

# CAMP COUNSELOR AMERICA DUMMY GUIDE

Tips from the Tops



SIMMONS ZHU

Camp  
Counselor  
America  
Dummie  
Guide

The

# Controversial One

SIMMONS ZHU

# DEDICATION

This book is for people who:

Are confused about their  
experience at camp

Are not sure if they want to go  
back to camp next year

Want to become a really good camper and  
make the best out of their experience

Want to be an amazing counselor

Want to get a girlfriend/  
boyfriend(counselors and campers)  
at camp but don't know how

To My Dad

# CONTENTS

	Acknowledgments	i
1	FAQ Frequently Ask Questions	8
2	Become a Camp Counselor in 10 Easy Steps	10
3	How to Make Friends at Sum- mer Camp	15
4	How to Excel Among Hun- dreds of Counselors	19
5	What if it rains? Games to Play at Camp	21
6	How to Get a Girlfriend/Boy- friend at Camp	40
7		44

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Most people enjoy work and travel, and camp counselor would be one the easiest way for a lot of college students

But I've always seen either slacky co-counselors or mean colleagues throughout my counseling experience

And to be honest, I wrote this book because I was once confused about some of the counselors behaviour.

Why some of the stuff they do were over appreciated or under appreciated in my opinion.

So I'm putting all of my experience and some of the best counselors' experience in this book so that you won't make the same mistake as I did.

Since you're going to camp anyway, why not make the full potential of yourself and get the most out of your experience?

# CHAPTER 1

## FAQ

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Can I be a camp counselor if i'm under 18 and not from USA?

Yes. If you have been a camper and never get a DNR(do not return) before

Especially when the camp is under staffed, they would actually call former campers for help. Usually if you're a former camper It would definitely be easier if you're from the USA, but keep in mind it's also easier for the camp to fire you.

Only a few international counselor with really poor behaviors get fired every year, though you need to fix the logistic with camp as early as possible for the visa and paperwork as an international counselor.

2. Things could you FIRED:

When I went to USA for summer camp the 1st year, I was super timid for the fact that I could be easily deported if I got fired.

Things could get you FIRED:

Late

Drunk

Skip duty

Stealing

Untidy

2. What if a camper has a crush on you?

You got 4 options, 1<sup>ST</sup> One is a Must:

1. Inform his/her cabin counselor or division leader.

2. Quit the job before you make the biggest mistake in your life

3. Wait til he or she's 18 if you really love him/her

4. Wont matter If you're under 17 or 18 depends on which state you're in.

3. Sexual harassment WARNING:

Like every culture, there are customs when you hit on boys/girls

So does camp, counselors who work at camps now a days are mostly college kids from all over the world. Of course they would expect a romantic experience.

You just gotta do it the right way, or YOU

MIGHT GET FIRED.

Bad example:

There was a counselor who worked for camp for decades, everybody loves him, but he got fired because he offered drinks to under age girls and allegedly raped her.

Here's how to do it the right way:

To know the custom(especially for people from non western countries), watch videos on youtube by searching:

How To Make Friends at Summer Camp

Or go to this link: <https://youtu.be/pGrmnBNI7sY>

Teach kids How To Get a Boyfriend/Girlfriend at Camp:

<https://youtu.be/ISEXvsObDJ4>

## CHAPTER 2

# BECOME A CAMP COUNSELOR IN 10 EASY STEPS

Let's start with how to become one first

Spending your summer as a camp counselor in the USA is an awesome way to meet new friends, act like a kid for three months and get some experiences that will prepare you for almost anything in life. I worked as a visual arts counselor at camp for two summers running and wrote a book about my adventures called *Secret Diary of a Camp Counselor*. It's the only first hand account of life at camp. You'll be pleased to know that it's actually relatively easy to get a placement on camp in 10 easy steps...

