

Camp Safety Training: Facilitator's Guide

Field Trips & Offsite Travel Safety

Discussion Questions

- How do we feel about taking field trips? Who enjoys them, and who has difficulty? What makes it so hard for some?
- What do we hope that campers get out of going on a field trip?
- How can we be proactive about safety before and during a field trip?

Activity #1

Name of activity: Give Me Five

Length of activity: 10 minutes

By simply brainstorming the takeaways from the Field Trips and Offsite Travel Safety training together, you can both encourage reflection and discussion, and also get a sense of staff learning styles and retention. This will give you a sense of what learning will need to be reinforced.

Objectives:

1. Staff will be able to reflect on common hazards and risks on a field trip.
2. Staff will be able to communicate what steps can be taken before and during a field trip to ensure safety.
3. Staff will reflect on the importance of active engagement and constant supervision on the playground.

Materials:

Markers, sticky note pads and large chart paper or white board located in front of group.

Instructions:

1. Break into small groups. Write five takeaways together (five minutes) – one on each sticky note.
2. The facilitator can prompt the groups by asking what they remember, what specific actions they would now take differently, and what they think are the most important lessons. It's a good idea to also ask how the role of lifeguard and camp counselor, or staff member, are different.
3. Each group shares sticky notes with the whole group. Write or have someone scribe on sticky notes what the group comes up with.

Activity #2

Name of activity: Check

Length of activity: 15 minutes

In the same way that campers are more likely to follow rules if they create them themselves, staff will have more buy-in, and understanding of, a field trip checklist if they have formulated it together.

Objectives:

1. Staff will learn how to be proactive before, during and after a field trip.
2. Staff will work together to design a helpful tool, and better understand the planning and preparedness needed to keep campers safe.

Materials:

Markers and large sticky note/ small paper to record (your choice)

Instructions:

1. Gather together as a large group, or break up into smaller groups.
2. Ask your group(s) to brainstorm what needs to be included on a field trip check list.
3. Make sure each group covers pre-trip, during- and post-trip items. The list might include:
 - Who is in my group
 - Location of field trip
 - Important contact information – camp phone number, leader phone number
 - What time to meet back up at end of day
 - Back-pocket games to play during bathroom breaks
 - Counting faces
4. Bring everyone together to compare notes and compile one single checklist.
5. Create a laminated card for each staff member to carry while on the trip.