

Are we a match?

Whether or not you grew up in Israel, rural China, the Amazon basin, New York City, Provo Utah, or Small Town Nebraska would have a lot to do with your world view, your religious beliefs, ideas about sex, thoughts on children, what is right and wrong, and who you are. Growing up in the 2000s, 1980s, 1960s, 1930s, or 1800s would also have a huge influence on your values, behavior, and thoughts. Growing up Black, Asian, White, or Hispanic would similarly color your world view.

Summer camps differ almost as widely in culture as do the diverse cultures on Planet Earth. You are now considering a singular culture – Camp Augusta. Whether hunting for a job or a mate, you need to look over several possibilities until you find one that is a great fit. There are over 12,000 summer camps, and this one is unlike most of them. Is this culture/camp a good match for who you are? Do the values and expectations fit with your own? If not, you should find a summer camp that is more like one at which you would be happy. Faking it and being here will not make for a good summer for you. Make sure you are a good fit for this camp, and then we can start the courtship process. :-)

Substances

- If you smoke, or recently used to and quit, please do not apply here.
- If you could absolutely, positively, happily NOT partake of any mind-altering substance all summer (alcohol, other drugs), then please consider applying. If you need to drink to be drunk for pleasure and happiness on a weekly basis, do not apply here. On a weekend day off, an alcoholic drink to chill, relax, and enjoy is within reason.
- Drinking 2 or more cups of coffee, soda, tea, or other highly-caffeinated substances a day is a warning sign for us. Energy, and perhaps happiness, is sought through substances, instead of healthy food and good sleep.

Media – none of these apply to you

- Cosmo, People, US, E, Stuff, Elle, Glamour, Maxim, and other similar magazines are enjoyable for you to read
- You watch more than a couple hours of television a week
- Video games like Halo, Quake, and Doom are enjoyable for you to play. Video games are in your top 10 things to do on your down time.
- You own Abercrombie clothing (see below). Clothing for social status is normal and cool.

Constitution

- Generally, you get more than 7 hours of sleep a night. Extremely rarely will you get less than that, and you prefer 8+ hours of sleep. If you routinely sleep less than 8 hours, you are not a good match.
- You can jog two miles, and you're just warming up. Sporting activities are enjoyable, and you are able to fully participate. Taking a 10 mile hike with 3000' elevation gain and loss is something you could do tomorrow without concern. You will expend a lot of energy at camp, and being exhausted won't be fun for you or the kids. Get up and jog two miles today or tomorrow – was that easy for you?

Traits

- The greatest skill you must possess is the ability to forgive yourself and others. Without that compassion and forgiveness, the humanity of the humans around here will eat at your soul.
- People have told you that you are a very generous person. You have a communal, not equity, perspective (see Top 10 document). You don't care about your job description specifics; if you can, you help out. However, you can also draw the line and take a break when you need it.

Professional Role Model Appearance

Children in America have a lot of ideas put into their head about how they need to look to be cool, be liked, be accepted, etc. They can be quite nervous if their clothing doesn't make them fit in to their peer group.

Campers get their ideas from their current friends, magazines, television, movies, music, stores, et cetera. This is true throughout time – why did men used to wax their curly mustaches, but not do it now? Why do many women wear makeup? Clothing and appearance are culturally defined. It is only natural and normal to explore and try things with our appearance, however, most of the images portrayed from the current cultural sources in America are usually not healthy ones. I believe the focus is unhealthy because children are focused on their sexuality, their body image as a

major determinant of their worth as a human being, and they wear ideas/philosophies for which they have little true appreciation. Did you know that cosmetic procedures went up 44% from 2003 to 2004? Did you know you can walk into many Abercrombie stores and have an almost entirely naked young teen model prance around, and sometimes make lude, suggestive remarks about themselves or shoppers? They've also been successfully sued for providing "how-to" sex information to 12-14 year olds.

Thus, as a professional role model looking to be a beacon in the storm, your clothing and appearance should follow some guidelines. A simple t-shirt and shorts is the unofficial "camp uniform." Shirts should not be "belly shirts," and shorts and pants should not ride low on the hips. Do not bring shirts that expose your belly. Short length should not be much shorter than your middle finger straight by your side. You don't roll your short waist down. Tank tops should not have spaghetti straps.

Style and individuality are still yours, and very welcome – keeping in mind the goals and objectives of the camp.

Personal Relationships

At camp, people sometimes form new close relationships. Also, people sometimes come to camp coupled. That's all well and good. From this camp/culture's perspective, such relationships should not be the campers' business. Relationships outside of marriage/long-term commitment are not displayed, discussed, or known about as far as the campers are concerned. Why? Because, we believe, children are hurried into dating, relationships, and sex. Twelve and thirteen year olds read Teen Magazine. Teens are too cool and mature for that, and they read Cosmo and Maxim. Television shows are often focused on relationships (especially ones filled with drama) and sex, or sexualized images. We would rather children spend a week or two just being kids and reclaiming some of the joy and innocence of childhood. They've got over 60 years to be an adult. If you have a problem with this, you must clearly communicate with Randy before you arrive.

We believe . . .

. . . that spirit, mind, and body must be nourished richly and simultaneously. We value music and art just as much as sports. We foster respect for self, for fellow humankind, and for the created world of which we are stewards. We find that the deepest community can arise out of the strongest individuality when trust, tolerance, and understanding prevail. Above all, we love to have fun—because smiles and laughter and joyful optimism are the forge of community, relationship, and our own humanity.

We believe that at camp, children should stop thinking about what they wear, what it takes to be cool, and growing up too fast. They should think about canoeing, roasting marshmallows, appreciating community, enjoying true friendships, singing, wondering at the stars, and communing with nature. Thus, we leave popular culture at the door. We believe that imagination is a precious gift to be protected and not trampled by intense media bombardment.

We believe that campers should do their best work whenever possible, and not engage in something half-heartedly. Campers should take pride in their work. The arrow should fly true, the art should be artful, the drama well-rehearsed, and the dining decorum playful, yet reverent.

We believe that children learn best when they discover truths for themselves. Children should explore, create, and challenge. Feeding children answers and giving them facts deadens their thirst and hunger for what is true and possible. Play is a tool for learning, and not something given so many minutes during the day. Through play, children learn social skills, their passions, and their potential.

Our Values

"We are a creative, trustworthy, fun, community of servants focused on the mission."

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| * Largely non-competitive | * Small camp (<90) | * Non-profit – children first |
| * Challenge by choice | * Guidance | * Coed |
| * Community | * People love to learn | * Fun is within camp |
| * Safe / secure / healthy | * Discover themselves | * Not typical sports oriented |
| * Free-choice | * Child centered | * Non-denominational (not religious) |
| * Small group (6) | * Not glitzy or gimmicky | * Absence of technology |
| * Individual attention (1:2) | * Rustic | |

Re-read the "Modern Hero" article on the website