

MINUTES OF TREE OF LIFE BIBLE CAMP BOARD /POST CAMP MEETING
(2 August 2009)

OPENING: The meeting was opened at 3:15 PM with a prayer by Pastor Mueller.

ROLL: Five board members attended: Steve Pechin, Tim Mann, Greg Pluckhan, Noel Ledermann and Pastor Kant. Also in attendance were Pastors Mueller, Marquardt, and Kehren; and others, Julie Mueller, Larry and Marcie Arnold, Morgan Ledermann, Christy, Zak Ridley, Mike and Penny Bitcon, Brian and Lisa Bitcon, Kathy Lee, and Julia.

MINUTES: The minutes for 28 June 2009 were not read as the secretary was absent.

FINANCIAL: Not available.

COMMENTS (The following comments have been gleaned from the camp director's report and detailed notes taken by Lisa Bitcon.)

Number of campers – 90

Number of staff – 23

Problems – No major problems, many minor problems

Overnighter – Several copies of the directions to the overnighter location need to be on hand with the camp director and Tim. Cell phone numbers of staff going along should also be left there.

We need to update what electronic devices are allowed, especially cell phones.

Are cell phones OK for taking pictures? What about those with games or music on them?

Calling parents? Action item for next meeting.

Dress code needs to be revisited.

Single homesick issue was resolved well.

Before camp offer TOL water bottles? Could be a fundraiser.

Campers need to learn how to shut off the water supply to the toilets.

Playground needs to be checked for safety before use.

Move Seniors' softball game to earlier in the week to encourage/benefit from senior leadership?

Move softball game to earlier in the week to promote more group interaction?

COMMENTS FROM INDIVIDUALS

Tim Mann – Good time. Theme song well liked.

Greg Pluckhan – Needed to confiscate ipods otherwise no problems. Low stress.

Noel Ledermann – No big issues. Boys well behaved.

Kathy Lee – Great time.

Julie Mueller – Dress code needs to be stressed before camp so campers can bring appropriate clothing.

Janiece James – Extra help on Crafts/Little Lambs was great. Was able to concentrate more on handicrafts.

Pastor Kehren – Instruction went well. Good cooperation. Meeting in the cafeteria area works well. How did Quiet-Time material work out?

Pastor Mueller – Quiet time was better.

Pastor Marquardt – Campers paid attention, participated in the discussions, and behaved well.

Brian Bitcon – Camp was fun. Instructors had better rating than Laura ball.

Mike Bitcon – Worked on schedules. Senior instructors help make ?????? All Camp on Tuesday is too long. Monday not finished. Crown of Champions. Helmet of Doom. Counselors did a good job of getting campers to activities on time.

Larry Arnold – Quiet-Time difficulty probably because he didn't have a co-counselor.

Zak Ridley – Great time. Would like to be better prepared for Quiet Time. Bedtime? Lost camper. Don't leave camper alone even to meditate.

Cyndi Riechart – Fun and would do it again.

Morgan Ledermann – Surprised quiet-time ranked low. Reviewed questions with campers. Maybe make questions more personal. Didn't know evening activities were counselors responsibility. (Morgan missed the orientation meeting.)

Steve Pechin – Quiet time as discussed at orientation. When kids drive the discussion, counselor needs to be prepared to use scripture to address questions. This is difficult and is why Guidelines are given. Using "Bible Yellow Pages" could help for discussions. All camp activities need simpler instructions so counselors won't use so much time understanding the activity.

Pastor Kant – Quiet-Time topics , questions, were to lead into more in depth discussions.

Pastor Mueller – Could sportsmanship be a topic? Viewed poor sportsmanship. Could Senior topics include appropriate behavior between young men and women?

Unknown – Can discussion regarding sex begin at Junior and Intermediate levels as well as Senior? Can Senior group be divided by age instead of grade?

Steve Pechin – Requests for group changes are considered and exceptions are made. Needs further discussion. Jean Cross could lead discussion regarding sex. Did intermediate campers like ice breakers? Lights out time? (10:30 good) Activities leader is a hard job. Campers were not paying attention to announcements as well as not showing respect for the speaker. Campers need to be gently reminded to pay attention and show respect to the person speaking. Dress code and the reason for modest dress needs to be addressed. What message are they giving? Need to remember to be Christ pleasing. Camp should not be the time/place to act one way and then another the other 51 weeks of the year. Too much law and children build a wall and don't listen. Balance of law and gospel is needed. Be careful with rules. The whole reason of camp needs to be expressed; loving Christian atmosphere. Campers should be able to talk about their concerns. Too much Law inhibits openness and discussion. Can Sunday night be Get Reacquainted Night? Laura Ball rated low with Seniors. New activities needed for campers that return year after year. Overnighter was highly rated and so was Gold Rush.

MORE MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS:

1. Seniors have very little free time and not enough freedom.
2. Seniors were lacking a leader among themselves.
3. Many commented that rules were too strict.
4. Witnessed a lot of disrespectfulness.
5. Set guidelines at beginning of the week.
6. Give young adults time to address their struggles.
7. Group had no direction (no leader). Counselors had to step in to give direction.
8. Seniors upset about overnighter.
9. Do parents know that their camper is riding in a car driven by another camper.

10. Laura Ball enjoyed by Juniors and Intermediates.
11. Drop archery for Intermediates? (Counselors can fill-in an activity with another as long as it's supervised and doesn't interfere with another group).
12. Question on survey regarding returning to camp is always answered with "yes" or "maybe".
13. Juniors didn't rate anything "poor."
14. No overall complaint.

CLOSING: The meeting closed at 4:45 or 5:00 PM.

2009/2010 MEETING SCHEDULE

First Meeting 2009/2010 8 November 2009/2010

NEXT MEETING:

First Meeting 2009/2010 8 November 2009 in Livermore at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted _____ A. J. Bitcon
Secretary