

BULLYING in 4-H Camps

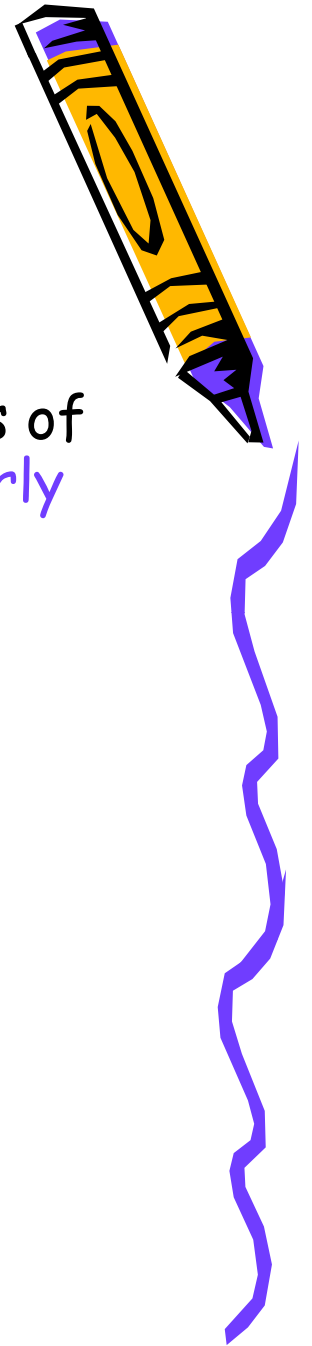
Tri County Younger 4-H Camp

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Why is it important to discuss bullying within the camping environment?

- Childhood aggression can lead to higher incidences of depression, school drop-outs, substance abuse, early parenthood, delinquency and criminal behavior.
- Bullying will effect 10 - 15% of youth in a group environment.
- We have dealt with bullying within Virginia's 4-H Camps
 - Personal Stories



Why is bullying growing as an issue these days?

It's cool to be rougher and tougher

- Ex: Grand Theft Auto

Put-downs, sarcasm, and ridicule (making fun of others) have reached all new heights.

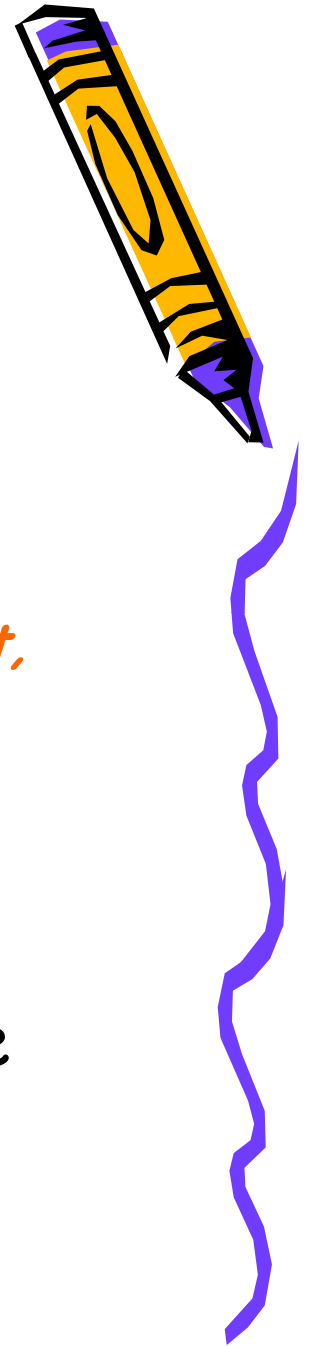
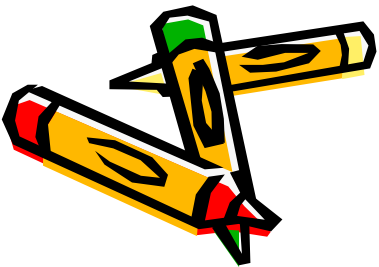


What differentiates bullying from teasing?

