Camp Theme ideas Handout
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Some Theme Ideas discussed at the 2008 Teen Conference
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Importance of a good theme:
✓ Get the campers attention
✓ Relevant to the age group
✓ Attracts the parents to spend money to send their children
✓ Sounds fun and exciting
✓ It is broad and easy to fit activities and games into
✓ It is easy to decorate or design costumes around
✓ You should be able to come up with at least 5 activities for the theme
✓ The theme should appeal to both male and female campers
✓ Fun titles for the activities are needed
✓ You can have tribe or group names that fit your theme
✓ Will camper know what the theme means by the time you get to camp (will it still be a popular theme)

Camp Themes the group of teens came up with at the 2008 Teen Conference

Road Trip or Amazing Race – each day you visit a different place (in your state, or country or world)
• Scavenger Hunt – look for different items based on you location theme
• Famous People Dinner – Counselors Dress up like famous people and eat with the campers (campers can interview the famous people about their lives)
• Eat food from around the world – have your menu go along with the area you are visiting
• Country customs – celebrate different customs of your location

Back to the Future or Blast from the Past – Travel backward and/or forward in time with different activities or travel back in time to different era’s 50’s, 60’s, 70’s or 80’s
Also Music through the Ages – look at the different music form the 50’s, 70’ or 80’s etc.
• Go back to dinosaurs time or cavemen
• You could travel up in time and have a future day
• You could look at different ways to make music or what music was used for
• You could travel back to the wild west or pioneer days
• You could visit any major events in history
• Egg catapult
• Jousting with pool raft and noodles

Disney or Fantasy camp – have a Disney theme with all kinds of cartoons or characters
• You could watch a Disney movie
• Campers could come with Disney costumes
• You could have a Cinderella Ball
• You could have a Cinderella slipper hunt
• You could have a rescue the princess activity
• Super hero games or competitions
• Mickey Mouse Camp fire
• Magic carpet races
• Super heroes and villains
• Daily parade (tribes take turns putting on the parade for the others)
• Custom ball

Down on the Farm - Farm animals and activities you would play on a farm
• Hay ride
• BBQ Dinner or cookout
• Bring in real farm animals
• Pony rides
• Egg Toss
• Horse shoes
• Hay bale toss
• Grease pig (oiled watermelon in the pool)
• Sadie Hawkins Dance

Operation Camp or 4-H Camp Wants you - Army or military camp with a mission
• Missions for each day
• Cool nick names for your tribes (F troop) (Army, Air Force, etc.)
• Counselor Hunt
• Water balloon wars
• Obstacle course
• Survival hike
• Camouflage Contest
• Land games or maneuvers
• Human battle field
• Dog tags for name tags
• Tie dye (greens and browns) make crafts for t-shirts
• Spy games

Treasure of Traditions – all your activities are around different 4-H traditions or projects
• Traditional tribe names
• Traditional camp fire
• Activities around projects like seed to flower
• Bring in some traditional animal projects and have real animals
• Have activities created around things that happen at the county fair (like a stuffed animal livestock show)
• Do some outdoor cooking or Mini Meal Magic menus
• Have a costume sewing contest
• Base activities around 4-H project options

Theme shows – this is a camp around TV Shows or Game Shows
• Are you Smarter than a 5th grader
- Family (tribe) Feud
- Win Lose or Draw
- Wheel of Fortune
- Millionaire

**Board Games** - Have camp base around different board games
- Candy Land
- Clue
- Monopoly
- Life
- Trivial Pursuit
- Life size games and group board games
- Decorate with all game boards
- Costume dress up as game pieces
- Craft – make your own board game
- Mystery dinner
- Checkerboard dance

**Space Camp** – all about space
- Build a spaceship
- Have a Guest speaker
- Make Flubber
- Survive on Mars
- Hunt Aliens
- Explore the Solar System
- Rockets Away
- Build egg carriers and launch them to see if your egg lands safely

