

AVIATION



Counselors GUIDE

Mark 10:14 – “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

Prime Goals

In the serious reflection of past years, the following represent the major reasons for the very existence of Aviation Boot Camp.

Every activity should be measured by how well it helps fulfill these purposes:

- I. TO HONOR GOD
- II. TO FIND REAL JOY IN DEVELOPING CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
- III. TO COME TO MATURE, LIVING FAITH
- IV. TO DEVELOP SELF

Counselor and Teacher Together

We are partners..... you and I; partners with the Lord in a great and rewarding task. We are not here, necessarily, because we love aviation. We are here because we love young people. We are here because we love God, and we want our young people to know and love God and His Son Jesus. We have determined in our heart to help these young people to grow spiritually, physically, socially, and mentally--not as a group of young people, but as each individual person growing and maturing at his/her rate and need. You are a family for the duration of this camp session, and you will work together, eat together, play together, pray together, laugh together, cry together, feel anger together, feel joy together, feel love together, and learn together. You as counselor and teacher will be the guiding influence.

The key is you--not you, the counselor, or you, the teacher—but YOU—PARTNERS, one in purpose. And the power and energy to move that key is Jesus Christ. When what we do and what we say comes from and a love and knowledge of Jesus Christ, He can do through us what we alone cannot do. Work together as a team. Discuss ways that will work out best for both of you. Make plans together, and keep your communications open. If a plan isn't working, talk about it and don't be afraid to make a change.

Although you are designated "counselor" or "teacher," you will find that your roles intertwine. The teacher may find that he/she is counseling, and the counselor may find he/she is teaching in an informal situation. Your insight and experience with each of your campers can help the other to accomplish the growth desired. NEVER FEEL LIKE YOU ARE ALONE IN THIS.

Reach out for help when you need it. We can all help each other. We are one big community here, but you are a family within your group.

Things may not be organized in your group exactly as in the group next to you (except, of course, for the general rules). So encourage your group to ask you if they have a question. Encourage them to ask questions so little rumors won't get started and cause upsets. If you don't know the answer, say so and then check with the Directors. Keep confidences with your group. Be happy--don't complain—and encourage your group not to complain. If you see a youth in your group not involved or included make a special effort to include him/her, perhaps by asking another member to help you. Get to know each member as an individual, and spend some time alone with each one. Encourage them to try something new -- meet new people.

Listed below are some things that a counselor is not, and things that a counselor should be.

These may help you in how you present yourself to your campers.

A COUNSELOR IS NOT...

- A baby-sitter
- A buck sergeant
- Just one step above a camper
- Just to survive
- A judge

A COUNSELOR IS...

- A facilitator of all boot camp aims
- A representative of the session director in achieving the objectives of the session
- A representative of the board of directors in providing a spiritually upbuilding session
- A model
- A sharer of confidences
- A giver of support
- A listener

Remember that boot camp is a deliberate artificial environment designed to facilitate a change (growth).

Our priority is souls which we have an opportunity to influence for eternity. Plan to have maximum impact. Let them know what a special place camp is and how wonderful it is to be here together.

It is important for the youths to know what is expected of them. This is accomplished by going over the rules with them at orientation. Don't present them as a list of "no's" that are going to spoil all their fun. Present them in a positive way leading them to understand the purpose of them.

The following is an example of some comments you might choose to use before presenting the rules.

Introduction to rules [For Staff:] In our “postmodern” era, many young people (youths and staff) tend to view rules and guidelines as unimportant. Because of the great importance of our work at Pilots for Christ, because of the vital responsibility we have in making a safe camp, and because of our desire to have God’s blessings as we respect the authority of state and local ordinances, we expect our camp rules and guidelines to be seriously obeyed. We don’t want to create a rigid, military atmosphere, but underlying all we do should be the spiritual attitude of submission and obedience in a spirit of love. Directors will try to set an example of those qualities [For attendees:] Rules are necessary for orderly living. When we accept the rules, we can concentrate on having fun. Self-discipline allows you to function in whatever situation you find yourself. No discipline allows you to function only in the situation you choose for yourself. Rules are to help, not to hinder. The rules here may not be the same as the rules you follow elsewhere, but each has a purpose for this situation. Accepting rules helps us to grow, and growing is part of Christianity. Our aim is to grow in Christ. For this camp session, we will be living in a Christian community. You will be able to forget all those outside pressures that hinder your Christianity. Everyone here is working toward the same goal. We can relax and enjoy being together and sharing the joys of being together and sharing all of God's nature and spiritual blessings. So let's go over the rules and then relax and enjoy our time together. You will also want to use part of your orientation time to get better acquainted. Let each one introduce and tell something about themselves or use any other method of sharing and getting better acquainted.

Remember!! You are not alone. Ask for help, pray for help and guidance--be positive, be happy and love every minute of your Aviation Boot Camp experience. Have that beautiful sharing and growing experience that God has awaiting each of us--staff as well as attendees.

COUNSELORS

PREPARATIONS AND ORIENTATION

A high calling... Remember that the counselor is an important link in the camping program. He is primarily responsible for the overall development of each of his campers, and thus must spend as much time as possible with each in an effort to better understand and guide him. It is with the counselor that the camper lives and is most influenced.

