

Greetings to the 2019 TTCC Summer Camp Counselor group!

I hope this letter finds you well and I hope you're ready to make some memories! Sorry if this is a bit long... thinking about my time as a counselor and director made me want to pass along as much knowledge as I could. There is so much to be said about being a camp counselor so I hope you find my own memories and notes useful for you.

**This summer...**

You may find the Easter Bunny head in the costume closet and scare Les at her desk,

You may make ice-cream sundaes in the kiddie pool,

You may quote the Princess Bride and Anchorman on a daily basis,

You may set off the TTCC fire alarms with a smoke machine for Harry Potter Day,

You may hit too many camper's faces with dodgeballs,

You may have set up tents in the gym for sleepovers when the rain is too harsh,

You may make the longest Slip n' Slide any kid has ever seen,

You may sing Don't Stop Believing with Dan or experience paranormal activity with the Master,

You may learn that bird's name from the Little Birdy song,  
(Agafلاغafleegafلاغaishkaishkanaganagaagafلاغafleegafلاغa Birdy)

You may become a World Cup Champion or put hula hoops under other counselor's cars,

You may eat Trashbag Salad or have a contest to see who has the most mosquito bites at Saco River,

You may spend your whole paycheck on Dunkin Donuts or create a special nickname for every camper during attendance,

You may feel like you're experiencing symptoms of hypothermia as the deep-end lake watcher,

You may have glow stick wars on Bell Island or get bit by a Snipe,

You may drink Mountain Dew and Fritos with cheese dip all night with your new counselor friends,

You may wake up to a sunrise at Zealand Falls,

You may be the most 'X' Stream counselor group – "Throw the X's!"

You may learn that milk is always a bad choice when it's too d%nm hot,

You may never want any other scone once you've had Sherry's famous recipe,

You may play Hide n' Seek until 5am on the USS Massachusetts,

You may eat 15 bags of broccoli for the Talent Show,

You may sing the Fresh Prince of Bel Air theme song while hiking down Mt Cardigan,

You may leave a black eye with the water balloon launcher...or two...or three,

You may think the movie "Grease" is a quality film to show on Rock n' Roll day but soon realize it's highly inappropriate for 9 year olds,

You may be the most feared Elimination player or acquire an unusual talent of throwing frisbees with your toes like Jim.

### **As the years pass...**

You will find yourself asking where the time has gone,

You will watch your campers graduate high school and then college,

You will come back to visit the TTCC and see that some things never change,

You're Capture the Flag scars will never quite fade away,

You will say to yourself, "Best job I ever had."

### **A few Do's and Do Not's**

Do: Wrap your whistle around your neck the 'cool-counselor' way.

Do not: expect to be dry at the end of the day.

Do: have a handful of games in your 'toolbox' to pass the time.

Do not: kiss at camp! No kissing at camp! Ever!

Do: dress up in ridiculous clothes on every possible occasion. And then do it again for no reason whatsoever.

Do not: worry if you feel overwhelmed at first, or don't understand something. Everyone has felt like that at some point.

Do: join in with all the signing and dancing. All the time.

Don't: Be afraid to make a fool of yourself every now and again.

Do: rock the tie dye.

Don't: be afraid to give camper's strikes.

Do: act 'childlike,' not 'childish.' Retain a certain level of responsibility, even whilst playing the most intense game of Elimination that has ever been played in the history of summer camp.

Don't: break promises to campers, they NEVER forget. Buy that King-sized Snickers bar if you told them you'd give them one if they hit the half-court shot.

Do: have plenty of positive coupon coins in your pocket. Encourage good behavior.

Don't: forget your bathing suit on any day ever. You will most likely be in the deep-end during lake-watch.

Do: keep a binder of everything there is to know about all your campers. Know their birthday's, their dog's name, what their favorite color is, and definitely what they are allergic to.

Do not: skimp out on taking appropriate pictures. Make a slideshow to show on the last day of camp!

Do: ask the fire department to spray the kids down on a hot day.

Do not: start some drama. You don't want no drama. No no drama no no no no drama.

Do: break up camper cliques. Kids should be able to have friends, but don't let the same groups dominate every event.

Do not: tease campers too much. What you may think is teasing may really be bullying.

Do: Be a role model. Your campers will see how you behave outside of camp when you least expect it.

Do not: pick favorite campers, other campers may see this and feel isolated.

Do: engage campers that seem disconnected. You could make the difference of them having the worst or best summer of their life.

Do not: make winning such a big deal. When your team loses, say "Good job blue team, we'll get you next time!"

Do: hold a 30 second dance party any time of the day.

Do not: scroll through Instagram, Facebook, or Snapchat during the day. Seriously. Some of the best memories I have were from making games on the spot during bus rides or lulls during the day.

Do: hang out with your counselor teams outside of camp. Go to the movies or Hampton beach and get to know each other.

I hope you have a wonderful summer. Please feel free to contact me for game/cooking ideas or questions.

-Brad

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Star Child and Catman Capture the Flag - 2009



2013 – “All hail the firetruck!”



"Throw the X's!" - 2014