

Camp Augusta Pride Projects

(The difference between "This sucks!" and "Mom, do you see the bathhouse? I helped paint it!")

Camp Augusta Pride Projects (CAPP) are a time during the week where each cabin has the opportunity to improve or beautify camp in some way. Your imagination, the campers' imaginations, and some practical realities (e.g., time and money) are the only limitations.

Here's how we're going to do it. When planning cabin activities with the cabin for the week ahead, an hour (or more) can be substituted for CAPP time. Some cabins may choose a project lasting more than one hour - time can be used during rest hour, further cabin activities, etc. However, Camp Augusta Pride Projects are not assigned or required. The campers need to choose the projects themselves, although you can provide some ideas to get the juices flowing. In choosing, CAPP becomes service, not work. It also serves the creativity mission, and allows children to take some ownership over the camp.

Think about volunteer work you do as an adult. You have several choices.

- (A) Do I want to volunteer or not?
- (B) Where do I want to volunteer, and what do I want to do?
- (C) How long do I want to volunteer?

Children learn to make choices by being given choices with guidance. That's what CAPP projects are - we're teaching the campers about service. You are responsible for trying to instill a positive community and volunteering ethic in your campers.

Counselors always participate in the project with the campers. There are also lots of different ways in which CAPP can be completed:

- Ø A cabin works on two small projects
- Ø A cabin works on one large project
- Ø Two cabins double up on a project
- Ø Two-week cabins can choose something more ambitious as they have more time
- Ø Start a project than can be worked on by cabins that will follow in other sessions
- Ø Offer a Camp Augusta Pride Project as a Playstation option

What to do about camper whining:

Camp Augusta Pride Projects are sometimes not a camper's favorite part of the week. The manner in which you present the program to them has a lot to do with their opinion of it. However, sometimes campers will still complain no matter how well you sell them the idea. Some common complaints are:

- Ø Why don't they pay someone to do this?
- Ø I came here to have fun, not to work.
- Ø If someone else messed this stuff up, why do I have to fix it?

The way you respond to these complaints is to frame the experience so the camper has a better point of reference to come from.

- Ø We could pay someone to clean/fix this, but then it would cost more to come to camp and some children wouldn't be able to come, maybe even a friend in your cabin.
- Ø Use these opportunities as a chance to enact a long-term change in behavior by showing them the value of things like community, ownership, service, helping others, etc.
- Ø We all take responsibility for camp. It's impossible with so many people here to know who broke this arrow/left this trash on the ground, etc. However, if we all decide to help each other, camp becomes a better place faster. If we all pitch in, we make camp more fun for everyone.

Outright refusal

You've explained the fun, personal satisfaction, and group satisfaction of Camp Augusta Pride Projects to your cabin. You've explained all the cool options available. You've let them choose something they would like to do. You've explained the idea of community, ownership, service, and helping others. After all of this, the cabin still outright refuses to participate in a CAPP. At this point, you will not force them to do it, because this isn't a forced-labor camp and children would only learn what they already know – you have more power than they do. Try to success counsel them. Have them watch other good examples of community service that other cabins are doing.

Your village leader will be available to help counsel your cabin so that they can hopefully see the personal value in doing Camp Augusta Pride Projects. Use other people to help build the children's character when it is called for. By asking for help, you'll be demonstrating your own strong character.

CAPP Examples

The Tea Pagoda and Chicken Ranch are two fairly fresh areas at camp. Should the campers wish to complete a CAPP project for these areas, here are some possibilities (please think of any others you may have);

Pagoda

- § Tidy the general area around the pagoda area. Remove brush, etc
- § Produce lanterns, and candles, which can be hung in the trees in the surrounding area.
- § Produce large candles for inside the pagoda.
- § Produce some tea cups (perhaps even a tea pot) in ceramics.
- § Decorate the pathway leading up to the pagoda (garden stones, logs either side, etc)
- § Produce a decorative sign leading to the pagoda.

Ranch

- § Chalk a mural on the coop walls (perhaps some friend eggs!)
- § Garden stones to decorate the inside of the ranch, or for the path leading to the ranch.
- § Decorate (or produce more attractive) nesting boxes.
- § A general clean of the area!
- § Improve the patches of grass either side of the path leading to the ranch.
- § Produce a decorative sign leading to the ranch.
- § Produce an egg collecting basket.

Some favorites of 2008:

Trail clearing with the goats
Plant a garden
Make and decorate selves for the cabin
Make a goldfish pond
Build a trail from the tea pagoda to the creek
Clean the hot-tub
Paint a mural in the bathhouse
Make a staff picture board
Help at horses
Make bird feeders
Throwing range maintenance

Make bat houses
Build a labyrinth around the hot-tub
Old zip-line renovation
Office beautification
Make lanterns for the Cedar Grotto
Build a couch for the grotto
Make signs for a safer road crossing
Build a door for the Nurse's Cabin
Build a table for the grotto
Build a swing
Make lanterns for girl's campfire

Previous Years

Below are a list of CAPP projects completed in previous years. These are just suggestions; remember that the children will be choosing their own project.

Appreciation

- Make & give out paper flowers.
- Sing songs for other cabins (nice thing to do at night as well)
- Make get-well cards for people in the Nurse's cabin
- Write thank you cards for camp staff or other campers
- Write thank you cards to parents

Beautification

- Make pinecone bird feeders
- Decorate dining area
- Make table markers
- Re-mulch any area
- Making inspirational garden stones (with messages) for paths
- Weeding all over camp, or making flower gardens (also, trim grass around flowers in hammock village)
- Paint a mural for an activity area, or in the bathhouse
- Make artwork to hang in camp office or other cabins
- Create garden stones for benefactors (will be placed by totem pole - in ground)
- Spread grass seed
- Refill bird feeders in hammock village
- Nature art - beautification is a great service

Cleaning

- Clean windows around camp
- Scoop poop at the corral
- Scrub and refill water troughs for horses
- Clean spider webs out of bathhouses
- Clean horse tack
- Clean canoes
- Clean the helmets
- Campfire pit cleanouts

Clinic/Program Maintenance (ask the clinic teachers)

- Rake out the dirt bowl
- Bike maintenance
- Organize gear room
- Organize boat house
- Wash climbing ropes by hand
- Wash hammocks by hand
- Assist kitchen staff with meal prep
- Organize craft shack
- Help rinse and hang tie-dye
- Decorate the lodge for the dances
- Help feed horses before dinner (or at 6am if you really want)
- Start preparation for a new program area (labyrinth, garden, etc.)
- Trail maintenance (clearing debris, lining the trail with rocks or logs)
- Tend to the garden (harvest lettuce, weeding, watering, etc)
- Clean and repair program equipment (canoes, arrows, etc.)

Construction

- Clear a path from cabins to bathhouse
- Level the ground beneath the slanted tables
- Make shelves for other cabins
- Repair a camp item that could use more pizzazz
- Trash pickup is still ok if the children choose to do it

Be original! Be sure to spread the word if you have any additional ideas!

Ideas for CAPP:
