

Camp Safety Training: Facilitator's Guide

Transportation Safety at Camp

Discussion Questions

- What unsafe situations can occur during transportation?
- What can we learn by greeting campers when they get on and off the bus?
- What are ways we can keep campers engaged, with their hands to themselves or where we can see them?

Activity #1

Name of activity: Give Me Five

Length of activity: 10 minutes

By simply brainstorming the takeaways from the Transportation Safety at Camp 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 communicate how to be actively engaged with campers while on transportation.
2. Staff will learn specific strategies for active engagement and how to communicate with other staff members while on transportation.

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: Hand Signals and Bus Tour

Length of activity: 30 minutes

Discussing the theory of transportation safety is one thing, but the closer you can get to learning in a real-world environment, the more effective it will be. This activity will allow staff to start thinking about how to implement the guidance from the training in practice.

Objectives:

1. Staff will learn loading and unloading procedures.
2. Staff will learn how to seat campers and where they sit while traveling.
3. Staff will learn hand signals to quickly communicate with staff.

Materials:

Vehicles, or a simulation such as benches or chairs arranged in rows as buses.

Instructions:

1. Break up into groups and tour the bus.
2. Practice loading, greeting campers, going over the rules, seating campers, staff seating and the end-of-trip check.
3. Teach pre-determined hand signals, or have the staff come up with signals that will be consistent with all.
4. Debrief and discuss: if things were to go wrong, what could they be?

Activity #3

Name of activity: Cheers & Chants

Length of activity: 15 minutes

It's much easier to prevent misbehavior, abuse or bullying if kids are actively engaged in collective activity. Happily, it also makes your journey a lot more fun. This activity will help staff to learn a toolbox of games, chants and other activities that they can draw from on their journeys.

Objective:

Staff will learn cheers, games and chants that keep campers engaged on vehicles.

Instructions:

1. Have staff brainstorm and teach each other different travel games/cheer and songs.
2. Play and/or demonstrate these games and chants, especially if they involve hand signals and clapping.
3. Debrief by discussing with staff why activities are important, how hand motions can help us see where kids' hands are, and why it's important to observe who is and isn't participating.