- One child must be more powerful than another (physically or mentally)

The student who is bullied has difficulty defending himself/herself. He/she is vulnerable, lacks support, and there are often long-term consequences.

- There must be intent to harm
- The behavior is reoccurring and intense



Common forms of bullying

- Hitting, kicking, pushing, spitting, excessive tickling
- Teasing, name calling, intentionally getting someone into trouble
- Spreading rumors, telling lies, deliberately isolating someone
- Taking or stealing things from someone
- Forcing someone to do something they don't want to do
- Sexually harassing someone
- E-bullying

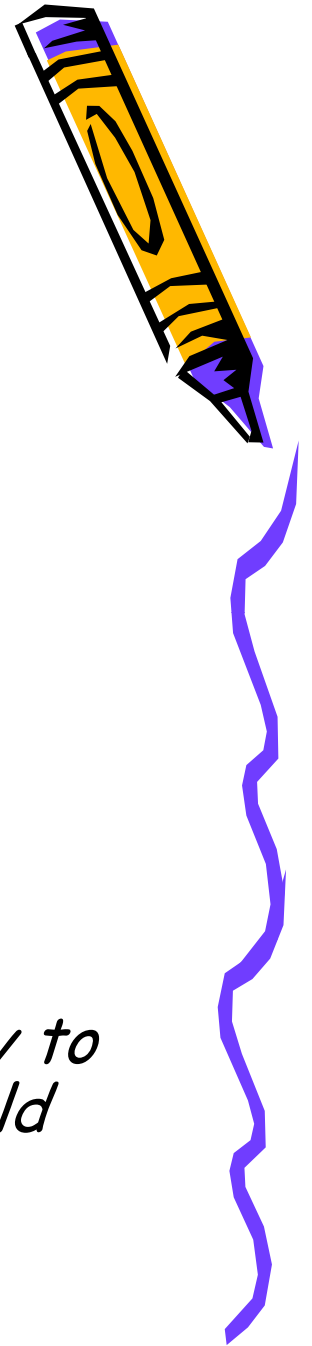


Teen and college age camp staff are powerful in helping with the fight against bullying. But, they must be trained first!



Why?

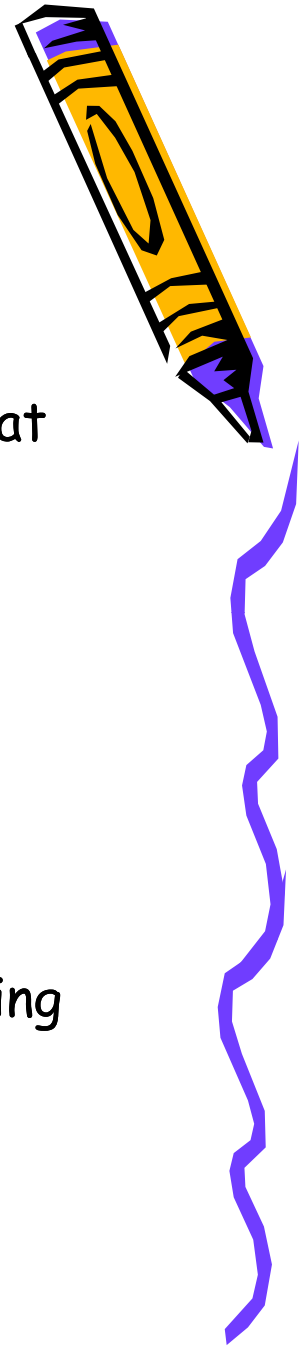
Young kids put it like this... *"We are more likely to listen to someone our age than to what an 'old person' has to say."*



Staff Training

Begin by asking questions!

- Describe the characteristics of a popular male/female at camp?
- Describe the way people treat each other at camp?
- Have you ever been mistreated or have you ever seen someone else be mistreated?
 - What did you see?
- Where do you see most campers get mistreated?
- Have you ever mistreated someone else or been a bystander who instigated?
- What do you feel may help the situation of campers being aggressive toward one another?