1. Qualities of a successful counselor

- a) Must be a faithful Christian whose life can be respected by youth
- b) Should be mature and stable in thought and action, but young in heart
- c) Should be willing and able to give and to receive instructions
- d) Should cooperate with all members of the camp staff
- e) Should be understanding, with concern and sensitivity to counseling opportunities
- f) Should have imagination, resourcefulness, and enthusiasm
- g) Must enjoy the Christian life and enjoy young people
- h) Must be willing to be spent for the Lord, not just to spend time at camp
- i) Must have a deep trust in prayer and in God's power to transform lives

2. Authority

- a) The General Camp Rules and Directions for Counselors have been set by the Directors for Aviation Boot Camp
- b) You will be directly responsible to the Directors
- c) Your campers will look directly to you for guidance except when they are placed directly under the oversight of another staff member, such as a teacher, the athletic director, etc.
- d) No counselor, as an individual, has the right to add to or take away from camp rules.
- e) If you feel that a change or addition would be helpful to the camp work, talk it over with the Directors. They, in turn, will bring it before the other staff or the camp directors for discussion and consideration.

3. Before your campers arrive

- a) Familiarize yourself with counselor material that might be sent to you or which you have

- b) Attend staff orientation sessions.
- c) Get well acquainted with your co-workers and clarify understandings of responsibilities. Wear your name tag, if furnished.
- e) Familiarize yourself with the airport and hangar, materials, grounds and facilities.

4. Upon arrival of campers

- a) Wear name tag if provided
- b) Have one of two counselors at registration table whenever possible to meet arriving aviators and get them settled in. The other should be at the registration table.
 - i. Use this occasion to get acquainted with each aviator and make an effort to meet their parents.
- c) Trust your aviators until rules are clearly broken; then still be a friend. Bring out the best in your aviators.
- d) Get to know your aviators.
 - i. Be worthy of their confidence. Be a good listener. Keep your eyes open.
 - ii. Seek early possibilities for seeing that each aviator in your group leaves camp a bigger person with at least one area in which tangible, visible progress has been made and felt. Be prepared to give reports of progress.
- e) Plan a brief orientation with your own group the first day at camp. Go over all the guidelines.
 - i. Encourage campers to ask questions
 - ii. Clarify camp authority, schedules, and rules and post them clearly
 - iii. Try to have good reasons for all policies that are recommended
 - iv. Yours is the opportunity to make the ethical standards we follow constructive. To honor God and His word, to present Christ, to challenge our youth, to help them see that we are in no way trying to take advantage of them or restrict them from doing; but rather to provide the atmosphere where they can know the joy of Christian living.

5. General responsibilities

- a) You are responsible for the guidance and general welfare of those entrusted to you
- b) You are to know where your members are at all times.
- c) Cooperate with all staff members who guide your group in special activities.

- d) Lead your campers in preparation for special activities.
- e) Your group will enter the dining hall by group name (unless otherwise announced) and all of your members should be there before entering.
- f) When one of your group needs medical aid, please send them to the Director.
- k) No major changes in camp procedure will be made each day after the counselor's meeting. Should you foresee changes that need to be made in our program, plan to bring them up for discussion at the counselors meeting, so all counselors may have common understanding, or discuss with Director.
- l) Come prepared to make counselors meetings rewarding
 - i. Have any reports assigned you ready, including your scoring and any special assignments
 - ii. Be prepared to report on your campers
 - iii. Have any matters clear in your own mind so they can be handled quickly. Bring up only items that need to be discussed before the entire group. Other items should be handled with the chief counselor to save time.

6. Spiritual development

- a) Cooperate with Bible teachers and create a spiritual atmosphere that makes Bible study meaningful.
- b) Be an example of a happy Christian under every circumstance. You must enjoy camp yourself.
- c) Give respect and attention to every spiritual activity.
 - i. Conduct a meaningful 3 to 10 minute cabin devotional each day before saying "goodbye" to your group.
 - ii. Counselors are invited and encouraged to participate in the Bible Classes.
 - iii. Pray in all circumstances – go to the Lord for His counsel.
- d) Lead all campers to be alert and on time as a group in the morning and at all other devotional programs.

7. Scheduling

Each counselor will be expected to work out schedules for the following activities for his group. These of course, will need to be coordinated through the chief counselor.

Privileges

a) Enjoy yourself during the session, but remember that your main purpose is to develop your campers.

b) If you find it necessary to leave camp grounds at any time, inform either the camp director.

8. Clean up Duties

a) Clean up duties are done daily by you and your group.

b) The whole group is expected (including both counselors and any other adult assigned to the group) to help with cleaning.

c) The Counselors will be assigned areas of responsibilities to have their group help with. When the assigned jobs are completed, it is expected that the Counselor will check with the Supervisor for other assigned work. All staff and campers are expected to stay in the airplane hangar until cleanup is finished.

d) All trash is to be dumped in the large container next to the FBO. All trash, grass, and leaves are to be swept up before washing down the floor.

Do not wash trash, grass, leaves, paint chips, etc. down drain. Mix bleach solution as directed, no stronger and rinse after using.

e) Ultimately, it is everyone's responsibility to see that all of the hangar and surrounding area is kept clean. Encourage every camper to pick up after themselves and to help make the camp a little better each time they walk through.