

TCODS - Tillamook County Outdoor School

Senior Counselors

Job Description

1. A Senior Counselor (SC) does not have his or her own cabin group of campers. Instead, s/he works with a STAR staff member to encourage and assist all campers and counselors in one living area.
2. The SC sleeps in the living area. If possible s/he will have his or her own cabin. However, depending on the number of students and counselors in an area, a SC may sleep in a cabin with a counselor and campers.
3. The SC is a resource for the counselors to come to for ideas, support, a listening ear, encouragement etc. The SC is NOT expected to know all of the answers to every question, but s/he must be able to find out the correct answers and meet needs of counselors and campers by working with the YO! Staff and other staff. The SC is a cheerleader for others always encouraging campers, counselors, and other staff.
4. In the morning stay in the living area until the last person is out of the area.
5. The SC has daily job assignments beyond the living area that may include handing out counselor drink packets in the morning and working with all SCs to operate the camp dishwasher washing breakfast dishes (For many SCs this has been one of the most fun things to do in camp because of the camaraderie and creative fun!).
6. Each SC has a Camp Grandparent or other staff member that s/he checks in with to see if the person has any needs.
7. During cabin time, the SC is to be in his or her area. The idea is to help counselors get their cabins to the showers on time and help counselors with ideas to help maintain a constructive and cooperative cabin time.
8. If there is an emergency needing immediate attention, the SC radios for help on a camp provided radio or goes to the nearest adult for help. Examples of emergencies might include a camper who is sick during the night, someone who has fallen at a field study needing medical attention etc. The SC tries to help keep everything running smoothly with the least amount of commotion.
9. At campfire, the SC joins in skits, participating in leading songs and doing run-ons and claps. Counselors are encouraged to lead the songs, but staff and SCs fill in when needed.
10. Following campfire, the SC goes to his or her area with the last cabin group and counselor from his/her area. S/he helps settle everyone down as quickly as possible. This might include reading a book to a group of campers, doling out a few needed hugs, monitoring the OWARILs, and then building a fire for the counselors to sit around after they have spent a quality 30 minutes in their cabins with the campers who are now sleeping or near sleep.
11. It is most important that the SC is a role model! The SC leads by example. It is not an SCs responsibility to discipline campers or counselors!