

## 2019 Director's Meeting Recap

### **Providing Connection**

#### **Useful Resources**

**Members Only Portal:** <https://tfff.org/members-only/>

**Username:** Camp

**Password:** CampRocks!

**TTFF Camp Directors Closed Facebook Group:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1405799126191038/>

Ask to join on Facebook or by sending Kristina an email.

#### **American Camping Association 24 hour Crisis Hotline: 1-800-573-9019**

The ACA Camp Crisis Hotline is a 24-hour a day service. The Hotline serves as a resource for camps in crisis and provides callers the opportunity to talk through their crisis with a trained third party. While the hotline is not a medical nor legal "expert" call line – it can help you think through your issues and discuss options.

**Who is Camp For?** TTFF's goal is to fill our 144-bed camp facility with children who have a variety of life-threatening and chronic illnesses, developmental disabilities and youth at-risk.

Welcome new groups, Rett Syndrome and Deaf, Counseling, Advocacy & Referral Agency (DCARA)

**Programming Ideas**—Get out of the Box ---- We all have access to countless resources.

What is holding you back from hitting a new programming idea out of the park? Is it knowledge, the right staff, leadership, equipment?

Resources, ideas discussed:

**TTFF interns** can help. Reach out to TTFF at least one-month in advance if you'd like interns to help develop and lead activities for your campers.

**Themes** spark creativity. At camp, we've seen the following themes:

Oscars – Camp Winning Hands incorporated an Oscar theme all week into their camp which culminated in a night at the Oscars where campers viewed videos they made together during the week.

**Olympics**—Camp Celiac and Camp Winning Hands.

**Holidays** – Each day of the week had a different holiday theme and games, songs, and activities were based around it. For example, Monday was Halloween, Tuesday was Valentine’s Day, Wednesday was New Year’s Eve, Thursday was Chinese New Year, etc. Camp Go Beyond did this well and so did Camp Wonder, even making a haunted house wind through pop-up tents.

**Archery** -- Molly from Camp Celiac [mollyduncanstone19@gmail.com](mailto:mollyduncanstone19@gmail.com) and Becky from Shared Adventures [becky@gumball721@yahoo.com](mailto:becky@gumball721@yahoo.com) said they could help you if you are interested in Archery at camp. Try reaching out to scout groups and Jennifer from Down Syndrome Association of Central California suggested trying Break the Barriers at <https://breakthebarriers.org/about-us/>

For TTFF calendar, see attachment.

**Golf** – Al from Camp Fairplay requested golf. If you would like to incorporate golf into your camp program, contact:

The First Tee of the Tri-Valley  
Jill Womble  
(925) 519-9694  
[jwomble@thefirstteetrivalley.org](mailto:jwomble@thefirstteetrivalley.org)  
[www.thefirstteetrivalley.org](http://www.thefirstteetrivalley.org)

For other great vendor ideas, visit the Camp Vendor page on TTFF’s Members Only Portal.

### **Alternative activities when it’s too hot**

Suggestions include utilizing different areas of the dining hall for different activities, building an obstacle course inside the dining hall, picture scavenger hunt, tap into Future Farmer’s of America (FAA) for activity suggestions, water play, and Pinterest.

### **Game Resources**

Unbored Games: Serious fun for Everyone

### **Suggestions on how to incorporate more songs into camp**

Send out Youtube videos to counselors before camp

Send out song sheets to counselors before camp

Dedicate one person to lead songs

Repeat after me songs are good for getting people onboard quickly

Spring into song at any time – before dinner, after dinner, as an attention getter, circle time, at the amphitheater.

## **An Understanding Chain: Who Needs a Background Check?**

### **What's the situation?**

Safety of all youth

Liability - How do you mitigate risk. Check with your insurance company to see what they require.

