

Camper-to-Staff Ratios (and Exceptions)

In-Camp Ratios

Specific camper-to-counselor ratios should be set (see ACA's recommended camper supervision ratios) with your

Out-of-Camp Camper-to-Staff Ratios

When planning for your camp's trips, again consider the age and needs of your campers. The destination will also affect recommended supervision ratios; for instance, your ratios might be very different if you have staff members leading an out-of-camp climbing expedition versus attending the local Renaissance Festival. Be sure to think through possible scenarios at each location before setting your final ratios. How will your counselors keep campers together in crowds? Are aquatics activities part of the outing? That is, do you need to send a lifeguard (or lifeguards) or other staff members with specific training (or first-aid certifications, etc.)? What if a camper doesn't want to participate in a specific activity (like a ride at an amusement park or the planetarium at your local science museum)? Do you have any campers attending who have special needs?

Supervision of Campers, Sensitive Issues, and Boundaries

The following information serves as an example of camper-supervision training that goes beyond basic staff-to-camper ratios. These paragraphs and the subsequent outlines cover staff responsibilities in supervision, the camp's expectations of staff and campers, and sensitive issues such as child abuse and being a mandated reporter, bullying,