Continue the discussion...

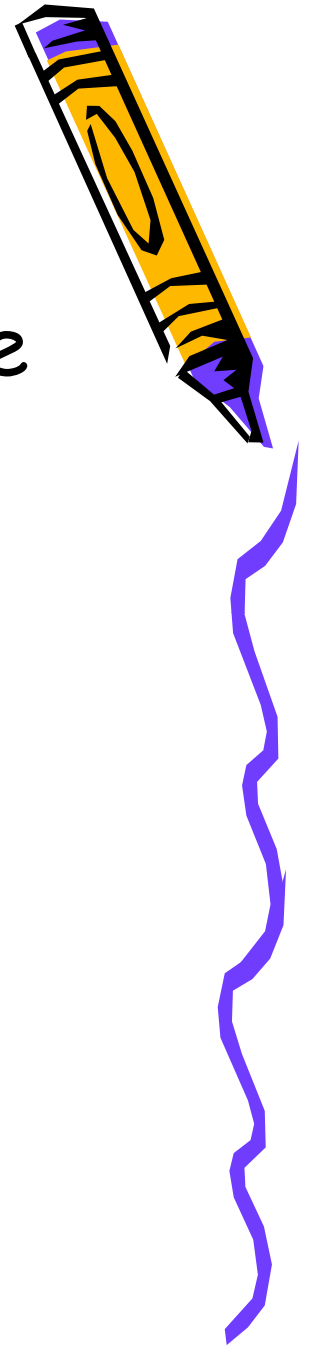
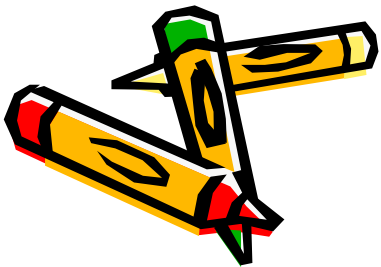
- Using movies, videos, and music are excellent ways to open discussion:

"Mean Girls"

"The Heathers"

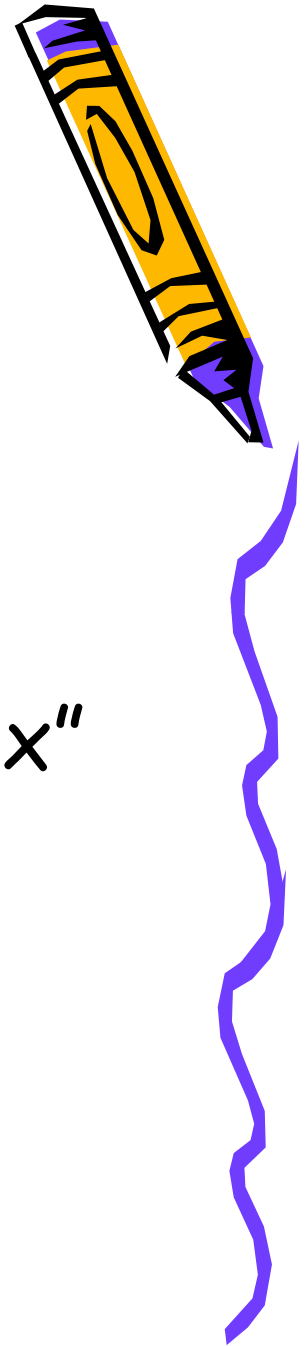
"10 Things I Hate About You"

"She's All That"



Implement a system for reporting bullying behavior

A "secret bullying incident report box" in the main camp office.



Implement a process of behavior modification when dealing with individual bullies



Address the staff member on the behavior that might be considered bullying.

2. Hold the staff member accountable for his/her behavior.

Warning, Taking Away Assignments, Dismissal

3. Show staff member another way to deal with his/her feelings.



Hold a training session that addresses techniques the victim can use to deal with bullying.



Here's the secret...

- Its not who he or she is, or how she looks, but how she **RESPONDS** that makes or breaks the stranglehold of abuse from a clique, a ringleader, or bully.





Questions?

