

# Welcome to Camp

- Camp is better with both new and returning staff
- It's okay to feel unsure at first—there's a lot happening
- Use the schedule as your anchor  
→ it helps you know what's happening now and what's next
- At camp, you may be asked to take on more leadership and support than you're used to
- Not everything will make sense right away  
→ ask questions and stay curious

★ *We're glad you're here*



# Stepping into the Staff Role

- Campers are here to have fun—but you are here to hold the experience for the whole group
- Step back at times to see and support the full group  
→ not just one camper or moment
- Notice:
  - What's happening now
  - What's coming next

If you were a Youth Leader:

You are now **leading**, not assisting

Help Youth Leaders:

- stay on track
  - understand expectations
  - Feel supported
- 
- Hold clear, kind boundaries  
→ even with youth leaders you used to be peers with



## Growth Mindset

Don't be afraid to ask for help

Try things, reflect, and adjust

Learn from your team

★ *Check in, check in, check in*



Youth Leadership at Monkey Business Camp

# Youth Leaders are a main part of each team!

- We're so grateful to YLs. They enrich our program so much.
- Welcome, get to know, thank, and mentor your YLs so you can work together.
- Support YLs with chances to lead and with setting boundaries with campers.
- YLs can spend time with each other, if it is working out for the group. They could play a board game together if kids are engaged and doing well. Campers often enjoy watching YLs play each other.
- Staff usually need to remind YLs to spread out when we need their help to be more involved with campers.



# Youth Leader Basics



- CITs are ages 11-15; JCs are ages 14+ who have attended before & can help mentor CITs.
- YL Hours: 8:25-4:35 are not flexible, since they help the team, with a half hour break mid-day
- We ask YLs not to miss camp, but at times they do. Please check in with them to see what's up and welcome them back. If parents don't seem to be aware of our expectation that YLs will attend all the camp hours they signed up for, SDs please talk with them. Also please mention in End of week survey or text office about YLs being out.
- Youth Leader families pay to attend camp and we are responsible for them throughout the day. YLs need to stay within sight of staff and follow camp rules like any other camper.

# Youth Leaders- Transitions and Assigning Tasks

- Remind YLs to take their breaks and keep track of the time they're due to return to their group.
- YLs help with handwashing at snacks & lunch. They stand inside the bathroom to help with soap, keep the lines orderly, and remind campers to shake those hands dry. If it's cold – use only 1 paper towel.
- Assign YLs solo tasks that they can handle and support them when they are trying for the first time.
- Before giving a YL direction, check in with them to see if someone else on the team has told them to do or be somewhere else.



# YL Orients & Check-Ins



- SDs lead a 1<sup>st</sup> morning 20 min. orient with the agenda on the Daily Log clipboard. SDs also give daily feedback during camp sessions – stars and steps.
- S2 staff meet with your YL team each day from 4:30-4:35pm.
- Help JCs take on more as they get closer to staff age - leading games & making calls. Discuss challenges & what they'd like to do.
- If you need to check in with YL during camp hours, find a time other staff and YLs are engaged with campers and step aside to talk. Be clear and supportive.
- Please do not compare youth leaders with one another. They are all different. You might suggest they get support from a YL who has been around and has experience.
- Summer only, longer sessions: Heather (Meadows) and Samantha (Big Leaf) usually lead Tuesday afternoon meetings for YLs at each site to support the group. YLs receive “connecting goals” sheets to help guide them to try things at camp.

# Youth Leader End of Session Details

## Before the final day of camp:

- SDs make thank you cards with the campers starting a couple days before the end of camp. Blank cards and info is in the Journal bins.
- Staff fill out diplomas for Summer sessions that last one week or more.

## On the final day of camp at closing circle:

- SDs make time to share thank you cards and a few verbal appreciations from campers & staff. Each group appreciation is enthusiastic & positive. In summer, there is also a diploma for those coming for 1+ weeks.
- Camp provides end of session gifts for staff to give to each YL that they can open at home. Staff, please do not supplement these gifts with gifts of your own. You can share your thanks by making the appreciation circle special.

