

CAMP THEME DAYS

50's Night

Staff and Campers dress up as they did in the 50's and then you have a 50's dance (a Sock Hop). It's fun to see the kids with slicked back hair, poodle dresses, etc. Also, have activities that were originated in the 50's (allegedly...) , such as Bubble Gum Bubble Blowing Contest, Hoola Hoop Contest, Twist (by Chubby Checker) Contest, Root Beer Floats, etc. We also did a Drive-in Movie Night, and had campers make "cars" out of boxes and set up a projector and big screen outside on an overnight.

Ancient empire day

Campers and staffers dress up as Greeks (togas and beards), Romans (tunics, scepters/swords and olive-branch crowns) or Egyptians (ankh necklaces, cloth wrapped around your waist like a skirt, poster board crowns). Stage a three way game like ambush between the empires Also, carry the camp director on a folding chair lashed to 2 long, thick dowels and declare him your king.

Backwards Day

Everything about this day is backwards! Wear your clothes backward walk backwards, play games backwards (i.e., run to 3rd base first in Kick Ball), etc Reverse the periods of the day. Eat dessert before lunch, do morning flagpole or assembly at the end of the day.

Birthday Party Day

PASS THE PARCEL

What you need: One package of presents per group, one CD player with CD, a black bag to collect all the paper.

Have each group sit in a circle. When the music starts the package passes from one person to another until the music stops. When the music stops the person who is holding the package gets to unwrap one layer. This continues until there are no more layers and the prizes are exposed. See that each camper gets one prize each.

BIRTHDAY CAKES

What you need: 1 plate per camper, 1 plastic knife per camper, 1 wafer cupcake per camper, 1 blob of frosting per camper, candy and sprinkles to decorate.

Give each camper the above ingredients to decorate their own birthday cake – candy prizes can be given for creative decorating! Eat and enjoy! If you finish early, have the campers take turns in telling stories about their favorite birthdays.

CHOCOLATE GAME

What you need: 1 bar of chocolate per group, 1 dice per group, 1 knife and fork per group, dressing up clothes.

This can be done in 1 big group or in individual groups (depending on the size of the groups). Put the chocolate bar, dressing up clothes, knife and fork in the middle. Campers sit in a circle and each camper has a turn in rolling the dice, if they get a 6 they get to go to the middle, put on the dressing up clothes and have a turn at eating the chocolate. They may eat as much chocolate as they can,

using the knife and fork only! When someone else gets a 6 then their turn is up and the new camper gets a turn. The game continues until all the chocolate is gone

Camp Olympics

Have different cabins dress up and represent different countries around the world. Judge a "best country" by the cabin that is the most creative with the limited resources of camp. Have an opening ceremony through camp with a torch. Once this is complete, break the countries up to compete in different Olympic "camp style" events such as the toilet seat discus, canoe relay races, etc. Give gold, silver and bronze medals at the closing ceremonies.

Campers Choice Awards

A comedy Award show...Some of the many awards you can award the campers with include: Funniest Camper, Best Smile, Loudest Camper, Next Prime Minister, Future Camp Counselor, Loudest Burper, and much more. Counselors dress to the nines as celebrity look-alikes, and if that celebrity happens to be a singer, lip-synch their latest tune! The kids always love this theme day; the decorations always turn out awesome, there's a "juice bar" and snacks are served on the tables.

Halloween Theme Day

Everyone dressed up in costumes, counselors and kids. We ran activities such as face painting, apple bobbing, dress up your counselor as a mummy etc.. After each activity the kids got to "trick or treat". The counselors decided what "tricks" the kids would do, such as "sing twinkle twinkle little in opera". Then they would get to add a little candy to their trick or treat bags. We ended the day off with a best dressed competition. It was really fun and everyone had a good time.

Hawaiian Theme Day

Everyone Dresses in Hawaiian Costumes: grass skirts, Hawaiian Leis and coconut bikini tops. Have a Hawaiian Luau (dance on the beach) decorated with palm trees and tiki torches. During the Luau, have a limbo contest (every good Luau needs a limbo contest) and a hula hoop contest. Have a race in which teams make straight lines, one behind the other. The first person on each team is handed a pineapple. When the leader yells, "Go!" the first person must pass the pineapple between their legs to the person behind them. That person then takes the pineapple and passes it above their heads to the person behind them. Continue in this fashion until the last person in the line has received the pineapple. The first team to complete this task wins!

Hippy Day

All campers and staff dress up like hippies (Lennon glasses, beards, sandals, tie-dye, etc.) for an activity, campers are invited to play a peace-loving game of ultimate Frisbee. If you have a boom box, you can play Woodstock-era music (e.g. Hendrix, Alro Guthrie, Joplin)

Impersonation Day

On this day everyone dresses up as a counselor or famous person. This is a great theme to have later in the summer during an opening ceremony. When the counselors get up to introduce themselves people will be guessing by their dress, hair style, and body language who they are imitating. This theme receives the most laughs when the counselors do skits as the person they are imitating.

