

# Byron Bible Camp General Counselor Guidelines



Our purpose at Byron Bible Camp is to be a Christ centered camp and retreat center where people encounter Jesus Christ. We want everything we do and say here to reflect that purpose. We want to Glorify God in all things.

## **Things we want you to do:**

Help keep activities safe.

Honor God in what you say and do.

Make sure each person is shown love and respect. Include everyone in what you do. If you see someone being excluded please stop it.

Be compassionate. We don't know the stories of many of these campers and what their lives are like. If a camper seems to be particularly hard to handle show them extra love and attention when you can. Encourage them when they are doing the right thing.

Help bring kids to the next event on time. Usually, we will ring the bell and everyone will meet upstairs in the Retreat Center when there is a new activity, a mealtime or when chapel is starting.

Shut the lights off as early as possible and keep your rooms quiet so you do not keep others awake. It should be quiet after 10:30 pm for younger kids and 11:30 pm for teens. It is not an option for kids to stay up later or try to stay up all night. Do not let them go to the bathroom to hang out and talk. They are not to be allowed to head to the dining room late at night for a drink by themselves. This has caused some real problems. Create an atmosphere where everyone can go to sleep. Report any problem kids to staff.

Go to bed when the kids go to bed. You are here to supervise the kids as they settle down to go to sleep.

Encourage discussion on spiritual things.

Help everyone have maximum fun.

Be an example for others to follow.

Because this is to be a spiritual retreat where we seek and listen to God we feel it is best to remove some things from our lives. We ask you to please take away cell phones, Ipods, video games, music and other similar devices from campers.

We ask you to leave your phone at the counselor charging station in the back room and only use it there while you are counseling and not in front of campers.

Dress modestly.

Take time to pray with campers when they come to you and share a problem or issue with you.

If you have problems with a camper confront them or talk to them. Feel free to bring the issue to the director or staff for help.

You will probably be asked to lead or co-lead a small discussion group after chapel times. We will try to give you some discussion questions based on that chapel session. When you are done you can pray as a group. Do not let your group go early and cause other groups to be interrupted.

For grades 3-6<sup>th</sup> we have counselors help campers during devotional time each morning. Help them find the passage, read it and let them answer the questions.

Encourage campers to participate in activities. Our rule at camp is that you do not have to participate in the activity but you do have to stay with the group.

**Here are some things we do NOT want you to do:**

Do not tease or allow a person to be made fun of.

Do not embarrass campers

Do not allow pop drinking after 7:00 pm. It causes people to stay up later and sometimes it causes hyperactivity.

Do not have drinking or food eating contests.

Do not transport campers in your personal vehicle.

Guys please do not wear ear-rings or other piercings. Girls, please only wear ear piercings. If you have other piercings you can put in a clear plug.

Do not use a cell phone, computer or other devices around campers or in your sleeping quarters.

Do not hit or spank a camper.

Pranks are not allowed. This has caused tears, anger, revenge, damage to camp property and additional work for camp staff. Do not encourage, allow or participate in pranks to others or other rooms. We have had so many "thought to be funny" pranks end in disaster with property damaged, a costly mess created and people hurt.

Do not let kids stay up later than mentioned above or allow them to try to stay up all night. Do not allow your group to stay up late and bother others.

Do not try to have your own little party somewhere at camp. It causes jealousy and people to feel left out when they are not included.

Do not let games like "truth or dare" take place where kids ask others to do rude and demeaning things.

Do not date a camper.

If you are here when the person you have been dating is here we ask you to not show public displays of affection. It distracts from our purpose here.

**Extra things to do:**

When kids are first arriving learn their names and help them find their rooms and carry their luggage.

Spend time with a kid. Do what they want to do. Make them feel special.

Cheer for your campers during games and participate in the game when you can.

During chapel try to sit in-between campers to help make sure they are quiet and not distracting others during the session.

Try to have at least one counselor at each table for meal times.

# Byron Bible Camp Counselor Code of Conduct



I will honor God in what I say and do

I will be an example of Christ

I will stay with my campers at night

I will not contact a child after camp unless I have permission by the camper's parents

I will not put myself inside a room with the doors closed with a camper

I understand that I am a reporter of abuse. If I discover abuse I must report it to authorities.

If I see something unsafe I will stop it, remove it or make it safer

I will include all kids in activities

I will dress modestly

I will not make fun of a kid or allow someone to make fun of them. I will not call others weird names.

I will not use my phone during camp or let a camper use my phone. If I need to use my phone I will go to the area behind the kitchen and use it there.

I am willing to take a camper's phone away from them

I will not allow pranks, prank or encourage pranks

I will not date a camper

I will not show romantic affection to anyone while as a counselor

With God's help I will use discussion times to get campers thinking about their relationship with Christ.

I will respect the other counselors, camp staff and the speaker. I will speak well of them as well as back up their decisions and be on their team

I will use equipment or games as they are intended to be used.

I will put camper's fun before my fun.

I will make every effort to shut of the lights off when told it is lights off time

Signing below indicates you have read the code of conduct and are willing to abide by it.

\_\_\_\_\_ (sign your name)