PARENTS WORKSHOP PAGE
Help us with our Counselor Orientation at Echo Hill

Before camp begins, we gather our staff for a week of training and team building at the ranch. Among other things, we talk a lot about being an 'effective counselor' which is our expression for a counselor who makes a difference; a positive role model who makes a positive impact on the kids' camp experience--someone who knows how to help kids have fun, work together, be self-reliant and safe.

We pose for staff real life scenarios of interaction that arise in the course of supervising children…in the cabin, on a cook out, at the archery range, in the dining hall, and a variety of other camp situations. The camp experience is mostly full of good times and wonderful memories; there's no doubt about that. But, as ideal as camp life is for kids, some not-so-good elements creep into the group dynamics; so if bullying, scape-goating, homesickness, or exclusion appear, we want everyone to be prepared to help kids manage this behavior. We train our counselors how to identity these situations early on, and then discuss the most effective ways of dealing with them.

Let us know what you would think is important for counselor's to understand about a parent's perspective when sending their child to Echo Hill. Please send us your ideas or an anecdote about a memorable experience your child had at Echo Hill, so we can share them with the counselors during staff orientation.

Please use the remainder of this sheet to write down your thoughts and fax them to 301-588-4041 before June 1, 2008. You may also send us an email at ehranch@aol.com with 'Parents Workshop' in the subject line. Including your name is optional.

Comments, topics or anecdotes to share with counselors at Staff Orientation: ____

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