Oopy Goopy Day

No need to shower this morning, you will be getting messy... Wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty. Slimy slip and slide, gross sandwich contest, huge food fight, and homemade oopy goop. Have the kids bring in anything they can think of, just no glass containers! Ketchup, anchovies, salad dressing, whip cream, syrup, and anything else. Use these for the slimy slip and slide as well as the food fight. Gross sandwich contest is pretty self explanatory, have kids bring in the most disgusting sandwiches they can think of and the winner is the grossest sandwich. Food fight rules are important, make sure to have a specific area for the food fight and strict rules about what happens if you bring food outside the area, otherwise all "heck" breaks loose. Finally homemade oopy goop, or ooblec is a mix of water, lots of corn starch, and food coloring. This will make a consistency similar to silly putty. It's best if you make it in small individual zip lock bags.

Pajama Day

Campers and Counselors wear their pajamas throughout the day. At my camp we usually have theme meals, in addition to theme days, and the theme meal for this day is always Pajama Breakfast. During breakfast, there is competition for best bed head, cutest stuffed animal, and best pajamas. A counselor or program director picks 3-5 campers to go up in each category. The counselor says the name of the camper, asks questions, and says something amusing about each camper in a particular category. The counselor then asks the campers to scream for their favorite contestant when they point to that person. The contestant with the loudest response wins.

Pirate Day

All staff members dress up like pirates of different status (captain, first mate etc.). Have a treasure hunt with a treasure chest and gold-- the pirates "booty" (painted gold rocks). For more intensity have 2 leaders secretly "capture" 2 campers and have them tied up with the "booty." You can also play games like Captain Hook's Ship Wreck and Protect your Island in the Caribbean. "ARRRGGG IT BE PIRATE _____(day of week)!"

Pirate Theme II

We used this theme as a week of camp theme, but it could be made into a single day also. We had activities such as having teams build pirate ships then we had a "ship fight" to see which ship would hold up. We also had a Treasure hunt, were teams went around and used clues leading them to different areas of camp.

The winning team got a small prize. We also told a pirate story and had one of the counselors dress up as a pirate and visit.

Un-birthday Day

Imagine only 1 birthday each year, but there are 364 un-birthdays. Happy Un-birthday! Classic party games featuring pin the tail on the donkey, 3-legged race, egg races, balloon races, and more.

Prince and Princess Day

S'MORES

What you need:

- 1 marshmallow per camper.
- 2 Graham crackers/Marie Biscuits per camper.
- 2 pieces of chocolate per camper.
- 1 stick per camper (these can be reused, so make sure they are not thrown into the fire or broken).
- Black bag to put rubbish into.
- Bucket of water (just in case).
- Wood / charcoal, Fire starters, Matches
- Bricks / chalk line or some kind of boundary around the fire.

Make sure that the fire is up and going before any of the groups get there. Have the groups sit down and explain the rules of the fire to them:

- No running around the fire.
- No stepping inside the boundary.
- No waving sticks around.
- Tell your counselor if your marshmallow catches fire – do not wave it around.

Make sure that they all understand the dangers of the fire.

Give each camper a marshmallow to put on a stick & roast. Once their marshmallow is done then can bring it over to the leader who will give them 2 Graham crackers / Marie Biscuits & 2 pieces of chocolate to make into a s'more. There are enough supplies for 1 s'more per camper!

TREASURE HUNT

What you need: Gold painted rocks, Prizes for each camper

Campers will search for King's 'gold'. Let your group find as many gold pieces as they can. This 'gold' can then be taken to the activity leader and exchanged for prizes. Be sure that the campers know that they may not cross any roads; the gold will only be found on camp property. Younger campers should be given a smaller area to look in. Each camper gets only 1 prize, it does not matter how much gold they find.

ROYAL CROWNS

What you need: Cardboard, Scissors, Staplers, Glue, Decorations

Campers will get to make their own crowns and decorate them with the jewels of their choice.

DRESS UP

What you need: Dress up clothes, Chairs and sheets to make tents, Make up (all girls groups only)

Kids love to dress up and pretend. There are plenty of dress-up clothes, including lots of Royal garments. Allow campers to create their own place with the chairs and sheets. The older girls can have counselors and CIT's assist them with make up too.

ROYAL CARD GAMES

What you need: Playing cards

Boys love to play cards. Teach campers a game like Slap Jack – the cards are shared out among players. Players hold their cards without looking at them. At the same time each player places a card face up, starting their own pile. If anyone places a Jack down any player can claim the pile by slapping their hand on the cards (they can do this to any pile), that player gets all the cards in that pile. If a player slaps their hand down and the card is NOT a Jack, they must give each of the other players 1 of their cards. The player who ends up with all the cards win.

CINDERALLA'S SLIPPER

What you need: Cardboard box pieces, Scissors, Glue, Staplers, Glitter pens, Colored thin cardboard, Egg boxes

Read or tell the girls the story of Cinderella. Then have each camper make their own 'glass' slipper. Each camper will be given a piece of a cardboard box. They must trace around their own shoe and cut the shape out. They will then each get a few strips of thinner cardboard to make the straps of the slipper across the front of the shoe. This can be done anyway they like. Campers can then decorate the slipper with glitter pens, markers, crayons, etc. They can also place their initials on the slipper in fancy writing. A heel is made using a piece of an egg box.

