

ROLE OF TEEN LEADERS AT 4-H CAMP

Note: These best practices were written with Rock Eagle in mind, but offer good suggestions for working with teen leaders at camp at all 4-H Centers.

You are responsible to your County Agent regarding your role as an assistant in helping to conduct this week's activities. The role of a Teen Leader is that of a friend, guide, helper and leader to the 4-H'ers.

Go with the campers to the orientation meeting on Monday afternoon. This meeting is very important because the week's program is explained and usually afterwards there is a tour of the camp to familiarize you with the grounds and buildings.

Help to keep the campers orderly. In order to keep confusion down to a minimum, it is necessary for the Teen Leaders to always be around when an activity is going on. Whether it be walking to a scheduled meeting or just keeping order during milk cottage time.

- If you see a camper that is lost, help him find his way around the camp.
- Attend the meeting for agents and leaders after supper each night. Ask any questions about the week at camp.
- Attend classes and activities which you have been assigned.
- Locate missing campers from classes. (This is used for safety purposes.)
- Assist counselors with classes, if asked.
- To have a successful camp there needs to be a good responsible working relationship between agents, adult leaders, camp counselors and yourself.
- When you have a chance to participate with sports or other activities, take part.
- Spend time with your campers every day after lunch. These meetings will be on a day-to-day rotation basis between agents and teen leaders.
- During recreation (at night especially) encourage the campers to participate and take part yourself. The campers will be much more likely to participate if they see you taking part.
- During night recreation help keep the campers inside the pavilion. (This will cut down on accidents.)
- Teen leaders are responsible for getting the campers to their cabins and ready for bed before the counselors bring milk.
- Be sure that lights are turned out on time and that campers are quiet.
- If a camper starts a pinecone fight or any other unnecessary scuffle, stop it. ABIDE BY THE RULES. If campers see you doing this, he/she will obey them also.
- Remember YOU are setting an example for other children. During the camp meetings and activities, spread out among the campers.
- Clean-up is a large part of the activities of the work at camp. Be sure that your campers know where their area is. Walk the area with them. Encourage clean-up during the day. Leave the center as it was when you arrived. Assist adult leaders in organizing daily cottage cleanup.