1. See which agency you think is best

If you're just planning on going to America from the UK to work on camp for the summer and not come from anywhere different before or fly on anywhere different afterwards you're best off applying

through an agency. If you plan to sandwich it in between other destinations you might be better off applying direct. There are generally five agencies to choose from, CCUSA, Camp Leaders, AmeriCamp, Camp America or Wildpacks. Do some research and talk to friends and ex-camp counselors and see which agency you think is best before you hand over any cash or sign up to anything.

## 2. Decide which talent you'd like to use at camp

Camp counselors can be lifeguards, art teachers, cyclists, dancers, circus gymnasts, skateboarders, musicians, actors, magicians, golfers, martial artists... as long as you're good with children you'll make a good camp counselor, but having a unique skill will make you awesome. If you don't have a specific talent or you actually just want to play 'mum' or 'dad', then many camps allow you to be a general counselor although these placements are harder to find. Think hard about what you want to spend your summer doing.

## 3. Time to apply!

If you're going through an agency, you need to find out their deadline (usually in March) and sign up via their individual website. If you want to find your own camp then check out the thousands of ACA accredited camps throughout the US and make your decision. Applications will require some thought, and usually some references so have your referees on standby. You'll be expected to make a YouTube video and to recall all your experiences that support you being a camp counselor. Send it in via the agency's individual processes and pay the initial enquiry cash (in some cases), and sit back and relax.

#### 4. Interview

If your application is accepted you'll be invited to a camp counselor interview with your chosen agency. These are nothing to be scared of – I used to be a CCUSA interviewer and all I was checking for was that you were predominantly normal and that you knew what you were letting yourself in for. Prepare for this as you would a normal interview though and dress smartly. Have some answers prepared to questions

like 'What would you do if a child disrespected you?', 'Tell me about a time you were stressed?', 'Why do you want to be a camp counselor?', and the like.

#### 5. Wait for acceptance

You'll soon find out if you've been provisionally accepted. How long this takes depends on when you apply, what skill you're applying to teach, you and your agency. There is no confirmed length of time, which can be frustrating, but just be patient and have faith that your agency is trying their hardest to place you. It's in their best interests too.

#### 6. Get a CRB(Criminal Record Background) check

Once you've been accepted it's time to get your CRB check. This is a statement that says you've never been in trouble with the law or been a danger to children.

#### 7. You can skip ahead

There is a way to skip points 3,4 and 5 above if you're from UK. All the camp agencies have recruitment fairs in January and February every year in the UK where the

camp directors come over from the USA and hire counselors on the spot, if you're lucky. This is how I got hired. It's a great opportunity for camp directors to meet potential counselors face to face and for both of you to understand each other better. You can also see for yourself the camp videos and get to chat to ex and current camp employees.

If you've applied after the Camp Directors Fair, don't worry. Your agency will still have thousands of vacancies left to fill. From your application and the interviewer's notes they will know enough about you to make sure you get placed at a camp in America that you'll enjoy. It's what most of the agencies have been doing for years – they know what they're doing. It's just a matter of time.

## 8. Get ready

Once you've been placed at a US summer camp it's time to get prepared! Read my book *Secret Diary of a Camp Counselor* if you haven't already so you're ready, and read up on your camp. It's also

worth checking out your camp's website to see if there are any pre camp events to get involved in. Read through your camp and agency information packs again and gather up everything you need for a summer in the USA.

## 9. Orientation

You will be invited to another mandatory orientation meeting in your own country. Here you'll find out more about the camp you're going to and maybe also get the chance to meet other camp counselors who'll be at the same camp as you, or at least get their email addresses so you can add them on Facebook or send them a quick email. You'll also find out more about your flight details and get a kit list too. This is your chance to get any last minute questions off your chest and to join in workshops to suppress the culture shock when you get there.

## 10. Get going

Finally it's time to go! Make sure you get yourself to the airport in plenty of time. Hopefully you've managed to arrange to meet someone from your camp to sit with

on the journey, but if not, try and work out if anyone is going to camp in the airport. If you can't, now's the time to enjoy the peace and quiet. Things are about to get very, very busy...

