



Bon Voyage!



Going on a Cruise Camp Style

Mid-Summer Program Ideas (Vol. 4): Quick + Easy + FUN!

Dear Camp Friends,

It is hard to believe that the month of July is upon us! You might not be aware that in the “real world” stores are already gearing up for “Back to School” (I’ve even seen some holiday decorations if you can believe that!). Some of you are probably looking forward to a vacation this fall and may even be planning a cruise to a fun location in order to wind down and relax after a busy summer!

This year’s mid-summer newsletter was inspired by a post I saw on the “Summer Camp Program Director” website (www.summercampprogramdirector.com). It caught my eye because of the endless possibilities for day and resident camps alike to use as a theme event for a day or even for an entire week. Included in this letter are just a few creative ways to help get you started brainstorming so that you can plan and implement the idea at your own camp. This event is a great way to inject some variety and new energy at time in the summer when it is often most needed!

Come Sail Away With Me...

Kim Aycock

Destination Location?

Choose a port (can go to just one or choose a new location every day for a week):
Caribbean island, Alaska, Hawaii, Mexico, etc.

Each age group could go to a different location at camp if taking a 1-day cruise and have activities planned accordingly or campers pick their own destination from a selection of choices

Theme cruise: Disney, Nickelodeon, Sports, Celebrity, etc.

Bon Voyage!

Keep it a surprise until the last minute - campers find out they are “leaving” on a cruise and come with bags “packed” for the adventure

Give tickets to board U.S.S. Fun Ship

Have a send-off party with sparkling grape juice or other festive beverage

Special Touches

Give each camper a passport and have it stamped for that day’s destination location or for each activity

Name tags for leadership team (Captain, Cruise Director, Activities Director, etc.)

Turn down service with chocolate/mints on pillow

Towel Animals/Origami: do a Google search for “how to” instructions and videos

Make a music mix with cruise tunes...don’t forget the steel drum!

Specially made postcards for campers to send home

Decorations

Life preserver arch, anchors, port holes, seashells, fish nets, flowers, nautical hats, luggage tags, multi-colored pennants, serpentine throws, treasure chests, ship in a bottle, etc.

Meals at Sea

Have kitchen personnel dress like chefs and wait staff

Serve food buffet style (possibly around pool deck or other outdoor location)

Different food “stations” - campers can choose from several options (build your own hamburgers, pizza, tacos, etc.)

Theme Nights: Seafood, Mexican, Formal, etc.

Fruity umbrella drinks

Food carvings/sculptures (ex: watermelon baskets) and floral centerpieces

Cruise Activities

Pool Party or Luau (leis, grass skirts, tiki torches, etc.)

Movie Fest

Spa: manicures, pedicures, hair braiding, etc.

Yoga

Miniature Golf, Ping-pong, Shuffleboard

Climbing Wall, Zip-line

Crafts: jewelry making, design your own t-shirt

Cooking classes

Face painting

Scavenger Hunt

Fishing

Snorkeling

Shopping: have camp “store” open or other souvenir shop

“Shore” excursions: horseback riding, hiking, kayaking, rafting, tubing, exploring an island, etc.



Evening

Casino Night: Bingo and other fun games

Karaoke/Lip Sync or Talent Show

Dancing (have a tennis “ball” dance on the tennis courts)

Game Show Night (“Minute to Win It” games work well)

“Live” Entertainment or Mini Broadway Production- enlist staff to put on a fun show!

Welcome Home!

Have slide show/video of trip to play upon return back to camp! Make a scrapbook...

References:

A special thanks to Jed Buck of Meadowbrook Country Day Camp for sharing many of these ideas on www.summercampprogramdirector.com and to my mother-in-law for filling in some of the details of her adventures at sea since I’ve never been on a cruise!

