



Youth Leader Orientation & Appreciation Dinner

Junior Counselors: Helping Welcome & Support Youth Leaders

**Tuesday, May 19 → Arrive between 4:40-4:45 for short orient; End Time 8:05pm
At Tilden Meadows Site, park at Lone Oak lot, walk up to the site along fire road**

Thank you for helping to support this event!

As one of our Junior Counselors, your leadership helps create a warm and fun environment where all Youth Leaders can feel included and excited for summer camp.

As a Junior Counselor, please -

- greet younger YLs as they arrive
- notice anyone standing alone or seeming shy, and help them feel included
- help start conversations
- participate in songs and games
- help show it's not embarrassing to have fun together
- jump in to assist staff with tasks as needed
- remember we are all working together to make a fun space, not needing to be perfect

As part of supporting less experienced youth leaders you'll be helping to lead the following games and art activities. Staff will be supporting you at the table or nearby. You won't be alone!

We'll talk about how it'll work at the short meeting before the event starts (4:45-5) and you can bring any questions up then, or email Zach now with any questions. Things also may shift, so we'll go with the flow.

Darwin – Spot it! & Kumihimo

Emma – Sleeping Queens & Lanyards (doing, not starting)

Eva – Slamwich & Friendship string

Max - Playing card games & Lanyards (doing, not starting)

Naila – Mancala & Friendship string

Soraya – Reversi & Cootie catchers

Toby – Apples to Apples & Kumihimo

Will – Spot it! & Paper Airplanes

Basic Schedule for the evening

5:15 Tie shirts & soak

-Board games practice

-1st Aid & Wacky Wednesday costume fun

6:00 Clean up, Handwash, Dinner

6:20 Toasts

6:30 Parachute Games

-Dye shirt & rejoin game

7:00 Art/Crafts practice

7:40 Sing together

7:50 Desserts & Appreciations

8:00 End – Site Directors & all YLs walk down to Lone Oak parking lot

8:05 Check out with your Site Director at pick-up

Activity Leadership

Art & Board Game Activity Tips

- demonstrate the first step or first round
- invite others to join in
- help everyone feel included
- ask staff for help if needed
- focus on fun, not perfection

Art Activity Tips

- explain steps clearly
- show a sample
- encourage creativity
- help keep materials off the ground and on their trays
- reassure all there's no "wrong" way, only different ways

Board Game Tips

- explain the rules clearly at the start, people play different ways – good to get clear
- remind to be flexible if younger kids forget rules
- talk about how changing the rules can work if everyone agrees and campers know it's a change that won't always happen when they play the same game again
- help everyone take turns and feel included
- focus on having fun playing and being together
- helping younger kids have success can build confidence – ok to let them win sometimes
- with older kids who want a real challenge, play your best & keep it fun
- if there is conflict about rules, stay calm and ask staff for help if needed

Thank you for helping make this event welcoming and fun!