

# MountainCamp Glossary

It seems as though every camp has a different name for the exact same thing, right? To help clear things up, we are providing you with a sneak peek of common terms and words used at MountainCamp! Read on, and when you come to camp you'll appear like a pro!!

## **Activity Sign-up:**

At the beginning of each week of the Jr. High, Elementary, and Sr. High sessions, campers are given the opportunity to sign up for daily workshops and trips for the upcoming week. A "lottery" system is used the first day of camp, where each cabin draws a number from a hat to discover the order of sign up. The order sign-up flip-flops the second week, meaning that if a cabin signed up 1<sup>st</sup> in week one, they will sign up last in week two.

## **ASCENDER (All Summer Campers Exploring Nature's Delights and Experiencing Re-creation):**

This is a 5-week program in which rising 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth live as a group with two mentors and experience hands-on work rotations in a variety of Mountain departments while developing interpersonal skills among with the rest of the participants. The ASCENDERS will take on responsibilities in Food Service, Youth Camp, Housekeeping, Maintenance, and other departments serving as "apprentices" to qualified staff members. In addition to working 5 days per week, ASCENDERS have one day off to do whatever they choose as a group, and one day to focus on team building and adventure activities. Their mentors, with guidance from the ASCENDERS themselves, will create a dynamic program that may include hiking, community service projects, planning evening programs for Camp, conflict management, religious values, etc.

## **Bottom/Base:**

The "lower area" of The Mountain, near the main entrance, where the field, crafts barn and year-round staff housing is located. Sometimes referred to as "downstairs".

## **Bug Juice:**

A mixture of bugs collected in the kitchen and sugar – a common afternoon drink. But truthfully, it's very similar to Kool-aid that campers (and bugs) LOVE to drink in order to quench thirst.

## **Cabin Inspection:**

A time between breakfast and morning circle, during which the campers do their chores (assigned by a rotating chore list) to clean up their own cabins. Members of the camp leadership team go around to each cabin and inspect the cabins, deciding whether they "pass" or not. If not, that cabin has to stay and try again. There is a **Major Inspection** that takes place on the middle Sunday and final day of camp. This is a more thorough inspection, and yes, sometimes the inspectors wear white gloves for testing cleanliness!! We all do our part to keep The Mountain clean!!

## **Camper Bank:**

Money that campers bring to The Mountain and deposited into a camp "Bank Account". Campers are given various opportunities to use their camper bank in The Mountain's store, on trips, etc. Any money not spent by the end of the camp session is automatically rolled into our Camper Scholarship Fund to help assist more campers to come to MountainCamp!

## **CIT's (Counselor-In-Training):**

This is a 7-week program in which rising 12<sup>th</sup> grade and (same year) High School Graduates live as a community with two mentors and develop and enhance leadership capacity. The CIT program provides

opportunities to work positively and effectively with youth and develop program design and implementation skills. CIT responsibilities include being an active part of their cabins, spending at least one night in the cabin with campers, co-facilitating daily activities and evening programs, etc. CIT's will have one day off each week to relax and one day per week devoted to training and education in outdoor adventure skills, youth development and other areas of interest.

### Coffeehouse:

This evening program is an informal talent show with poetry reading, playing music and singing of songs. It's generally referred to as the "No Talent, Talent Show".

### Counselors:

Individuals that live and work with the campers that attend MountainCamp. The Counselors lead all the workshops, trips, evening programs, and cabin activities. They make you laugh when you need to laugh, and they are there to listen when you need someone to listen. Their fun ideas and wacky costumes make the summer experience memorable for all of our campers. All of the Counselors are required to turn in a well thought-out application, provide excellent references, and endure an interview that can last up to and hour long!

### Duty Cabin:

The cabin assigned to a particular day, based on an order determined by camp leadership at the beginning of the session. This cabin has a list of special duties on that day - cleaning up the dining hall after meals, selecting a "Thought for the Day" to read out at morning circle and planning the vespers ceremony for that evening.

### Evening Program:

The activities planned for each night between dinner and bedtime.

### Family Council:

A discussion time each night within your cabin group between the evening program and lights-out. Each cabin group, campers and counselors, sit on the floor together in a circle inside their cabin and has a check-in time where each person tells a little bit about their day before bedtime.

### Field Day:

While not officially an entire day, this all-camp activity time is good fun for all. Planned by the CIT's, Field Day can include anything from water balloon tag, face painting, sunken canoe races, and more. Our mid-session BBQ takes place on Field Day to help complete the "festival" feel of the experience.

### Field time:

The time between lunch and Siesta when all the campers back from their trips have free time to play games, do basic crafts, swim in the lake, or relax at the field.