**Wild West Camp**
- Play Native American games or Pioneer games
- Track Animals
- Learn about edible plants
- Have someone teach square dancing
- Have a hoe down
- Have a squirt gun shoot out
- Have a water rodeo

**Hollywood Camp**

**Roll out the Red Carpet Camp**
- Movie night
- Have talent shows
- Award Dinners or shows
- Fashion show (red carpet walk)
- Movie of the camp
- Music videos
- Celebrity Ball

**Sports Grand Slam Camp** - All about sports the more popular and the not so popular
- Tribe names could be famous sports teams
• Play different sports (softball, basket ball, soccer, football etc.)
• Also play funny sports like Water volleyball, head spin base ball, backwards soccer etc.
• Have everyone wear their favorite team shirts
• Have a sports banquet
• Have a guest speaker
• Have some sports crafts

**Bahamas or Beach camp or Under water camp** —activities around the beach or ocean
• Swimming pool snorkeling
• “Dive” in Movie
• Beach Day
• Beach Volleyball
• Sea food dinner
• Fishing
• Aquatic Animal or stream studies
• Make shoe box oceans
• Have a shell hunt
• Play ocean tag (sharks and fish)
• Best beach outfit contest
• Diving contest or pool games

**A Bugs Life** —All about different insects
• Create activities around how insects live – like spider web troubles each member of the tribe has to get though a spider web made of rope but only one member can go though each whole in the web once (this is a team building activity)
• Grass hopper Olympics –all kinds of jumping contest
• Insect crafts
• Make Butterfly kits
• Go on a bug hunt
• Bug dance and decorate with making things look giant as they would be to a bug
• Bug costumes
• Eat dirt pudding, have ants on a log snack, butterfly cookies
• Make insect snacks (cookies of snacks shaped like bugs)

**Holiday Camp** or **Around the world Celebration**—each day is a different holiday or even each event is based on a different holiday base on the seasons (start in Jan, Feb, March –first day of camp then go April, May and June for second day and so on)
Bring in other holidays from around the world or even celebrate our American holidays in a different way like they do in other countries (Christmas is a good example it is celebrated in different ways around the world)
Halloween- can costumes, trick or treat, make pumpkin pie in a bag, have a pumkin smashing contest etc. Christmas- decorate a Christmas tree, make a gift for someone, have a Christmas dance, decorate your cabin. Easter – have a egg hunt, color eggs, have a egg toss contest, have an egg roll contest, have an egg drop contest
Saint Patrick Day- wear green, have a pot of gold hunt, best dress contest, find the 4-leaf clover hunt. New Year’s Eve – watch the ball drop, have a new year’s bash, make up resolutions, (this would be good for your last nights event at camp)

**CSI – Crime Scene Investigations**
- Murder mystery dinner
- Clue – play a life like clue game to hunt for clues to the camp mystery
- (see clue lesson plan)
- Make CSI t-shirts
- Investigate animal tracks
- Have a camp mystery plot that goes on all week
- Play crossing the boarder (see lesson plan)
- Counselor hunt
- Scooby Doo Mystery Inc. or other cartoon detectives skit for camp fire
- Find the missing person by following clues or solving puzzles

**Circus Camp –**
- Decorate with wild animals
- Have Fortune tellers, (funny skit with crystal ball)
- Have odd talents contest
- Eat circus food for snacks
- Have a ring master instead of a camp director
- Counselors could be clowns
- Win tickets for good behavior or contest that can be cashed in at the circus tent
- Have pony rides
- Have a guest performance
- Have dancers, singers or funny skits
- Have carnival games like ring toss, cake walks etc.

**NASCAR Camp** – camp base on all kind of racing
- Build a race car and have a car show
- Race the race car down the pond wall slide
- Craft build derby cars then race them
- Teams create their own team flags
- Have Racing Team names for tribes
- Watch CARs the movie
- Have race theme skits for camp fire
- Herbie the Love Bug movie