

All-Camp Celebration

An all-camp celebration is another way to give *Summer Sisters* activities and lessons a camp-wide presence. This celebration can also help spread awareness, start discussions, and celebrate being a girl for the whole camp. A recommended time to do this is midway through the camp session, when most campers will have taken part in about half of the *Summer Sisters* sessions.

Planning the all-camp celebration is a great leadership opportunity for the oldest girls at camp. Work with these girls to plan the night and lead the activities for the rest of the camp. Choose an indoor venue (dining hall, dance hall, etc.) where everyone can be in the same space and there is room to do an activity.

Work with the girls to decorate the space with decorations and signs to give it the feel of a party. Examples of signs can include: quotes from famous women, phrases the girls come up with, advice about being a girl, the girls' words about what is true beauty, etc. You may also wish to work with the girls to put together a special treat. One easy but fun idea is rice crispy treats.

When the preparation is done, gather everyone in camp together in a large open space outside. Get everyone to form a circle and do "**The Circle Game**" (see "Getting to Know Each Other" on page 12) If the group is large, split everyone into two smaller circles, keeping the groups mixed with all ages. Then split everyone up by cabin and bring them inside to do "Our Cabin's Tree."

End the night with the special treat!

Key Points:

- Let the older girls run the night: give the directions, run the activities, and organize and guide the rest of camp through the night's celebration.
- Have one girl stand in the center of the circle during "The Circle Game" and read the statements out loud.
- For "Our Cabin's Tree" assign each older girl a cabin to help through the activity.

Our Cabin's Tree

An apple tree can be a metaphor for each of us. Ask the girls if they have ever cut open an apple and seen what is inside. Then cut open an apple and reveal the star hidden inside the apple. A sample script might go like this:

We each have "stars" within us. However, we do not always see our stars. Sometimes we need to rely on our "roots" - the people, places, memories and things that support us - to

ground us in order for us to be able to reach out our “leaves” to our hopes and dreams. Once we are grounded by our roots and aware of our dreams, we are better able to see the stars within ourselves (our gifts, skills, and special talents).

Before beginning the activity, have the materials ready for the tree. Each cabin should have its own tree. Draw the outline of the trunk on a large piece of poster board. Cut out leaves from green construction paper and apples from red construction paper. Have enough colored markers for each person in a cabin to have her own color.

Have each member of your cabin choose one colored marker that will represent her as you do this project together. As you work together on “decorating” your tree, talk about what words or symbols you are adding to each part of the tree and why you thought of them.

ROOTS:

Begin at the bottom by filling in the roots: the people, places, memories, things that support you.

LEAVES:

Take as many leaves as each of you need to capture the hopes and dreams you have for yourself.

APPLES:

Have each person fill in an apple with the gifts, skills, special things that you bring to your cabin and friendships.

TRUNK:

Ask each girl to fill in the trunk using the color she picked with the things she loved about her time at camp and what she has learned this summer.

