



## SPIRITUAL LIFE COORDINATOR JOB DESCRIPTION

### **Position Summary**

The Spiritual Life Coordinator (SLC) is responsible for the creation & implementation of the worship and spiritual programs for the summer. The SLC also assists all other staff members as necessary with their jobs and assumes the responsibilities of the Site Director when this is requested.

### **Responsibilities**

- Create, develop, plan and conduct worship and spiritual programs.
- Act as a resource to campers during their own worship planning.
- Assist in leading evening program.
- Assist with song leading.
- Conduct spiritual awakening each morning.
- Participate in the overall building of Christian communities among staff and campers.
- Conducts FREDS (informal discussions with work teams.)

### **Skill & Knowledge Requirements**

Good understanding of the Christian faith and a demonstrated history of designing worship experiences for youth and youth activities. Ability to model Christian values. Ability to lead large and small groups. Excellent speaking and organizational skills. Ability to work independently with minimal supervision. Must be willing and able to relate to youth in small groups and one-on-one in a friendly, sympathetic and relaxed manner.

### **Comments and Tips on the Spiritual Life Coordinator Position**

Being a Spiritual Life Coordinator at SSP can be a very rewarding experience. Here are some aspects and dynamics to the job which are important to note:

**Additional responsibilities:** The SLC is often asked to take on additional job responsibilities on a temporary basis. This can include: standing in for the Site Director if her or she is ill or must leave the site for some reason. It is not always the case that the SLC will take on this role, but it is often the case. In other cases, the SLC will often step into a cook or supply coordinator job if one of those staffers is sick, needs to be relieved or needs extra help for some reason.

**Incorporating the gifts of others:** The SLC plans and leads evening activities, but must find a place for the rest of the staff in these activities. This is very important,

because the entire staff must share in these activities. The SLC needs to understand the gifts and desires of the rest of the staff and make appropriate use of them.

**Relational Ministry:** A very important aspect of the SLC's job is informal "hanging out" with youth at free-time. This is also a very enjoyable part of the job. This involves simply being present for youth at free-time -- sitting, talking, listening, playing games, playing music.

### Comments and Tips from Former SLCs

Here are some comments written by two experienced SLCs about keys to success at the SLC job:

- The ability to both command the attention of a group of teenagers as a leader-- and be authoritative when necessary-- as well as the ability to relate to them on more of a peer level and connect more one-on-one. The kids from this summer that I still keep in touch with are the ones that I really felt like I became friends with, even though they knew that when I shouted "God is good-- all the time", they had to be quiet because I was in charge.
- The ability and willingness to roll with the punches. Your speaker doesn't show up, you do something else or another night's program. A group arrives 5 hours late on Sunday, you adjust Sunday's program (and the following days) accordingly. It rains on your outside program night, you find a way to take it inside. It's just a necessity, and I think the more OK with it you seem, the more OK with it other people will be as well.
- Maybe this goes without saying, but the willingness to try to engage every single person, even the less likeable ones (i.e. the ones that give the staff and counselors hell). A lot of kids take a few days to get "broken in" to the spirit of SSP, but I think the persistent & unconditional loving attitude of the staff is a big part of what facilitates that. And lots of times, even the ones you think you didn't reach will talk in candling about the impact of the week on them, and you find out you were wrong after all.
- -One of the things I strived for as an SLC was creating a spiritual environment and having a complete openness about my spirituality, so that people would feel comfortable talking to me about faith issues, but at the same time I didn't want it to be overbearing. So many campers are growing in their faith but not really sure about God, or VERY unsure about God, so it's important to create an atmosphere that fosters spiritual growth and makes it comfortable to talk about God and faith issues without making it so intense that the kids who are less grounded in their faith will be uncomfortable or put-off. Whenever I talked about growing in faith, I tried to make it understood that everyone was at different points in their faith and wherever they were starting from was ok. One of the most rewarding parts of my job was hearing that kids who were less sure of their faith at the beginning of the week were more sure of God by Saturday.
- Fun fun fun! With the kids, with the counselors, with the staff. I think one of the reasons SSP staff are so looked up to in general by the campers is that they show

that you can be a person of God-- fallible, human, but with strong faith-- AND have tons of fun at the same time. (The hard part of this is when maybe you aren't having tons of fun with a particular person and you want to pretend you are, for the sake of everyone.) But my site this summer had a lot of kids say they were thinking about being on staff in the future, and I think a big part of it is seeing how much we (the staff) had fun and played together and with the kids.

- The ability to take negative feedback and consider it, process it, but be objective about it... it's hard as SLC because I felt like my program was such a personal creation that it was hard to not take feedback about it personally, but you gotta know that sometimes suggestions are worth taking, and sometimes a random negative comment just isn't worth worrying about.
- Don't try to have too much control over your program, let it evolve naturally from the Spirit and from suggestions and talents of staff members, as well as suggestions of counselors and campers.
- Be sensitive towards the spiritual needs of campers, counselors and staff in one-on-one time.
- Provide staff programming so as to encourage staff cohesion and bonding.
- Be proactive in spending time with campers, staff, and counselors.
- Be open to constructive criticism, and even criticism that is brought about in a non-constructive way.
- Be patient and loving with everyone.