ROYAL GOBLETS

What you need: Plastic goblets, Glass paint, Paint Brushes, Newspaper / trash bags to cover the table

Each camper is given a plastic goblet to decorate with glass paint. When the paint is dry the goblet will be fit for use and should be able to survive cleaning. Campers can decorate with their name or any design they wish.

Rockstar!

Let the campers know before camp what the theme day will be so they can bring a costume if they want. Rock star! was great because there are so many camp games that can be themed. We did Predator prey or survival with rock stars as the top carnivore, roadies as the omnivores, and fans as the herbivores. We also did a themed human clue game, had a "Camp Kaitoke idol" competition, and other themed activities including a 'tattoo parlor' with fake tattoos, a guitar hero competition (an air guitar comp would also have been awesome), newspaper reporters for our camp paper interviewing and taking photos, and costume creation for those without a costume.

Sticky Brownie Day

The key, though, is to keep the actual activity a secret until you start it.

The campers all bring in two brownies. They can buy them, make them, etc. The key is that they DO NOT KNOW what the brownies are for. Your staff can bring brownies too, but probably not necessary. Let the anticipation of the "activity" build throughout the day leaving the kids and possibly even the staff to wonder what they are doing with those "sticky" brownies. The activity is that the kids smash one of their brownies on their forehead. They then see how many times

they can jump up and down before the brownie falls off. The winner is the one that takes the most jumps before their brownie falls off. This is hilarious, and a great photo opportunity! Oh, and the other brownie is for them to eat. Usually you will get lucky and some of the kids will bring in a whole pan of brownies so counselors will get one! This is better done outdoors in the grass

Superhero Day

Campers dress up as an existing or made-up superhero. They dress up their counselors as an invented (usually very amusing) superhero and present their powers and origins as a skit. Play an action game, like Mission Impossible.

Tacky Day

We've had a lot of fun with Tacky Day. Campers and Counselors dress up in the most tacky clothes they can find. Since we're a day camp, the campers and staff have a chance to go home and find clothes. Mix plaid with stripes and polka dots. **The whole camp can vote on:** The Best Dressed, The Worst Dressed, The Funniest, The Most Creative, and the Grand Prize of Tackiest

Twin-kle Day

On this day students dress up as "twin's with a friend. We have used this as a dress up day during winter. You could also incorporate this with pajama day. Camp Staff & students have fun with their twin and all day they can participate in "twin" activities.

Wet & Wild Day

FASHION SHOW

What you need: 1 bucket per team full of water, Lots of newspaper, A few black bags to collect all the wet paper when the groups are done, A willing counselor Using only wet newspaper, have your own crazy fashion show by dressing up your counselor and or CIT! Be sure to make sure that all the newspaper is cleaned up before the next group arrives.

BALLOON SQUAT

What you need: 1 bucket per team with at least 30 water balloons in each, Chalk or other markers to mark the start and finish line, A black bag to collect all the balloon pieces when the groups are done.

This relay race needs at least 2 teams with equal players (or the other team has 1 person go twice). The start and finish lines should be about 20 feet apart. Place the bucket of balloons at the start line in front of each team. When you say 'go' the first person grabs a balloon and runs to the finish line. When they reach the finish line then must sit on their balloon and pop it. The player then runs back to the start line and gives the next person in line a high five, and then they go and so on until the whole team is done. Make sure that the group picks up all the balloon pieces before moving on.

RAINDROP RELAY

What you need: 2 buckets per team; one filled with water, 1 plastic baggie per team.

Put a bunch of pin holes in the plastic baggie. The groups line up sitting down,

one in front of the other, so that they are facing the back of the person in front of them. The bucket that is full of water goes behind the last person; the empty bucket goes in front of the first person. When the race starts, the first person takes the baggie to the back bucket, fills it with water and then tried to get the water to the front bucket, but it has to be carried over the head of his / her team. He/she dumps the water that is left into the front bucket. The line shifts up and the first person sits in the back. The winner is whatever group has the most water in their bucket after the pre-determined about of time. Make sure that groups are not cheating by covering the holes – it might be best to say that they are only allowed to use one hand when passing the baggie!

WET T-SHIRT RELAY

What you need: 1 bucket per team filled with water, 1 XXL camp t-shirt per team.

The first person dunks the t-shirt into the bucket of water, puts it on, then runs across the field and back, takes it off and gives it to the next person in line. The next person does the same thing until the whole group is done. If the teams are uneven one person in the team may have to go twice.

DIRT WORMS

What you need: 1 disposable cup per camper, 1 spoon full of chocolate pudding per camper, 2 chocolate cookies per camper, 1 plastic baggie per camper, 1 edible worm(gummy worm) per camper, 1 spoon per camper.

Each camper is given the above ingredients. Have the campers crush up the chocolate cookies in the plastic baggie, this should be done gently so as not to break the bag! Mix in the chocolate cookie with the chocolate pudding. Add the worm so that it looks like his head is poking out of the ground. Eat and enjoy!