Screening process for staff and volunteers

### **How does the situation compare to x,y, and z? Things to consider**

Duration onsite: Overnight vs. day vs. activity vs. visitor

Under 18; over 18

Volunteers? Staff? Family Camp Parents? Matt from DYF talked about their protocols at family camp for parent orientation and camper orientation where they lay out expectations. Someone suggested you could have them sign a waiver.

Accessibility to campers. Will anyone be alone with a camper? We talked about the rule of three.

Already background checked somewhere else? Agencies don't share records. Persons still need to be checked by your group.

### **What are the Options?**

Procedures and Policies should be in writing.

Rule of three. Never go anywhere alone or be alone in a room with one of your campers. Always have a third person with you, whether that is another counselor or another camper.

Cost, Timeliness, Personnel. Molly said that nearly all their volunteer counselors pay for the background check themselves. It takes a long time to get your DOJ number. Start the process early. See if you can go through a different agency.

We didn't talk about other things to consider, but you should. LiveScan is state dependent so you'll have to look into rules if you have counselors coming in who live in other states or who are international.

The FBI scan shows all federal crimes plus 70-90% of each state's criminal database.

### **What do you propose?**

For any staff, counselors, and volunteers over the age of 18 who will be working with children for any duration of time (i.e. a few hours or overnight), a background check must be obtained

from a law enforcement agency. TTFF does not require that you submit these records to us; however, each group is responsible for ensuring a records clearance for all adult participants prior to arrival.

Along with background checks, we encourage you to look at your policies and get in writing policies around guests on site, restroom use, rule of three, etc.

## **An Understanding Chain: Can a camper keep life-saving medicine on his/her/their body?**

What's the Situation? How does the situation compare to x,y, and z? What are the options?

Identify the need for life saving medication and the reaction time needed for life-saving medication. For example, does someone with anaphylaxis have three minutes or five minutes before their airways close because of a peanut allergy.

Med staff train counselors on how to use life-saving medication. Leslie Wilson (l1wilson@hotmail.com) from Camp Hope has information on how to get an epi pen for your camp. She recommended two per a camp.

Recommended by group that counselors carry life-saving medication or family members. And that these counselors are well-trained.

Tea brought up a good point to make sure you have your medical procedures in place because there are next steps needed after epi-pen or seizure medication.

Francesca from Camp Wonder commented that they have enough nurses that they can put them in the meadow or at the ropes course if they are at those areas.

## **An Understanding Chain:**

**How do you register your campers online?**

**What are your tips for success for check in and check out?**

**How do we create gender sensitive and inclusive environments?**

Richard is a good resource if you need one. You can reach him at [bernsr88@gmail.com](mailto:bernsr88@gmail.com)

Check Helpful Links and Resources on the Members Only Website for Gender Spectrum's Documents

Online Registration Options

Cindy recommended that the infirmary is a good place for a gender neutral bathroom

## **Dog Policy**

In cooperation with Ordinance 38 of East Bay Regional Park District please note the following dog policy at Camp Arroyo: θ No dogs are allowed on site with the exception of service dogs. θ All service dogs must be on leash\* and with a human being at all times. θ Dogs' owners are responsible for immediately removing and properly disposing of dog excrement. If a dog is on site and is not a service dog or there is any other violation of the dog policy, Camp Arroyo staff, including EBRPD, YMCA, or TTFF will call the East Bay Regional Park District Public Safety and they will be cited for violation of the park rules.

Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Examples of such work or tasks include guiding people who are blind, alerting people who are deaf, pulling a wheelchair, alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure, reminding a person with mental illness to take prescribed medications, calming a person with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during an anxiety attack, or performing other duties. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

When it is not obvious what service an animal provides, only limited inquiries are allowed. Staff may ask two questions: (1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability, and (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform. Staff cannot ask about the person's disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.

## **Outside Food**

No outside food is allowed. If you need to bring outside food in, please inquire with TTFF one-month before camp to coordinate your food needs.

## **YMCA**

The YMCA will no longer be the camp operator beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>. TTFF will update you with all pertinent information as needed and known.