### GORP:

**Good Ole' Raisin & Peanuts** (usually with Chocolate Chips, too). GORP is a common snack taken on hikes, overnights, rafting trips, etc.

### Lee Knight:

Not many individuals get recognized in a camp's glossary, but Lee Knight deserves more than just that mention!! Lee has been a part of MountainCamp since its beginning in 1979 – leading trips, teaching about the local flora and fauna, and, of course, sharing his Appalachian stories and songs. He is The Mountain's very own SUPERSTAR!!

## Lower REC Hall:

The main floor of the REC Hall building where each cabin mailboxes, foosball & ping pong tables, games & puzzle closets, etc. are located. The camp Leadership Team and general Youth Camp Offices are located in the Lower REC also.

## Major Inspection:

Each morning starts with a basic inspection for cleanliness of every cabin. Cabins rotate cleaning duties each day in order to share the responsibility of keeping the living spaces clean. The middle and end of the sessions mark “Major Inspection”. This inspection requires a more thorough cleaning – a bed not made is generally warned about without any consequences, but in the Major Inspection, it could cause the cabin to not pass right away. If cabins don’t pass the 1<sup>st</sup> time around, they are given the opportunity to fix what isn’t ready and re-inspected (and inspected over and over until they pass). Something to remember – the longer it takes to pass, the more likely the cabin is missing out on camp activities and fun!! So passing the first time around is highly encouraged!!

## Morning Circle:

A gathering for the whole camp in the morning after cabin inspection and before daily trips/workshops. A variety of songs (silly and unknown and not so silly and very well known) are sung to get everyone’s blood pumping and ready for the day.

## Mugbook:

The end-of-camp “year book” that has a “mug shot” of all cabins, with names and other information that people want to provide (emails, addresses, etc.). A workshop is offered during each camp so campers can help design the mugbook.

## Siestall!:

A quiet, personal time spent in the cabin every afternoon between worship and dinner. It’s a opportunity for people to nap, write letters, read, etc.

## Ring:

A time, almost every night, after lights out when the campers are in bed and two counselors (assigned on a rotating basis) walk around the ring of cabins and are “present” if needed in the cabins, issue warnings to cabins that are making any noises, etc. This allows the rest of the counselors time to meet as a group, make phone calls, plan for activities taking place the next day, and meet with leadership staff on various topics. If cabins are having problems, the Counselors on Ring Duty will immediately have the Counselors for the cabin return and handle the situation. **Note:** During Elementary & Beginning Camp, only one counselor per cabin, switching by a rotating basis, will go on ring each night.

## Spirit:

A group of Senior High campers, chosen by their peers and guided by 1-2 summer staff, that plan the theme, evening programs, and various other activities for Sr. High Camp. The Spirits are chosen, not by popularity, but by the “Mountain Spirit” that they represent each day at The Mountain. Their attitudes and involvement in the camp community are not necessarily the traits of extroverted individuals – some of our best Spirits are the quiet, effective types that make a difference without making a lot of noise! And while the Spirits work very hard with their planning and presentation, their duty as a Spirit will not take away from their camp experience!

### Stay-overs/Hold-overs:

The technical term used to identify those campers staying for more than one camp session, and who elect to stay at The Mountain in between those sessions. Stay-overs generally relax, do laundry, play games, swim in the lake, etc. They will rejoin the session that they are staying for on Sunday at 10am (official check-in time).

### Thought For The Day (aka Schmott for the Schmay):

An inspirational quote or saying shared with the camp community by the Duty Cabin each morning at Morning Circle.

### Treehouse:

The upstairs level of the REC Hall. This is generally where Check-in for camp sessions takes place. It is a space that is constantly used for Morning Circle, workshops, evening programs, etc.

### Vespers:

A short (usually 5-15 minutes) time for reflection after evening program, generally planned by the Duty Cabin of the day. Vespers are technically the 7<sup>th</sup> of 9 canonical hours in the Catholic “day-planner” of prayer-related to the Islam ritual of prayers at specific hours which usually takes place at sunset. However, Vespers are used by multiple religious and non-religious groups in order to bring the day to a close.

### Worship:

A time is set aside each day for non-denominational spiritual time together. Each Worship is a different experience and may include meditations, small group conversations, readings, and more. A mid-session Worship service takes place the middle Sunday of Jr. High, Elementary, and Sr. High sessions, planned by youth during a workshop time. Campers can share music, self written poetry and more with the camp, and generally ties into the theme that flows through all of the afternoon worships.

*Are we missing something?*

*Contact The Mountain if you know of a word and you may see it displayed on this page!!*