

Camper Debrief

Summer 2023 Debrief Series
The Summer Camp Society

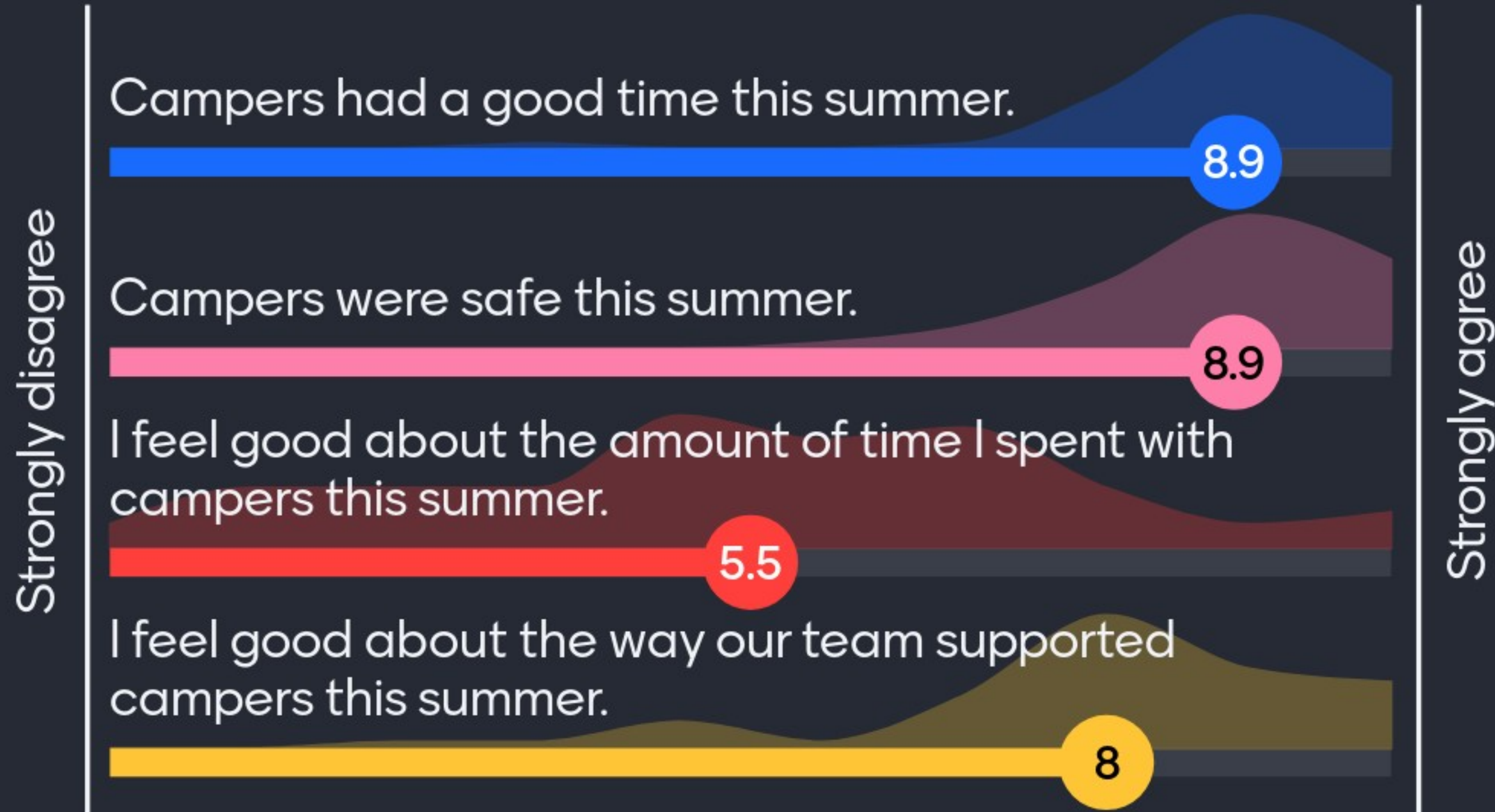
Instructions

Warm Up: What's one word to describe your mood today?

