

# **SAMPLE TRAINING SESSION FOR STAFF**

## **#ThanksToCamp Social Media (Photos)**

Name of session: #ThanksToCamp

Length of session: 45 min to 60 min

Target Audience: Camp Staff

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### **OBJECTIVES**

1. For staff to learn what the goal of #ThanksToCamp is, who it is targeting, how it is being run at their camp, and how they can be part of it
2. For staff to feel inspired by their own learnings and experiences at camp to create a unique representation for the campaign
3. For camps to collect #ThanksToCamp content created by staff for their own campaign.

### **MATERIALS**

- Paper
- Markers
- Camera(s) or cell phones with a camera

## SESSION BREAKDOWN

Set up: Choose a space that is conducive to reflection; try to avoid high traffic areas with a lot of noise if possible.

TIME	WHAT
<b>Opening – 3 minutes</b>	As participants come into the space for this activity, play some soft music. Invite them to choose a place to sit and to think of their answer to the question: “Why did I choose to work at Camp this summer?”
<b>O – 5 minutes</b>	Have participants in small groups of 2-3 share their answer to the question. Then, come back as a whole group and ask a few participants to share.
<b>Middle – 5 minutes</b>	Ask if anyone has heard of the #ThanksToCamp campaign before; then explain what it is. How does the #TTC campaign benefit camps, and YOUR camp in particular?
<b>M – 15 minutes</b>	Give instructions for the activity staff are about to do.  Alone or with a partner, brainstorm what their own #ThanksToCamp stories are, and write them on a paper. Write everything that comes to mind!  If they are struggling, invite them to think about <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- what soft or hard skills they have learned at camp;</li><li>- what the relationships they have built at camp have brought them;</li><li>- how they have grown at camp</li></ul>

	<p>For staff who are new and have never been to camp, have them think more deeply about “Why did I choose to work at Camp this summer?”</p> <p>Remember, they can think about their experiences in other camps if they have attended other camps or about their experience as campers if this is their first year being staff members at camp.</p>
<b>M – 5 minutes</b>	<p>After the 15 minutes of brainstorming, invite staff to take their own list and go for a short, 5 minutes, walk around the area you are in to think about which of the items on their list they most resonate with. Have them pick one or two.</p> <p>Tell them what the signal for coming back to the start point will be. I.e. Whistle, bell, etc.</p>
<b>M – 10 minutes</b>	<p>Take paper and markers and ask participants to write their #ThanksToCamp on the paper.</p> <p>You can print our template, make your own or use blank sheets of paper!</p>
<b>M – 10 minutes</b>	<p>Ask participants to go out with a partner and take photos and videos of one another holding their thanks to camp signs around camp.</p> <p>Tell them what the signal for coming back to the start point will be. I.e. Whistle, bell, etc.</p>
<b>Conclusion – 5-10 minutes</b>	<p>When participants come back, collect their photos. Tell them when and where their photos will be shared with the group.</p>
<b>Share</b>	<p>Depending on your set up, find a way to share the photos you’ve collected with the group; this can be done by creating a quick slideshow that will be presented during a meal or a campfire or by printing photos and putting them up on a bulletin board. Be creative!</p>

	Finally, keep those photos and videos! They're your materials for your own #ThanksToCamp campaign!
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Variations: Silent videos, t-shirt

1. Try taking silent videos instead of photos; have the staff hold their sign and look into the camera or try to make them naturally laugh (if the tone of their #ThanksToCamp story matches!). This can make more dynamic posts for social media!
2. Instead of taking photos or videos, have staff write their #ThanksToCamp story on the back of a plain t-shirt; you could even get shirts printed with #ThanksToCamp... at the top and have them complete the sentence! These shirts can make wonderful ice breakers for them when meeting new families or new campers! And take it even further by taking photos and videos of staff wearing their shirts, and post them on your social media!