

# CAMP ADMINISTRATION 101

## IMPORTANCE OF ICE BREAKERS, TEAMBUILDING, AND SEL ACTIVITIES



Camp can be intimidating for your campers, especially younger age groups and first timers. Ice Breakers, Teambuilding and SEL Activities are an important aspect to work into any camp to get your campers acclimated. Anytime you can work in these activities at the beginning of the week, at the beginning of each day, and throughout camp will go a long way and will have many benefits. Here are all the benefits and potential outcomes for implementing these activities throughout camp:

- 1) They will make it easy for your campers to get to know each other.
- 2) They will help your campers work better together.
- 3) They will make it easier for your campers to socialize with each other.
- 4) It will reduce camper conflict and disciplinary issues.
- 5) Campers will get to know each other's names.
- 6) Campers will work with and play with kids they may not normally get the opportunity.
- 7) Campers will make more friends easier.
- 8) Campers will create bonds and form connections.
- 9) They will help develop important skills like problem solving, listening, leadership, and creative thinking.
- 10) It will help your campers listen, communicate, and show empathy.
- 11) These activities will improve self-esteem.
- 12) It will boost creativity and help your campers think outside the box.
- 13) These activities will build trust amongst campers and make them a more cohesive group.
- 14) Campers will be more comfortable socializing and voicing their opinions or concerns.
- 15) The activities will boost morale amongst the group and increase engagement.
- 16) These activities will stimulate camper's minds and motivate them.
- 17) Campers will discover new skills within themselves and be able to identify the skills of their group members.
- 18) These activities will greatly reduce bullying and find quicker resolution when bullying or conflict occurs.
- 19) The activities will keep a positive atmosphere amongst campers and their group members.
- 20) The activities can be fun and open to door for a wide array of programming ideas to implement into your camp schedules.





There are many types of Ice Breakers, Teambuilding, and SEL games. They don't always have to be educational or introduced as such. Many times these types of activities are already a part of the many activities you already know and play at camp. Here are some of the type of activities that would promote teamwork and SEL:

- ① Name Games
- ② 1 on 1 Buddy Activities
- ③ Parachute Games
- ④ Escape Rooms
- ⑤ Group Puzzles
- ⑥ Team Sports
- ⑦ Group Circle Games
- ⑧ Group Scavenger Hunts
- ⑨ Relay Games
- ⑩ Games that involve communication and active listening



There are so many benefits to these types of activities that make it hard not to implement as many as possible into your camp activity schedules. They will not only help your campers get acclimated with each other and work better together, it will get your counselors more engaged working with their groups. These types of activities will create a great group dynamic within all your camp groups throughout the course of camp and keep your kids more social, positive, and having fun.



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