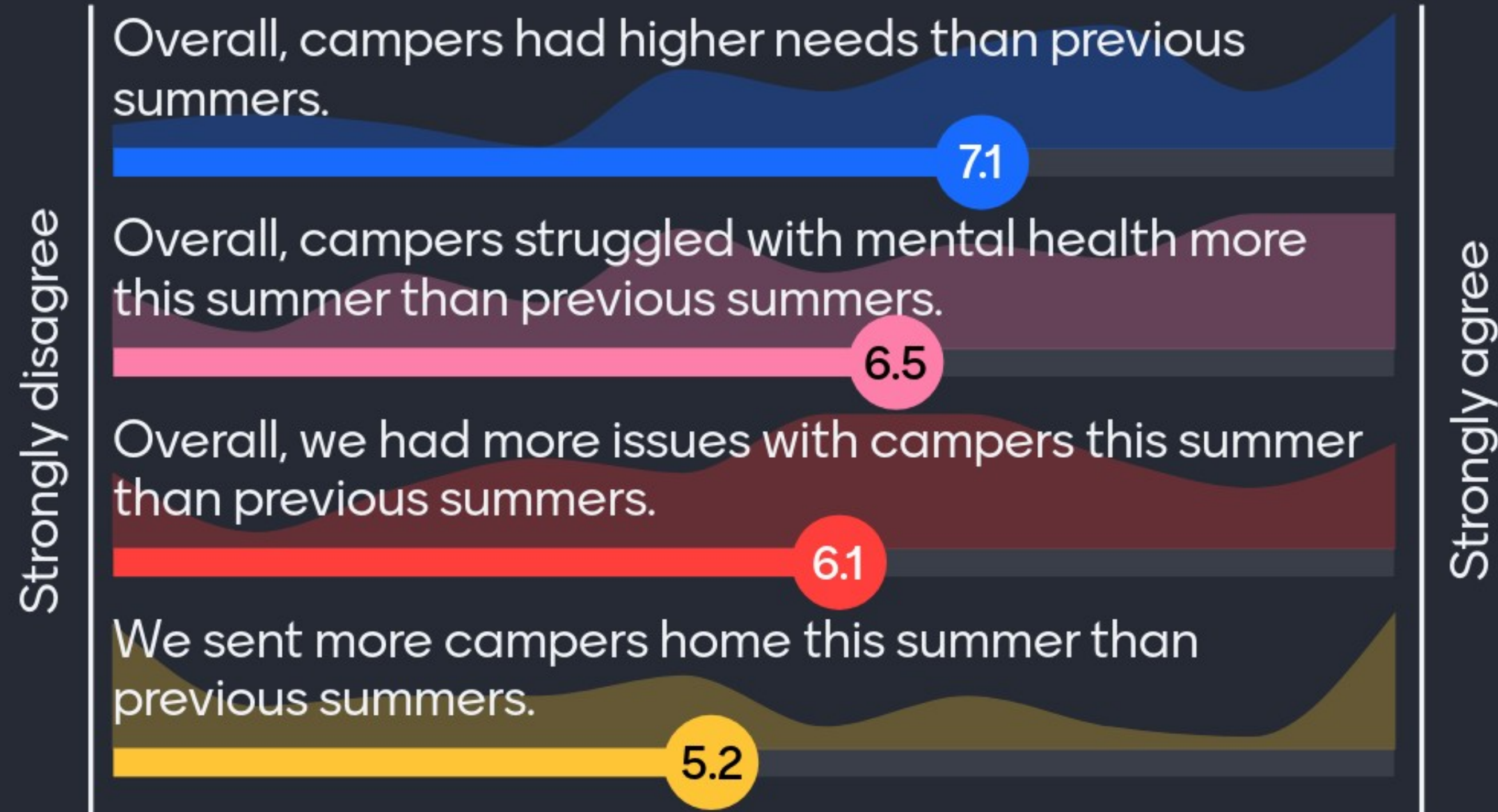
57 responses



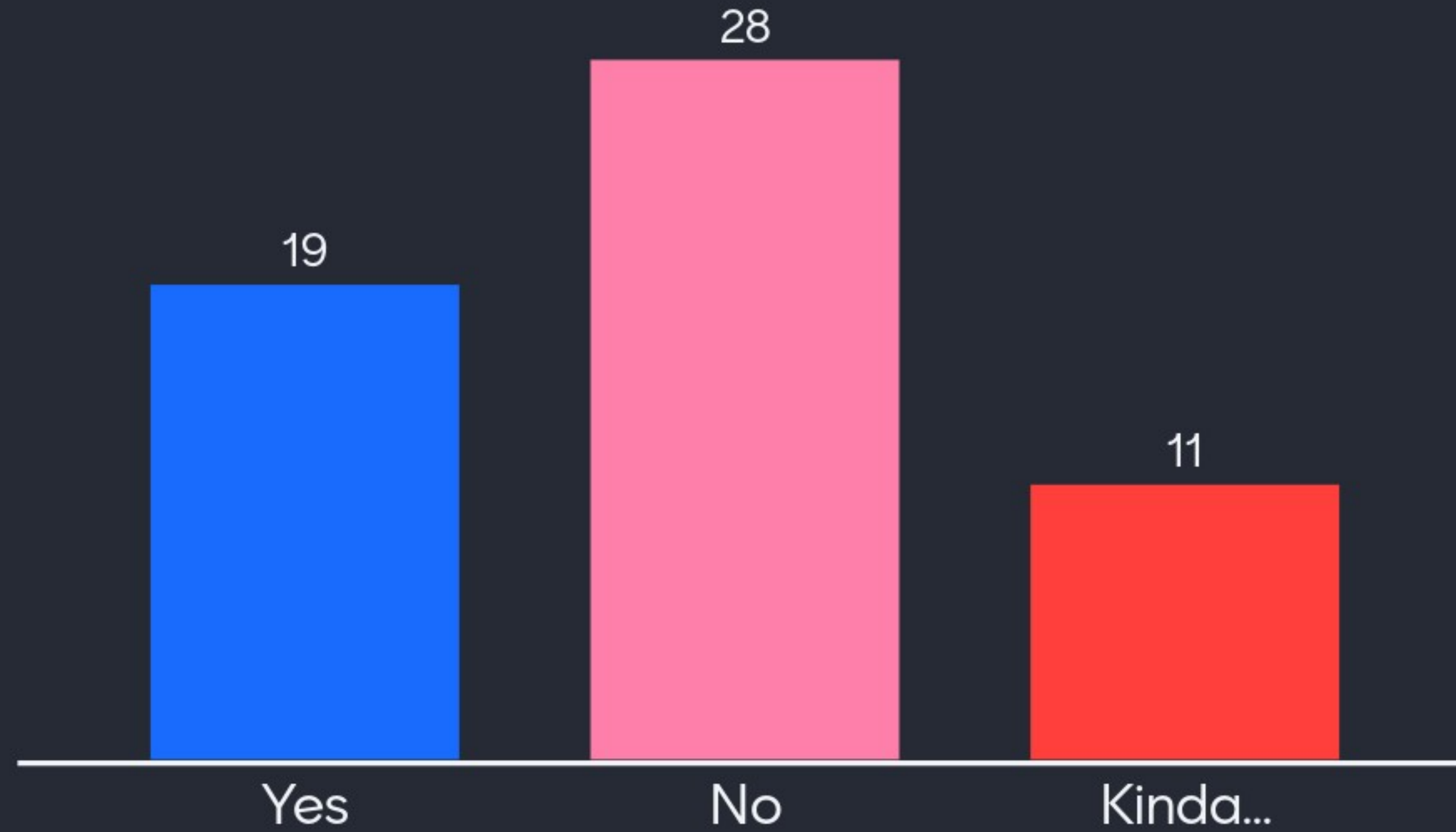
How do these statements describe your camp this summer?



