

Dear Steve Sir,

I'm working Orientation at the great University of Georgia. It's a lot like camp. It's 2 months and 17 sessions of welcoming new first year students to a unfamiliar and overwhelming setting. They are welcomed to weird new traditions and new people. And they make friends in gloriously awkward situations and share living spaces with strangers. In fact, I even got them to add the "Hula Hoopers" skit to our big production we put on. So over 12,000 people will know part of camp before the summer is over.

I love orientation here and I don't think I should be anywhere else, but I miss camp. I miss the sail point, dances, and all my campers who are new counselors. There hasn't been a day that goes by that I don't use the CC counselors as motivation to be better. I often am confused about how I can smile to anymore parents who ask me where the student center is while standing IN the student center, but it helps to think of rookies who believe 6:00am is the perfect tetherball time. Patience with toddlers translates well into patience with adults, who knew!?

I can't tell you how jealous I am of new counselors. Ever wish you could re-watch a movie or re-read a book for the first time? That is the definition of camp. This WILL be the best time of your life. Everyone says it, but it's true. My advice is to be in the moment and not burden the things you do with a word like WORK. Summer is only three months of the year. If you are not falling asleep before your head hits the pillow, try harder. You are all amazing people. Camp can't afford to offer anything less. I hope I get to meet y'all because to me you're family now, and were chosen because of your outstanding skills and personality.

I saw a picture of one of my senior campers as a counselor and nearly lost it. I miss my boys who I'm sure are making everyone proud. It's been 15 years since I stepped foot onto camp for the first time, and I wouldn't ever change anything about it. I can't express the emotions I feel about the place you're currently in. Take a second embrace the nice night, the sweat from the dance, the soda and snacks, the dirt or random sticks you are playing with, and most assuredly the people you are sitting next to. They will and already have changed you. Then when you get back to the cabins, tired and delirious, know the kids asleep in those beds will change you double fold. YOU are real life heroes to them.