

**Being a counselor or DA at camp requires a lot of sacrifice and willingness to put others first. Here are some things to be aware of as a part of our HS Servants Team:**

1. Camp is for campers. It's easy to say, but harder to practice. This week is not for you, it is for them.
2. There is no such thing as an "off duty" servant team member at Mega Days. You have signed on for 24 hours a day. Every minute of every day from start to finish you will model Christ and serve these campers.
3. Leave your ego at home! We are all one team, so work together. There are no lead counselors or DA's in cabins, nor are there any counselors or DA's who are better than anyone else. Heather is better than everyone. Other than that, everyone is equal.
4. Involve all campers in your group. Work on involvement of every student from the starting group time until we get off of the bus. Games, meals, cabin time, lessons, activities...everything.
5. As a servant team member, it is very important that you participate in all activities – including swimming. Yep, be involved. Take every moment as an opportunity to encourage students.
6. Help keep the cabins clean. Inside, outside, bathrooms, around beds...
7. Help your students keep up with their belongings.
8. Be an encourager...to everyone. Think of how you can say specific encouraging words to each of the students in your group each day. Make intentional efforts to help them know you like them.
9. Remember that you are servant team member (DA or counselor), not friend. You'll want to be a friend, but they already have friends...they need DA's and counselors. Campers want to look at you as their leader. They expect you to act like a leader and not "one of the gang".
10. Daily Medication – Medication will be administered by our nurse. Please remind your students who take regular medication to do so.
11. Relationships – We are here to "fellowship" and build great relationships. We DO NOT, DO NOT, DO NOT encourage "camp dating" and "camp romances." No talking about crushes, who likes who, who should like who, or anything else.
12. Make every camper in your group know that you really do like them. (If you are a DA, this goes beyond your "group.")
13. Remember that this week is all about God. We're serving Him. Helping students know Him. Helping students see Him clearly. Be prayerful about this every day.
14. Make an effort to lead your students in things related to our faith in God,...not only in the discussions at night, but as you are with them during the week. Most of the time the initiative must be taken by YOU in such a conversation. Short, quality discussions are usually better than long, drawn-out ones. God is incredible. His love for us is amazing. So spend some time during Mega Days talking about Him with your students.

## **Ten Things You Can Do When You Have a Problem Student**

- 1. Find out what the problem is... Define it clearly**
- 2. Figure out what is the cause of the problem**
- 3. Show the student the Biblical solution (what does the Bible say about a situation like this?)**
- 4. Help take care of the physical needs of the student: sleep and diet**
- 5. Take care of the emotional needs: self-image, acceptance, encouragement**
- 6. Look for opportunities to praise and compliment**
- 7. Give directions, rules and expectations very clearly**
- 8. De-emphasize winning and re-emphasize success**
- 9. Help them see the results of their actions**
- 10. Pray for and with the student**

## **Nine Things About Being a Great Counselor to Your Students**

- 1. Your students will be action-oriented – recognize this and use this to your benefit**
- 2. Keep them busy and make things fun**
- 3. They have limited attention spans**
- 4. Encourage them to “take it home”**
- 5. Let them know your clear expectations for them in your group**
- 6. Be sincerely interested in every camper**
- 7. Get involved in their activities – talk about things they can relate to and things they can identify with**
- 8. Recognize individual accomplishments**
- 9. Establish “team” mentality in your group**

## **Eight Things to Think About When Asking Your Group to Do Something**

- 1. Bring your group close around you and ask that everyone be included**
- 2. Speak clearly**
- 3. Make eye contact as you speak to the group – and have them make eye contact with you**
- 4. Give clear and concise directions**
- 5. Ask if anyone has “any questions”**
- 6. Summarize what you have said**
- 7. Remember, good leadership is good communication**
- 8. Make sure you and your co-counselors are communicating before you communicate plans to campers. If you're not communicating with each other, or agreeing with each other, your students will know it.**

**What are some physical safety hazards we need to be aware of (in regards to our campers) at Mega Days?**

**What are some emotional safety hazards we need to be aware of that may arise at Mega Days?**

**Some situations will come up among your campers. It could be a disagreement or hurt feelings or something similar. Here are some things to think about:**

- a. What is the actual problem? Many times problems or problem behavior in people has an underlying cause. Ask some questions to get to the heart of the actual problem.**
- b. Who is involved? Identify the participants and those impacted.**
- c. Consider possible solutions.**
- d. Consider the impacts and outcomes of each solution. Try to discover the unintended consequences of each solution.**
- e. Pick the best solution based upon the best outcomes and least negative impacts and/or consequences.**

**What can you do and what can you not do? (try to come up with at least 4 new things.)**

**Can Do**  
**Encourage with words**

**Can't Do**  
**Grab a student and pull them or push them**

Read through the previous 3 pages, at least 3 times before Sunday, May 22. When you have finished reading through these three pages, write down the date and time here:

Date and Time #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Time #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Time #3: \_\_\_\_\_