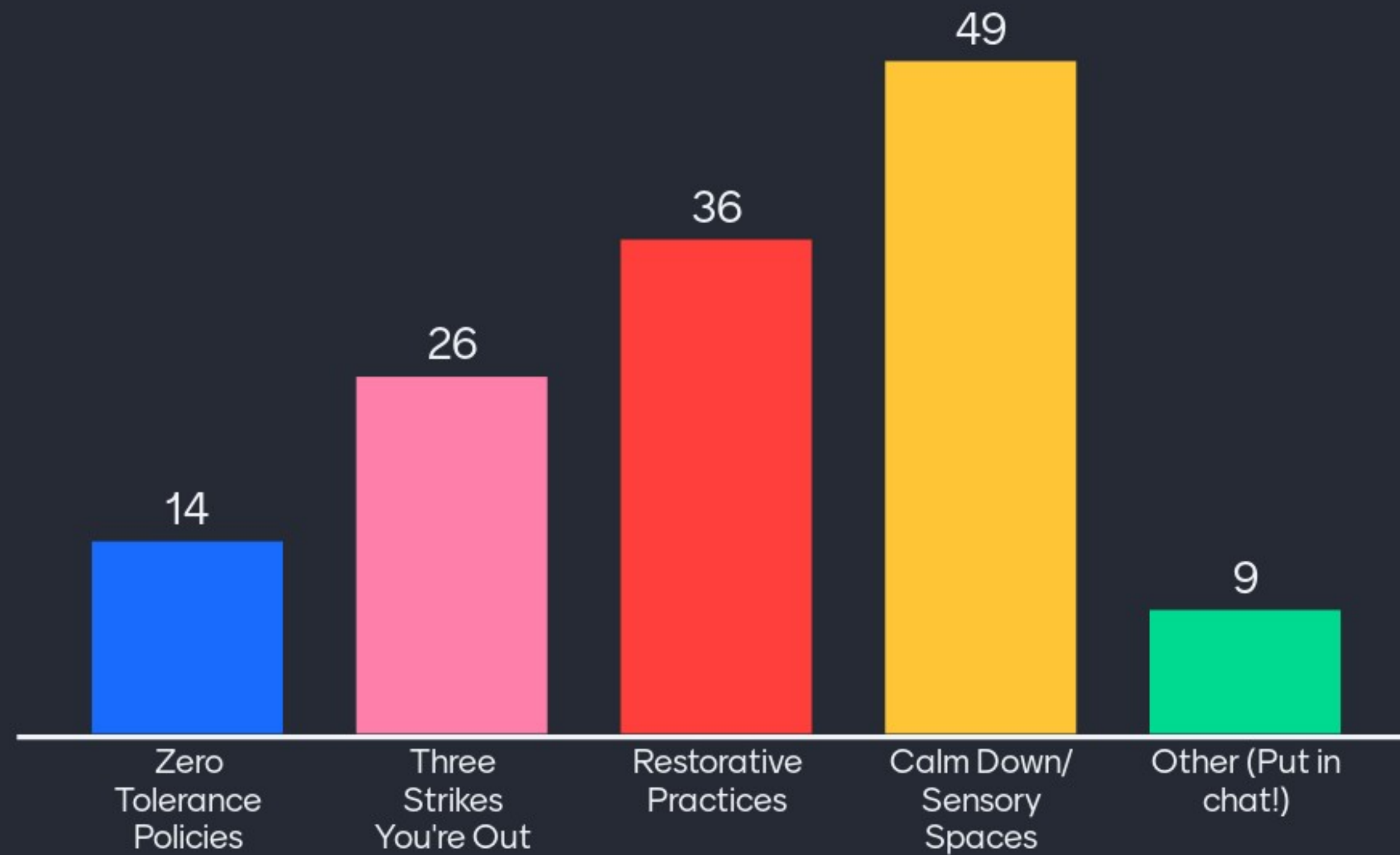
How do these statements describe your camp this summer?



Do you have staff members dedicated to camper support?



What methods did you use to manage behavior this summer?



What behaviors, needs, or diagnoses did you feel underprepared for?

66 responses

Sexual harassment between campers!!

Experimental medications

Eating disorders

Physical fighting

emotional regulation, antisocial behaviors

Violence when mixed with mental health concerns.

Suicidal comments from young campers (6-8 year olds)

Runners/elopement- we had a high # this year

Suicidal ideation

What behaviors, needs, or diagnoses did you feel underprepared for?

66 responses

Trans child and their housing

Camper refused to eat, staff wanted to send them home

lack of resilience

Self isolation

physical/violent outbursts

excessive aggressive, violent behavior

Eating disorders

panic attacks

Suicidal ideation

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What behaviors, needs, or diagnoses did you feel underprepared for?

66 responses

Threatening other campers

opposition defiance disorder

Cell phone use

Campers who came with histories of violent incidents

Parents who are in denial of diagnoses so don't share them

Homophobia

Anger

Mental health/ self harm/ suicidal comments

Most of the campers who had issues had IEPs in school but caregivers didn't share those plans or solutions until we asked.

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What behaviors, needs, or diagnoses did you feel underprepared for?

66 responses

The amount of distress of Queer campers in the state of FI

Families not being upfront about behavior needs

just kids that needed more individual attention without the staff to support

Eating disorders and suicidal ideations

Type 1 diabetics at a non- specialist camp (medical)

We're always unprepared for providing physical accommodations

Physical fighting and runners

Extreme emotional outburst

extreme cursing

What behaviors, needs, or diagnoses did you feel underprepared for?

66 responses

Need for 1:1 support that we were not equipped for

Pregnant camper

Eating Disorders

Runners from the group

Parents who didn't disclose behavior diagnoses

Suicidal/self harm

Campers arriving with HIBS filed during the school year with other campers

campers who knew things/ talked about topics they were far too young to know about

Anger, lashing out, physical violence -something we used to not see often at a girls camp

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What behaviors, needs, or diagnoses did you feel underprepared for?

