

Game priorities

1. Watch the clock. Don't allow a game to go too long. Stop when it's going well so they will want to come back for more.
2. As much as possible, make sure everyone has an equal chance to participate.
3. Stress the joy of participation, not the importance of winning.
4. Keep alert in providing proper safety for everyone involved.
5. Evaluate during and afterward to make sure the above purposes are achieved.

How to Give Your Testimony

Giving your testimony is an important part of camp work and, for that matter, of the Christian life in general. You may be formally asked to give your testimony during a campfire, or you may decide to present it on your own, or you may find your boys asking you about your life. You need to be prepared to do this on a moment's notice.

Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!

— 1 Peter 3:13-17

Consider a few things from this passage when you think of your own personal testimony.

First look at the overall context of the passage. It isn't talking about standing by a campfire in front of a friendly audience. It is talking about giving responses to those who "want to harm you." If you cannot even bear to give your testimony in front of campers and leaders, how are you going to respond in the face of real hostility?

Note the phrase "always be ready" You need to think about this before you need it—you may not have any warning. From time to time you should think back in your life to the time that you turned to God.

But what is a testimony? What sorts of things should you say?

Part of it is telling your story. How did you become a Christian? What were the circumstances? Who were the key people involved?

But your testimony isn't just a sort of Christian resume—it is something more. Consider the phrase "your Christian hope." This is perhaps the key part of your testimony. What is the hope that Jesus' has given you?

And your testimony doesn't end when you become a Christian. What are you doing in your life to improve your relationship with God? How

are you growing?

Finally, here are some hints that may help you. These are not rules that you must follow, but if you are struggling trying to figure out how to start, you may find these useful.

Keep it short We don't need your whole life's history. Start with the how, when, and why you became a Christian.

Don't preach You are giving your testimony, not a sermon.

Don't drag out the details of your sins It's fine to talk a little about your life before Christ, but your audience doesn't need the details. (There is a joke about a priest who on hearing a particularly detailed confession finally said "Son, you aren't confessing, you're bragging.")

Include recent events If there is something significant going on in your life, that is a part of your life story.

Don't be afraid of emotions Some people are more emotional than others. If you find the tears are coming, don't run away and sit down. Remember that you are surrounded by friends. Just take a deep breath, pause to collect your thoughts, and continue.

Include a favourite verse This is often a good way to finish. Keep this short too—don't read the whole of Psalm 119, just a verse or two that has really influenced you.