

**Conversation & Tips for Working with Teens from WDC Adults - May 2017 - Volunteer Training 2**

	<b>WHAT ARE THEY LIKE:</b>	<b>THIS MEANS...</b>	<b>ADULTS COULD....</b> <i>What ideas do you have to how to best use teens in our units, stations, or setting? How do we provide them leadership opportunities? We've provided some examples below... what others do you have? (The ideas overlap often for each level of Girl Scout.) We are working to compile a list.</i>
<p><b>CADETTES:</b> Grades 6-8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Going through puberty, lots of changes and feelings about their bodies, can experience shifts in mood.</li> <li>• Starting to spend more time with friends than families, concerned about friends and relationships with others their age.</li> <li>• Can be very self-conscious, want to be like everyone else, but fearing they are unique in their thoughts and feelings.</li> <li>• Are beginning to navigate increasing independence and expectations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They may be sensitive to their many changes they are undergoing.</li> <li>• They need to time to adapt to the changes and their feelings about their bodies might not keep up.</li> <li>• They enjoy teaming-up in small groups <i>(they will often do better in partners)</i>.</li> <li>• Encourage them to share, but only when they are comfortable.</li> <li>• Remind teens that there isn't just one way to look, think, and do things.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite girls' participation in decision-making when appropriate <i>(let them hold voting by campers and guide the group agreement and poster)</i>.</li> <li>• Expose girls to opportunities to teach or guide others and support girls in providing service to others <i>(let the teens teach and lead as much as possible, ask for them to support campers at stations, or ask for games ideas)</i>.</li> <li>• <i>Encourage working in partners when leading the unit or activity if they want to not be alone.</i></li> <li>• <i>Provide a chance for the teen to prepare for leading and don't put them on the spot, look at the whole week and plan opportunities for them to lead (give copies of the schedule to them).</i></li> <li>• <i>Ask them what they would like to lead...give choices or ideas vs. generic "what do you want to do?"</i></li> <li>• <i>Let them learn through their experiences and make mistakes.</i></li> <li>• Suggest and offer feedback when appropriate, please do so privately.</li> <li>• Ask the girls what is the best way to teach something? If possible let them lead.</li> <li>• Observe teen personalities and their strengths and weaknesses. Use this knowledge to help find appropriate opportunities for them to lead.</li> </ul> <p><b>WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO WHEN WORKING WITH THIS AGE GROUP?</b></p>
<p><b>SENIORS:</b> Grades 9-10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beginning to clarify their own values, consider alternate points of view, see multiple aspects of situation.</li> <li>• Have strong problem-solving and critical thinking skills, able to plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask for them to explain reasoning behind their decisions.</li> <li>• Have girls plan experiences through written and discussion based-reflection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Model planning and act as a resource for planning and participate in activities, assist teens in finding resources or ideas for activities at camp if needed.</li> <li>• Encourage them. Give compliments and positive feedback? Write notes and thank you cards...</li> <li>• Trust in their knowledge. They often know more about camp than adults at camp after coming to camp for so many years.</li> <li>• Use teens as resources for games and activities. Ask them for ideas.</li> </ul>

	<p>and reflect on their own experiences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spend more time in peer groups than their families. Very concerned about friends and relationships with others their age.</li> <li>• Frequently enjoy expressing their individuality.</li> <li>• Feel they have lots of responsibilities and pressures.</li> <li>• Are continuing to navigate their increasing independence and expectation from adults.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alter the makeup of groups with each activity so that the girls interact with those they might not usually pair up with.</li> <li>• Allow them to express their individuality in dress, creative expression, and thinking (<i>within camp dress code</i>).</li> <li>• Acknowledge girl's pressures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use open communication and talk with teens using honesty...don't beat around the bush. Politely get to the point.</li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p><b>WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO WHEN WORKING WITH THIS AGE GROUP?</b></p>
<p><b>AMBASSORS:</b> Grade 11-12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can see complexity of situations and issues. Understand that problems have no clear solution and that varying points of view may each have merit.</li> <li>• Have strong problem-solving and critical thinking skills, can adapt logical thinking to real-life situations and incorporate practical limitations to solutions.</li> <li>• Spend more time with peers than families, very concerned about friends and relationships with others their age.</li> <li>• Frequently enjoy expressing their individuality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They can set clear goals and make plans to achieve them.</li> <li>• They can assist girls in developing connections with other girls/campers.</li> <li>• They can propose solutions to problems in their community (or at camp).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask questions...questions as simple as, "How are you?" or "How has your day been?" will help the teenager talk about how she feels.</li> <li>• Encourage them to talk about problems they are having and intervening where and when necessary. Ask them with "that looked like a hard one...are you OK"... might help them ask for help.</li> <li>• Ask them what would be the best way to teach new skills or get the campers more involved in sharing their knowledge.</li> <li>• Promote the teens running cooperative activities and lessons (getting the whole unit working together).</li> <li>• Ask teens for their ideas and thinking on issues and problems at camp.</li> <li>• Ask for reflection often on what works good and what can be improved.</li> <li>• Start conversations on what would be the best way to divide content or teaching at a station/activity.</li> <li>• Let teens lead the adults when possible.</li> <li>• Listen well.</li> </ul> <p><b>WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO WHEN WORKING WITH THIS AGE GROUP?</b></p>

