

The Salvation Army Camp Orientation & Training Manual FOR CAMP STAFF



DOING THE MOST GOOD™

The Southern Territorial Youth Department, USA
2011

Territorial Commander

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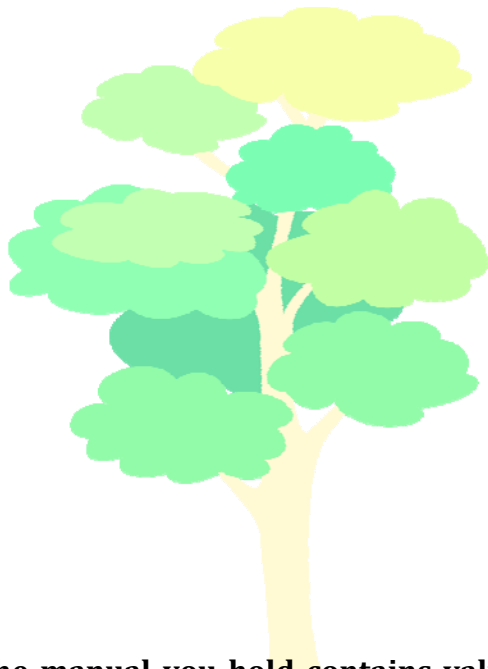
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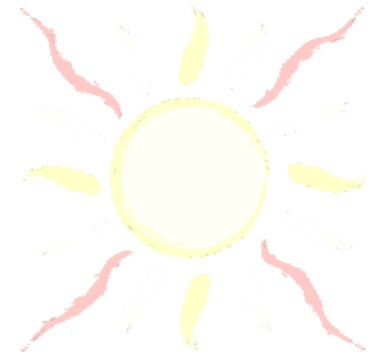
Your manual will contain additional material specific to your camp and locale.

No portion of the manual contained between the first and last sections of this Table of Contents may be modified or omitted and must be covered during the camp's orientation/training prior to the first day of camp per ACA Standards.





Introduction



The manual you hold contains valuable information and instructions designed to help you to become orientated to the joy and challenge of working with young people as well as being a member of the camp staff.

When you have completed staff orientation you may refer back to this manual at any point should you have questions or if you need further help in a certain area. There are several resources available herein that may be helpful to you throughout the summer. Also, please take advantage of the note taking spaces for your own personal notes about that section. These can be extremely valuable to reference.

Your Camp Director, instructors, and lead counselors are available to you should you have any questions, but in many instances you may find the answer already stated in this manual so feel free to check back as often as needed.



WHAT EVERY STAFF MEMBER OUGHT TO KNOW

In the early days, camping was considered to be a vital part of a child's growth and development. It is The Salvation Army's hope that all our campers and staff will become capable of good judgments, firm beliefs, warm friendship and healthy contributors within their communities.

Camp usually takes place in a natural setting that lends itself to outdoor community living and activities. Each camp provides facilities and equipment for living and playing according to excepted Salvation Army standards, policies and philosophy under the guidance and leadership of the Divisional Youth Secretary and the Camp Director (where applicable). The term "program" as used herein includes anything and everything that campers, or campers and staff do that influence campers and the camp experience. Within this framework the staff supervises, instructs, influences and guides campers.

At all Salvation Army camps the camper is the center of attention. Whatever affects them is important to all of us. The experiences a child has at camp will be remembered his or her entire life. It is your job to ensure that the memories they carry with them are positive and life changing.

If you do not already know, you will soon learn that young people are impressionable, flexible, easily led, stubborn, understanding, occasionally cruel, full of enthusiasm, at times frightened and insecure, eager for acceptance, skeptical, adventurous, fun, shy and everything in between and beyond. Their behavior is not always consistent and so you must be prepared to accept and constructively manage their behavior and actions.

The greatest influence occurs in person-to-person contact. Anything that happens at camp can provide you with opportunities for a teachable moment. You can make your greatest contribution in the growth and development of campers through your understanding and personal example using the gifts and skills God has provided you.

It is natural for you to like one camper better than another as long as you treat all campers fairly. Most important is to be *your best self*. Your greatest reward will be the satisfactions of seeing the young people you come in contact with grow in healthy attitudes, skills and maturity.

Some of the material that follows may seem a bit overwhelming. You may not absorb all of it right away. Your Camp Director (DYS) believes you are capable or you would not have been selected for the job. They will not think that you are inadequate if you bring your questions and problems to them.

To have the best experience, camp, must not only be fun for the campers but also for the staff! If you enjoy your work and are comfortable among your peers, the children with whom you come in contact with cannot help but be positively affected. Together you can make the camp experience amazing!

The prayers of the Territorial Youth Department are with you.