## CHAPTER 3

# HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS AT SUMMER CAMP

It's the summer which means that you might be at summer camp right now or you

might be going there sometime soon.

If the whole idea of going to summer camp makes you nervous, don't worry.

I have a few tips that I wanna share with you so you can make more friends at summer

camp and have a good time.

This is The Josh Speaks.

You're watching The Josh Speaks.

I've only went to summer camp as a camper once in my life when I was 13, and that was to Boy Scout camp.

Yea, I knew the kids from my troop but when I got there, there were tons of other troops there and tons of kids I didn't even know.

But one thing that I did know was that

because I was going to spend an entire week with them,

I was better off getting to know them right from the get go and not waiting.

So my first tip for you is to get active from day 1.

Start conversations with people all around you, people you're sharing a tent with or

a cabin, people you're doing activities with, guys, girls, everyone.

The sooner you start saying hello to people, the quicker they're going to start opening up to you.

Remember, everyone there is just as nervous as you are.

The beauty of camp is that friendships tend to come about a lot quicker than normal, so simply saying "hi my name is" can go a long way.

Chances are, at summer camp there's going to be a lot of activities for you to do and

some of them are going to seem down right scary.

Rock climbing and swimming and

fighting a bear with your bare hands... although technically I think he's the one with the bear hands.

The best way then to make friends during all these activities is to break out of your comfort zone and try something new.

I remember being at camp and not knowing how to swim but watching all the other kids jump in the pool to see where in the swimming scale they fit.

Some were beginners, some were intermediate and some were experts.

Now because I never really swam before in a deep pool, I was just too scared to do it all together.

But then I realized that if I just tried it out, I would see where I fit and from there

I would make friends with the kids in my division.

Somehow I was able to tread water long enough for them to give me the advanced swimming badge.

I spent that entire summer clinging on to the side of the pool, but so did a bunch of other people and those kids became my friends.

Now if you're at a camp and you just stumble upon someone that you develop a crush on, it can be kind of tricky because camp is gonna end and there's a high chance you may not see them again.

I know, you're hopeful that somehow you can make the relationship work but in that case I think it's best to let it turn into a friendship.

Developing a friendship instead of a relationship will allow it to be so much easier to say goodbye when camp finally ends.

And while that is ideal, I know it's possible for you to still be thinking about your crush well after camp finishes.

If that's the case, check out my video right here where I talk about going after the crush that got away.

Every single person that goes to camp with you deserves a chance to be your friend.

Now if they're being a jerk and bullying you that's a different case, but think about the nervous kid that's sitting there all by themselves with no one to talk to.

Think about how you were once in that

spot.

If I were you, I would reach out to kids that you find sitting all alone because chances are, they have a lot to give to you and they can become a really great friend during summer camp.

And if in the end you find yourself being too nervous to talk to anyone, I want you to know that that's OK.

Sometimes my friends would be off doing their own thing and I'd kind of be alone at camp. In those instances, I would recommend counselors who did their very best job to place me in a group with new people to make me feel more welcome.

If you're having a hard time, don't be afraid to reach out for help.

It's perfectly normal and it's just another way for you to make friends.

What do you think, do you have a camp story or experience where you were too nervous to talk to people?

Leave a comment below so we can talk about it.

So make sure to use all the tips I gave you here today so you can make friends

and have a great summer camp experience.

If you're new to the channel make sure to hit the subscribe button below.

I put out a new video every Tuesday sharing stories and tips to teach you how to be your best self.

And if you want to help support the channel, make sure to subscribe

to see how you can get involved in the making of Simmons Zhu.

As always guys, love and peace.

# CHAPTER 4

## HOW TO EXCEL AMONG HUNDREDS OF COUNSELORS

You'll work with a lot of counselors during summer.

Some of them are

There're several different type of campers:

The try hard,

The lingering,

The naughty kid

The toy overdose kid

The all star kid

The emotional kid

Several types of counselors:

The mature and reliable guy

The organized but boring guy

The funny guy

The drama queen

The cool and charming guy

The thief AKA steal kids' stuff

The 'I hate camp' guy

You want to be a big brother to everybody

at camp.