66 responses

Emotional behavior

I felt we handled known behaviors and diagnoses well it was the kids who were hitting and acting out and the parents had no Tips on how to support that were tough

Racism

inappropriate/non-consensual touching between campers

Extreme disrespect from campers to staff

Excessive Cursing

Physicality (punching me in the face, destroying camp property, shoving/pulling other campers and staff)

Campers having crushes on eachother - Midding school & at girl scout camp

Runners Extreme Aggression

What behaviors, needs, or diagnoses did you feel underprepared for?

66 responses

Extreme emotional outburst/ eating disorders

Food challenges

Food challenges

Campers and staff choosing to think rules/policies were suggestions

Their technology dependence

Racial slurs

young campers who have not had the right meds figured out

Teens & sex

Not receiving info on higher behavioral support needs, so staff being unprepared to best support

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What behaviors, needs, or diagnoses did you feel underprepared for?

66 responses

Supporting staff and volunteers who felt we weren't "punishing" a camper's behavior enough (when it was mostly coming from behaviors that weren't typical for their age.

kids thinking they "run the show"

Campers threatened to kill other campers

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Discussion Time



Navigate to our website to find Discussion Questions for your group.

Make a copy of the questions, and take notes.

Share the notes with Allison:
allison@thesummercampsociety.com.



What support would be helpful as you prepare for campers next summer?

58 responses

Preparing for campers who refuse to eat

Staff recruitment

Updated conflict resolution training for this generation of youth

Mental Health Action Plans

Getting social work interns

Mental health training

examples of registration questions related to learning camper behavioral needs before camp starts

Social and emotion health isеas

Mft onsite

What support would be helpful as you prepare for campers next summer?

58 responses

Emotional regulation for campers

Move to restorative practices

Clearer demarcations for when we send a kid home

mental health resources not just to help us support the kids, but also to help us support their parents when kids disclose

staff training/ staff morale

social workers on staff

Supporting counselors supporting camper mental health

Having a uniform behavior system with a counselor on site

Something like Mental Health 1st Aid, but geared for younger campers. I think it focuses on teens, but we work with younger campers and are seeing this need increase.

What support would be helpful as you prepare for campers next summer?

58 responses

More camp specific regulation tools to teach counselors in helping their campers.

Figuring out how to collect more info from parents about their campers ahead of time

Brainstorming cool and FUN proactive ways to get campers tools to self-soothe and demonstrate that adults are on their side

Set criteria for send homes

An on site social worker

Handling campers who have crushes on each other at a girl scout camp WITHOUT causing the camper to go back into the closet.

Redirection/management techniques for special needs campers, to keep them engaged and in the activity without impacting the rest of the campers

Parents to be more open/transparent communication of camper and family needs

how to train new staff to not reward negative behavior with attention

What support would be helpful as you prepare for campers next summer?

58 responses

Training plans for staff on how to deal with camper behaviors in the moment

Having a National Family Coordinator

Finding behavioral specialists that need internships and want to volunteer for a week!

Grab n go Homesickness for Parents guide

Dealing with campers who do not want to be there

Examples of Camper behavior agreements

Better information from parents (we are rewriting our forms to ask questions that better reflect the info we need)

Best mental Health process for youth in crisis

DEIJBA work and training

What support would be helpful as you prepare for campers next summer?

58 responses

Different support roles that are valuable (staff)

Restorative practices training for staff

How to fit restorative justice practices within already busy schedules -- examples of how this works at other camps.

Cell phone policy for staff - staff activity with phones preventing authentic engagement

Training staff on homesickness

Having a mental health worker

Conflict resolution

Energizing and engaging counselors more who will then energize campers

Let's have a deeper discussion about social media and how communications are changing for youth. How can we move into the future!

What support would be helpful as you prepare for campers next summer?

58 responses

a child psychologist to come to staff training to teach staff what is actual anxiety/panic and what is developmentally normal

Resources for mental health issues.

Processes/Examples for restorative justice practices when dealing with camper behaviors

Adding more specific questions about campers needs

If TSCS hosted a mental health first aid Instructor course I would sign up

Training staff to feel empowered about camper wellbeing.

more support/training for staff on how to deal with severe camper behaviors

How to get parents to disclose ahead of camp about special needs or behavior issues.

Templates for a written behavior policy

What support would be helpful as you prepare for campers next summer?

58 responses

ways to differentiate mental health high stress words vs typical developmental stages

How to keep camp fresh for shorter attention spans

how to create a seasonal leadership role/Leadership team within my program

Example daily schedules for overnight and day camp days



Thank You!

Next week:

Staff: Successes, Challenges, and More

September 20 at 2pm ET

Same link!

