

CHRIS KALLAL'S



50 WAYS



TO BE AWESOME

CHRISTOPHER KALLAL



Chris is the Executive Director at Camp Good News in Washington, IL. This was his 6th summer there. Overall, Chris has been in the Camping Ministry for 19 years, that includes 10 years as the Program Director of Camp Manitoumi in Lowpoint and 3 years as the Executive Director of Ingersoll Scout Reservation in London Mills.

Chris started attending Camp right after 3rd grade and enjoyed his 29th summer spent at Camp this year.

When he finds time, he loves to search Pinterest, Facebook, and other websites for the newest, neatest ideas to implement into his Camp. As well, he has visited multiple camps over the years to “steal” ideas from them!

Currently, Chris co-hosts a Podcast, Summer Camp Programming, where he talks all things program! Chris has been teaching “Steal This” classes all over the US; The CCCA IL Conference 2017, NARBC 2017, Great Rivers Fall Conference 2017, CCCA National Conference 2017, CCCA Super Sectional 2018, ACA Midstates 2018, NARBC 2018, SummerCampCon 1, ACA Nationals 2019, CCCA IL Sectional 2019, ACA Midstates 2019, GrandCamp Conference 2019, NARBC 2019, and at SummerCampCon 2!

He and his wife Carrie have a total of 4 children; Rowan, Emmalina, Autumn, Aurora, and 3 amazing Foster children, Kahliah, Jahmiah, and Harlyn!

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Download Packet: iheartcamp.org/stealthis

1. 5 Fingers

- Stay positive
- Don't point fingers
- Respect
- Commitment
- Don't forget the little guy

2. Smile and Bounce

- If you're doing this you're spreading positive energy
- Totally different vibe

3. What's Next - How Can I Help?

- Anytime you're not sure what's going on
- Any Down Time
- Fast Cleanup

4. What have you Got for Me

- Ask this as a Director
- Easy way to get feedback

5. Tell Kids Where you learned things

- You're not that amazing
- Help Kids be like you

6. RPS to Solve Problems

- Rock Paper Scissors

7. Culture of Needs and Wants

- All of us have similar Needs
- How we express this is what's different between us
- See past the strategies to connect with more people
- Kids will act out to get what they want
- Teach them the good strategies
- HANGRY

8. Go for a Walk to De-Escalate Conflict

- Give permission to younger staff as they don't know how to do this

9. Balloon Attention Grabber

- Fake blow up a balloon Stretch it, blow it up and make the noise as it goes out
- A way to get attention without yelling

10. Talk with the Sun at the Campers Backs

- Otherwise they are squinting and ignoring you

11. Face the Audience

- When leading or giving instructions

12. Think about Different Learning Styles

13. Use Examples

14. 4% of People Won't Connect with You

- There will always be a kid who won't connect with you
- Find someone else who can connect with them
- No matter how awesome you are, you may just not connect

15. One on One Connections each day

- Helps with Exhaustion

16. State Positives

- Don't say Don't
- Keep things in Positive tones
- Makes Everything Negative
- Don't Run vs Let's All Walk

17. Deposits Only

- AKA No Discounts
- Don't take away from people only give to them

18. Exercise

- Find a way for all to do it

19. Give Thanks

- Encourage a Practice of Gratitude
- Share with your campers what you are thankful for

20. Random Acts of Kindness

- Help make someone else's day better
- Random Acts of Unnecessary Kindness
 - Staff would have a door off hinges and run up to campers and open the unnecessary door for them
 - If someone spills water, take off jacket and help them step over it

21. Journal

- Reflection brings happiness

22. Journal for Each Kid

- Great for parents to see what kids did

23. Anything can be Awesome

- Kittens Video on YouTube

24. Unicorn Sighting

- Part of Anything can be awesome
- Staff dressed up as unicorns because some campers were

talking about wanting to see them

- Frownselor: "Kids don't want to do anything" Other Counselor: "Do you guys want to go on a Bathroom Tour" Kids: "WHAT?" Other Counselor: "No Kid has seen every toilet at camp" Went on tour even to executive Directors toilet and wrote him notes. Kids remember this to this day

25. Have a Bag of Supplies

- Yarn, popsicle sticks, duct tape, cards, etc
- Kids will figure out things to do with it
- Counselors need props

26. Loose Parts when Kids arrive

- Things for kids to just do stuff so not bored
- Easy to step into. (NOT A GAME)
- Random crafts

27. FOTAY

- Figure out the Activity Yourself
- Make up game with loose parts
- Split up and each side comes up with game and then play each others

28. Put Yourself in their Shoes

- See things from their perspective
- First day of camp is boring. Help kids be goofy
- How many first day stuff is designed for Adults Convenience

29. Whose Time is Being Wasted (Check in)

- Program forgot to get balls out so wasting camper times
- Kitchen not ready
- Turn this time into valuable time
- 20-30 min a day is "wasted" (walking, giving instructions, transition)

30. Transitioning

- Have something for all of these

31. Give Kids the Schedule

- How many times do we check the program book even though we know exactly what's going on
- Don't put times on the schedule, just the Order (if times change it can throw off a kid)

32. Ask Kids for Help

- Be honest with kids when you mess up
- Kids love to be useful
- Carry water bottles, help in dining Hall

33. Get on their Level

- Don't talk down them
- Sit down with them and discuss as a group

34. Use Campers Names 3 Times

- Helps to remember
- First few minutes say their name 3 times in a useful way (not just repeat)
- Inform the camper that I'm doing it " Hey Laura, I'm saying your name a lot Laura, because I'm bad at remembering names Laura"

35. Take off Sunglasses

- People need to see eyes to incorporate trust
- Disney employees are not allowed to wear them
- Very informal
- "You're too good"

36. Mirror Neurons

- When Shane smiles, I smile
- Model what you hope their actions will be

37. Listen First

38. Everyone Has a Thang

- Every kid is good at something
- Weird not wrong
- Some kid could probably talk about Nascar forever. You're listening First will help him think he's important
- Don't make them feel like their thing is bad
- We all have a thing we want to talk about that someone has probably looked bored at or told us to stop
- Learn something little about their thing and ask them about it

39. End the Day with Embers

- Time of Reflection

40. Go First for Emotional Buy In

- You set the tone and the example
- More likely to get the response you're looking for

41. Gender Neutral Pronouns

- Y'all not You Guys
- Friends

42. Count to 10 while walking

- If 2 people say a number at the same time start over

- Just a fun way to pass walking time
43. Pictionary Telephone
- Telestrations
44. You don't have Friends at Camp
- Your time should be spent with campers and not each other
 - Don't whine about time with campers
 - No Clumping in groups
45. You've Got to Be Kidding Me!
- Get over the fact that you will be teaching the staff common sense stuff
 - They don't know how to do laundry, start fires, or even how to make eye contact and welcome parents
 - Hit List: 100 things of stuff you either need to show someone or have someone show you
46. Debriefing
- What Happened (just the facts)
 - So What (How did it feel)
 - Now What (impact the world)
47. Bet You Can't Learn From it
- Challenge your staff to make a lesson from the activity
 - Can the kids go away knowing more?
48. Be Professional, not Boring
- The Goofball gets zero respect
 - The Old Boring guy no one likes
 - Be fun, but not crazy
49. Kill it before it dies
- End games before it stops being fun
50. Watch Your Face
- Facial Expressions are hard to miss
 - Campers and their parents notice them right away
51. Under Promise/Over Achieve
52. Talk about what's coming up
- Tell the campers about upcoming things at camp
 - Fall Retreats
 - Next Year's Theme
 - Being on Staff

