

Adult Behavior Guidelines

Advisor Responsibilities

During the workcamp, the advisor should...

- Help provide adequate adult supervision of all youth participants, so that a safe environment is maintained. Work, rest, worship, and play alongside the youth.
- Encourage all youth in their participation in the workcamp in every way—work, play, prayer, struggle, relationship, faith, etc.
- Support the workcamp leaders (coordinator and director) in general and with specific tasks when asked, such as supervising a work crew, leading a meal prep group, or helping a group plan and lead devotions.
- Help build community by encouraging the youth from different congregations to get to know one another. If you brought a large group of youth with you from one congregation, this is especially important.
- When it is time for sharing and group discussion, invite the youth to speak. The focus of the workcamp is on the youth and their experience.
- Be flexible! Youth will better adapt to changing plans if advisors are able to cheerfully “go with the flow!”
- Be supportive of workcamp leadership and display a positive attitude.

Helpful Advisors are...

Flexible

Much advance planning will be done for your workcamp but circumstances always arise that require revision of plans. Youth will better adapt to changing plans if the adults are able to cheerfully “go with the flow” and make the best of the new circumstances. Remember that a change in plans often comes with unforeseen gifts as well as challenges!

Supportive

You can help the workcamp and your youth by being supportive of the workcamp leaders. Work with the leaders to make the workcamp a positive experience. Give them the benefit of the doubt on decisions, plans, and rules, and encourage your youth to do the same. If you have a concern, please approach your workcamp leader about it privately, in a kind, supportive manner.

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Technology Policy for Adults

All adults, including workcamp leaders and advisors, should refrain from making personal calls and texts or sending personal e-mail during the workcamp week. You are at the workcamp to be fully present and attentive to the youth. The same policy applies to the use of social networking sites, such as Facebook. You may make personal calls/texts or send messages at night, after the workcamp participants are in bed, BUT please keep this to a minimum. Leaders and advisors need their sleep in order to function at their best for the good of the workcamp.

Leadership Self-Care

- Take time out for yourself. Try to grab 15 minutes during the day to relax. (Maybe this is playing Frisbee. Maybe it's being alone and quiet. Maybe it's going for a walk or talking to a friend. Do what refreshes you.)
- Tend to your own spiritual life. Use the devotional book daily. Pray. Journal.
- Participate fully in daily advisor meetings. These meetings are to talk about plans and expectations, and to discuss what is happening at workcamp and how the workcamp is going. (If your leader is not having a daily advisor meeting, please request one.)
- Find support among other adult leaders at the workcamp. Trust them to help you.
- At work projects, make sure all the youth have a job and then fill in.
- Sleep at least six hours a night.
- Eat well. Drink plenty of water.
- Be patient with yourself and others.
- Laugh a lot and have fun whenever possible.
- Breathe. Count to ten.
- Don't take it personally if youth are discontented. Sometimes they just need to be that way.
- If something goes wrong, make amends, forgive, let go, move on...
- Communication is KEY with other advisors and the youth.