

Camp Crazy

Students who work as summer camp counselors say the job is as much about learning as teaching

Story by Karen Janes



If chasing eight-year-olds, earning meager paychecks, consoling homesick campers and getting little sleep does not sound like a perfect summer job, then camp counseling is probably not a good idea. But Aggies who have worked as summer camp counselors readily agree that the benefits of working at camps surpass those of other summer jobs.

Junior recreation, park and tourism sciences major Rye Lemons has worked as a trail guide at a Christian wilderness experience camp in the Adirondack Mountains for the past two summers. For him, the best things about camp are the friendships he has made. "You get to know people very well," Lemons said. "I have friends all over the country now, and five or six of them I still talk to regularly." When working at camp, relationships are built not only with fellow counselors, but with campers as well.

Junior recreation, parks and tourism sciences major Carrie Paris said her campers at YMCA day camps tended to behave better when she dealt with them as friends. "It's awesome to have relationships with the kids, to be friends and hang out with them," Paris said. "You don't have to be a drill sergeant to them. They're going to behave if they like you."

Counselors said it is sometimes easier to deal with older campers. Since Lemons

worked with high-school students, he said he had no problem understanding them. Jamie Walker, a junior recreation, park and tourism sciences major, said the same about her YMCA day campers.

"You don't have to be a drill sergeant to them (campers). They're going to behave if they like you."

Carrie Paris, junior recreation, park and tourism sciences major

"It's fun with the older campers because you can relate with them and be a strong role model for them," Walker said.

Being a positive role model is one of the most important aspects of the job, counselors

said. In a Christian camp setting, counselors carry the responsibility to a spiritual level.

"We try to be examples of Christ — how he looks in human form," Lemons said. "We try to be a positive Christian influence on the campers."

Walker said she and fellow counselors aim to show campers the right way to treat people through example.

"We try to teach respect for others," she said. "We treat each other [counselors] the way we want kids to treat each other. If two kids are fighting, we ask them, 'Do you see us treating each other that way?'"

Paris said a positive outlook is important when working as a counselor.

"When we are positive, it helps the campers develop good attitudes," Paris said.

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WEEKEND PREVIEW

THURSDAY April 17

Cloud 6, a rock cover band from Houston, is playing at Chelsea Street Pub and Grill at 9 p.m.

Dah-Veed, a rock band from Austin, is playing with **Fysher**, a rock band from Bryan-College Station, at Dixie Theatre at 9:30 p.m.

Heywood, a rock band from Bryan-College Station, is playing at Fitzwilly's at 9:30 p.m.

Peeping Tom, a rock band from Bryan-College Station, is playing at Club Ozone at 9:30 p.m.

Sneaky Pete, a sing-a-long artist from Bryan-College Station, is playing at Cow Hop at 9 p.m.

Tody & the Royals, a blues band from Bryan-College Station, is playing at the Palace Theatre at noon.

Mike McAllister, an acoustic musician, is playing at Sweet Eugene's House of Java at 9:30 p.m.

UFOFU, a rock band from Denton, is playing with **Kid Fantastic**, a rock band from Bryan-College Station, at Cow Hop at 9 p.m.

Voodudes, a rock band from Bryan-College Station, is playing at Fitzwilly's at 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY April 19

Big Apple Trio, a jazz band from Bryan-College Station, is playing at Sweet Eugene's House of Java at 9:30 p.m.

Blue By Nature, a blues band from California, is playing at 3rd Floor Cantina at 9:30 p.m.

Cloud 6, a rock cover band from Houston, is playing at Chelsea Street Pub and Grill at 9 p.m.

Freudian Slip, an improvisational comedy act from Bryan-College Station, is performing at Dixie Theatre at 10 p.m.

Carlton Johnson, a comedian, is performing at Caffe Capri at 9 p.m.

Messina Hof is hosting **grapeSTOMP** at the Annual Wine & Roses Festival at 11 a.m.

MSC Film Society is showing **The Wall** at Rudder Theatre at midnight.

Sneaky Pete, a sing-a-long artist from Bryan-College Station, is performing at Fitzwilly's at 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY April 18

Cloud 6, a rock cover band from Houston, is playing at Chelsea Street Pub and Grill at 9 p.m.

Ruthie Foster, a R&B musician from Bryan-College Station, is playing at 3rd Floor Cantina at 9:30 p.m.

Freudian Slip, an improvisational comedy act from Bryan-College Station, is performing at Dixie Theatre at 10 p.m.



UFOFU is playing at the Cow Hop tomorrow night with **Kid Fantastic**.

MSC Variety Show

Featuring:
Mark Britten
Curtain goes up

April 18 at 7:30 pm

With Acts Like:

Stephen Sandlin Ballet Folklorico Celestial
Chain Gang K.C. & Peter Shukis
And On That Note Caren Williams
Felix Natalie Holzen

Tickets Available at Rudder Box Office
For info, call 845-1515

CASINO 1997

April 18th
7:00-Midnight
2nd Floor MSC

Tickets
\$5 Presale
\$7 Door

Back To Vegas
Aggieland, U.S.A.

Parent's Weekend

Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification three (3) working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our abilities.