

TTCC Summer Camp - Words of Wisdom

Charlie Manganiello

Camper: 1996 - 2000

Counselor: 2000 - 2006

Hello, my name is Charlie Manganiello. I'm from Bristol, NH and graduated from Newfound in 2004. I graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 2008 with a degree in Outdoor Education. I moved to Lander, Wyoming in 2011 and I am now a Climbing and Strength and Conditioning coach. The years I was a camper and a counselor were absolutely instrumental in my development as a young adult and I still draw from my experiences at camp in my own life and at work every day.

Here are my words of wisdom...

Remember To Have Fun

- You get to have fun too! Of course the campers are there to have fun and it's your job to make sure of that, but if you find the little joys with your campers it will be that much better for everyone at camp. It's a win-win. If you're having fun...the kids are having fun. Don't be grumpy or else they'll be grumpy.
- Yes, there are not so fun moments...like when I was a camper and my tent wouldn't go to bed and at about midnight Dan told us to be quiet or our parents were being called. Or maybe we were scheming to go scare our friends in the other tent? Sorry, Dan!

Don't Take Yourself Too Seriously

- Being a counselor is a privilege and the last thing you want to do is let that power go to your head. This could make for less than ideal co-worker interactions and the kids will see right through it. You're in charge when it comes to the basic rules of keeping kids safe and common sense, but don't sweat the small stuff. It's a long summer, don't burn yourself out in the first couple of weeks. The kids will test you! When dealing with a tough kid...it pays to give a little bit of ground so you can make a little bit of ground.

Ask Questions...But Don't Forget To Listen

- If you're a new counselor...be a sponge! Ask questions and remember to listen! The more experienced staff were you once, don't forget that. Ask them why they do certain things or how to handle tough situations at camp. Remember people's wisdom is usually learned from their mistakes. Don't make the same ones they did...if you can help it.
- Also, don't be afraid to ask the campers questions. Especially if their acting up. Ask them, "Hey, what's going on...is something up." Usually they'll open up and tell you something upsetting that happened with a friend or they got a bad night sleep...whatever the case...it will open up a good dialogue so you and the camper understand each other. Showing them a general interest in their life goes a very very long way!