If you think 'I'm not gonna be nice if I don't know them or like them' then you probably want to change that

Camp is all about reaching out to people, making new friends and become best friends with them.

Here's a typical example:

'I've had enough with these kids.'

'I can't wait to leave this camp.'

'I'm only staying because of the kids.'

A lot of counselors who claim not good with kids simply just give up after 2, 3 week into the session.

Yes, it is quite common. It's also quite common for the camp to start fire counselor at that time.

Here's a few quotes from some of the most amazing counselors I've worked with:

'The more you put in, the more you take out.'

'Don't count the day, make the day count'

If you're a quite organized, on time counselor, don't be an asshole to other counsel-

ors. Not everybody is going to be extremely neat at all time.

The only time I would speak up, is when someone step over the line such as(AKA what NOT to do):

LEAVE THE CAMPER UNATTENDED  
ENCOURAGE INAPROPRIETE AND DANGEROUS BEHAVIOURS  
NOT KEEN ABOUT SAFETY

## GAMES TO PLAY DURING DOWN TIME AT CAMP

Name: Catch it, Head it

Rules:

Usually play it in the bunk on rainy days.

You need a medium size ball.

The player has to catch it when the last one says “ Head it. ’ and has to head it when the last player says “ Catch it. ’

Name: Mao

This is a card game. You ’ ll need at least 2 decks of poker cards.

Rules:

1. It’s like UNO

2. Call out Spades(Say “ Spade! ” )
3. No talking
4. Do not discuss the rules
5. Set up a new rule everytime you win

Name: Rafter Ball

Rules:

2 players on each side of the rafter in the cabin. Ideally use a kickball, throw the ball over the rafter.

If it hits the top and bounce over to the other side, the thrower gets 1 point.

Each player shifts, so on and so forth

## CHAPTER 5

### HOW TO GET A GIRLFRIEND/

## BOYFRIEND AT CAMP?

For counselors:

Be nice, be polite, be the big brother of everybody else.

Be blunt, be a bit naughty, and cozy. You basically single her out as your target so that she knows.

Believe it or not, a lot of counselors would be jealous if you end up dating another cute counselor.

If you're an asshole to others while you dating the cutest guy/girl at camp, someone's gonna stab you in the back at some point(not literally).

For Campers:

Does it matter if you're ugly?

Yes and no.

Of course young girls would always go for the cutest guy in the group,

You have 2 options:

1.Dress up nicely

2.Be the most popular and socially savvy

guy in your group. Socially savvy meaning: you know how girls feel and how to be cozy with her while lifting up her social status

Human beings are social animals, especially girls, they social with people who can lift them up.

They don't hangout with ugly guys or untidy guys most of the time at camp, because it will lower their social status.

Thousands of years ago while we were still apes living with clans, the male and female with the lowest social status would be ditched by the group

So before you talk to a girl, think about this, are you going to make her day? Or ruin her day?

if you're NOT handsome and you're aiming for the cutest girl in the group when you social at camp

Here's how:

Final key review

1. become as popular as you can, which raises your social status, which makes you

appealing to boys or girls with higher social status , aka cuter boys and girls this is not my opinion, this is a scientific fact by doctor David Buss one of the most famous psychologist in history who spent decades in this field of study

2. you gotta know when to follow the rules, and when to break the rules

don't know what it means?

follow the rules when you're in a group in public

you can break the rules if it's just between 2 of you

keep the naughty part to yourselves

and along the way, as your bond builds up, he or she would be OK with a little weirdness when you're in a group because you became best friends already, just like the kids in your same cabin or your best soccer teammate

How To Make Friends at Summer Camp

Or go to this link: <https://youtu.be/pGrmnBNI7sY>

Teach kids How To Get a Boyfriend/Girl-

friend at Camp:

<https://youtu.be/ISEXvsObDJ4>

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A traveling Chinese with love for the world and bring his knowledge to the globe from his heritage.