

CHRIS KALLAL'S

STEALTHS

50 WAYS  
TO BE AWESOME



# CHRISTOPHER KALLAL



Chris Kallal is the Executive Director at Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp in Greensburg, Indiana. Chris, an Illinois native, has been a camping professional since 2001. He started off at Camp Manitoumi, in Illinois, serving as their program director for 10 years while also teaching 6th grade at Washburn Middle School. Then he spent 3 years learning to be a boy scout as the Camp Director of Ingersoll Scout Reservation. The next 9 years, Chris served as the Executive Director of Camp Good News in Washington, IL.

Chris loves camp! He started attending in 1991 right after 3rd grade and hasn't stopped since! In fact, he loves camp so much that he spends a lot of his free time teaching others about camp! He has taught camping classes at different conferences around the world and written a ton of books about the various aspects of camp life. As well, Chris co-hosts a podcast, *Scamp Life - The Programming Side*, where he talks all things Camp Programming. When he finds time, he loves to search online for the newest, unique ideas to implement into his Camp as well as visiting multiple camps over the years to "steal" ideas from them!

He and his wife Carrie have a total of 4 children; Rowan, Emmalina, Autumn, and Aurora, as well as a dog, cat, and a pet skunk, named Stinkerbell!

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## 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

