



SUMMER MATTERS

Making Summer Matter for Every Child, Because Learning Happens Year Round

COMMUNITY CIRCLES / MEETINGS

One way to support your creation of a Unique Program Culture that is different from the school year and promotes a sense of community is through community circles or meetings. You can do them camp-wide as well as team/ class based.

Why have a Community Circle/ Meeting? To:

- ✚ Build Community, a sense of belonging
- ✚ Establish norms, expectations, rituals, traditions
- ✚ Develop oral communication and leadership skills
- ✚ Create shared experiences
- ✚ Have fun

Some example activities can happen in circle/ community meeting

- ✚ Roll Call - Team chants or cheers (those they created) as leader calls out their team name
 - ✚ 411 -Staff member goes over the agenda for the day & week
 - ✚ Student Recognitions - award students for things like, “camper of the week”
 - ✚ Beat the Staff - when student team representatives compete with camp staff in an activity (mental or physical)
 - ✚ Team Challenges - friendly competition amongst camp teams in a mental or physical activity
 - ✚ Community Share out - ask students to share something about themselves
 - ✚ Pre-Explorations - activities to preview upcoming field trips
 - ✚ Point of the Week or Word of the Day - focus on vocabulary words or ideas, share the idea or word, and ask that when students hear a reference to it they shout out “POW” or “WORD” and could receive a badge, raffle ticket, etc. for their attention
 - ✚ Team of Week recognition - have weekly challenges for teams to earn points every day, tally on Fridays and announce winning team and reason why they won either Friday at closing or Monday at opening
 - ✚ Powerful People – a theme based opportunity for a student to research information and share with community. This theme, “Power to the People” had students choose a powerful person to research. Have Site Director or teacher model what to research and say once or twice before students do it.
 - ✚ Shout outs -students given the opportunity to appreciate each other
 - ✚ Teachbacks - students share what they learned (not what they DID) that week or day
 - ✚ Raffle – give away prizes such as a healthy snack cookbook, books, music, something theme related
 - ✚ Announcements - Opportunity for any other pressing information to be shared camp-wide
 - ✚ Combo - A combination of movements and sounds to end circle and dismiss (can be a trendy dance)
-



SUMMER MATTERS

Making Summer Matter for Every Child, Because Learning Happens Year Round

Example Procedures for a Community Circle/ Meeting

A Smooth Opening Circle (OC):

- ❑ The OC will take place in the cafeteria (or big open space). Site Director (SD) and floater will post visuals and prepare music for entrance.
- ❑ Every team will have a designated space in the OC, where campers will sit with backpacks behind them (as soon as they enter).
- ❑ As music fades, the OC begins with Future...LEADERS or Summer...MATTERS!
- ❑ The OC Way: Anyone who enters the circle needs to introduce him/herself.
- ❑ Dismissal: Circle Master will wish everyone a wonderful day and use call and response (1,2,3 Break *clap*) for apprentices to locate team leader for program day. Once teacher takes attendance, the team will leave cafeteria. SD and floater will help campers find their teachers efficiently.

A Smooth Closing Circle:

- ❑ The CC will take place in the cafeteria at 4:20 pm promptly.
- ❑ SD and floater will post visuals and prepare music for entrance.
- ❑ Every team will sit with teachers, where team sits for the OC.
- ❑ As music fades, the CC begins with Future...LEADERS or The Power of.. PEOPLE!
- ❑ The Circle Way: Anyone who enters the circle needs to introduce him/herself.
- ❑ Dismissal: when combo is done students line up with teacher for program dismissal. Once teacher takes attendance, the team will leave cafeteria. At dismissal area, ALL teachers must have each guardian sign out. Teacher should pass sign out sheet to families who arrive first. If time allows, please speak with families.

Teacher Roles:

- ❑ Teachers should be evenly spaced throughout circle and walking around behind respective team.
- ❑ Teachers should support getting campers engaged (including changing seats, clapping, chanting...).
- ❑ Teachers should make eye contact with Site Director and floater regularly to support circle activities.
- ❑ Teachers should model positive participation in activities but always prioritize camper safety and respect.

The Summer Matters Network is coordinated by the Partnership for Children & Youth and its partners, aimed at expanding summer learning opportunities for youth in California.

www.SummerMatters.net • 510-830-4200 • [f](https://www.facebook.com/SummerMatters2You) SummerMatters2You • [t](https://twitter.com/SummerMatters2U) @SummerMatters2U