

# TRIP LEADERSHIP AND CONTENT FOR TRIP LEADERS

## YOUNG LIFE BEYOND MALIBU

### WHAT DOES THE LEADERSHIP OF A BEYOND TRIP LOOK LIKE?

Each trip has 2-3 guides. They are trained in mountaineering or kayaking skills, first aid, and have had leadership experience in one form or another (Young Life club, church setting or some other context). They have spent the spring preparing themselves through study, training, testing, and are excited to have the opportunity to be a part of the ministry this summer. At the start of the trip, you will have the opportunity to discuss the week ahead with your guides (your own desires for the individual participants and group as a whole, what material you have prepared, what the guides have prepared, and how these components will fit together in the week). As the week progresses, you will have the opportunity to continue discussing these things with your guides.

Our desire is to give you, the trip leader, as much of a role in the trip leadership as you feel necessary and are comfortable with. You probably know your kids much better than your guides will and will naturally be more in tune with their needs. Guides do have final authority for the trip as a whole, yet we encourage you to give careful thought to the options for your involvement and to do the planning and preparation you feel necessary before the trip.

### WHAT DOES THE CONTENT CONSIST OF ON A BEYOND TRIP?

Each trip has several different aspects. There are the activities which accompany any hiking/kayaking trip: preparing food, setting up and taking down camp, hiking or kayaking, stopping along the way for pictures, and perhaps the chance to swim, rock climb and/or rappel. We also schedule in "content" times, the focus being on spiritual growth. These times include studying the scriptures, personal devotion times and discussions. These content times are opportunities for you to prepare material specifically for your group if you desire to do so.

Your guides will be prepared with material in all of these content areas. As the trip leader, you have several options. You can:

- o Come essentially as a camper, to experience the trip with the kids for the purpose of building relationships with them; therefore letting the guides handle all of the "up-front" leadership.
- o Come with no content prepared but share the up-front leadership with the guides as the trip develops and you feel comfortable.
- o Choose to prepare material for any and/or all of the content times, then, after meeting with the guides, decide which part(s) you will use.

Remember, it is your trip, not the guides' trip. They are there to serve your group and facilitate relationships. The key thing is that guides and trip leaders are **working together as a team**, and that they all have some degree of "ownership" in the leadership of the trip (regardless of who leads which portion of the trip's content). Below are some suggestions for preparation in each area.

## HOW CAN YOU PREPARE FOR THE CONTENT AREAS?

### Bible Studies

Bible studies might include a number of methods of looking at scripture (e.g. inductive -- observation, interpretation and application questions; scripture stories; debriefing the day's experience and how scripture applies to it; etc.). We will try to plan these times when individuals are most receptive and will usually have 3-4 opportunities a week for such times.

NOTE: The Beyond setting is unique, challenging and a once-in-a-lifetime experience for most participants. The idea is to relate faith to experience; thereby growing in understanding and application. We encourage you to prepare content that utilizes Beyond to its full potential. Topics such as suffering/trials/pain, facing fear, faith & trust, creation/stewardship, being a servant & living in community, etc. provide a hands-on application, which is sometimes unavailable at home.

### Personal Devotional Times

Quiet times are usually taken every day and last from 15-45 minutes (as you feel appropriate for your group). A 4 to 24-hour solo is also a possibility. These times might be structured with a question and/or passage of scripture, which will correlate with the day and the next Bible study.

### Sharing Times

Group discussions, sharing of feelings about the day, life stories, family backgrounds, etc. can happen spontaneously, on the trail, after a day of hiking or paddling, after or during a Bible study, or during a meal. These are opportunities to discuss the events of the day, thoughts from a Bible study, reflections on what individuals are learning and perhaps how to apply these lessons to their situations back home. These vary in length depending on the need and the situation. To prepare for these, you might think of some questions that campers can discuss with each other along the trail or questions that might open up personal sharing at the end of the day (e.g. "How do you feel about today's challenge?", or "What was your high point and low point for the day and why?", etc.).

## RIGHT NOW, PLEASE...

- o Take time to think and pray about the needs, goals, content and your involvement in your trip.
- o Fill out the TRIP QUESTIONNAIRE and e-mail it to us before **June 1<sup>st</sup>**.

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Remember that attitude and motivation are very important. Think about what you really want to see happen in others' lives and your own. Prepare your group and yourself for the experience through discussions, activities, letters and prayer. Come expecting a great time together!

We will be joining you in prayer and are looking forward to seeing you soon!