Dear Summer Staff:

We hope this letter finds you well. Allow us to briefly introduce ourselves.... I am Bryan Reaume, live in New Canaan, CT with my beautiful wife Cassidy, and have been involved in Young Life for fifteen years.....I am Julie Ilg, live in Columbus, OH, and I had one of the best months of my life on Summer Staff at Saranac ten years ago ... and together, (drum roll, please)....we are your Summer Staff Coordinators!

Thank you for saying yes to serving Christ and kids this August at Saranac! We have been reading about you (your application!), praying for you, and excitedly preparing for our time together. We expect the Lord to move in powerful ways...we expect leaders to miraculously lead their high school friends to the feet of Jesus Christ, we expect these high school friends to have life-changing encounters with Jesus Christ, and certainly we expect the Lord to move in our lives as we serve hard and are part of these miracles. Join us in this expectation!

To best prepare you to “lean into” what God has in store for us, we wanted to pass on some assignments, expectations, and reminders on what to bring. Please completely read this packet, complete all assignments and give us a shout if you have any questions.

We look forward to serving hard together, forming new life-long friendships and growing together in Christ as we enjoy mission community together! Please contact us anytime about anything!

In Christ,

Bryan and Julie

Saranac August 2009

reaume@online.younglife.org               julie@ylcolumbus.com
203. 981.8312                          614.202.0488
Assignments

We are not requiring that you read a book or anything like that; however, it is vital that you thoroughly and carefully read everything you receive from us and Saranac AND DO what those letters, emails, and documents say!

1. **Find 5 people who will commit to praying for you regularly while you are at Saranac.**  
   Email that list of names and their email addresses (so they can get prayer updates from camp) to admin@online.younglife.org by June 30th.

2. **Memorize the following Scripture:**

   **John 13:34-35**
   
   A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

   **Romans 12:10-13**
   
   Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

3. **Take part in ONE of the following conference calls:**
   a. Wednesday, June 10 at noon (Eastern Standard Time)
   b. Wednesday, June 17 at 3 pm
   c. Wednesday, June 24 at 9 pm
   Please email admin@online.younglife.org what conference call you will join ASAP.

   One of the biggest obstacles to having an excellent summer staff experience is inadequate preparation and inaccurate expectations. We want to eliminate both of these potential issues by communicating with all of you BEFORE you even get to Saranac. So please make it a priority to spend 45 minutes on ONE of these three calls.

   You will not be on the call if you don’t put it on your calendar and find a way to remind yourself. Landlines are best, but cell phones are okay for these calls. It is not a winner if you have to be in a car, but if you can mute your phone that can work as a last resort.

   **INSTRUCTIONS FOR DIALING IN:**
   Call this number: 1.712.432.6100
   ACCESS PIN: 99533
   If conference is not in session, system will put you on hold until moderator arrives.

4. **Read “Preparing Summer Staff” (see below)** This is a great article by Jim Cunningham. Read this by your conference call and be ready to discuss something that caught your attention.
5. **Read everything Saranac gives you!** Communicate with Saranac on any of these items.

**Expectations...Entering a Mission Field**

An important concept to remember when doing Summer Staff is that we are missionaries entering a different culture in order to reach kids for Christ. Thus, we must recognize and adjust so that we fit into that culture. What is the culture we are entering? The unique and fun culture of high school kids at Young Life camp! (Oh, if only all cultures were this exciting...) There are so many good things about this – we’ll be having fun, laughing, smiling, and helping campers through some great adventures and activities. However, there are always sacrifices that must be made whenever missionaries accommodate to the culture they are seeking to reach. **What sacrifices are you expected to make, support, and understand prior to your arrival?**

1. **Curfew:**
   Because there is a designated time each night when all campers need to be inside their cabins, the Summer Staff will be expected to be in around the same time. If campers see or hear people outside after they are required to be inside, it may cause negativity. Moreover, this will ensure everyone gets enough sleep in order to safely run all the activities. Many of you will have the safety of the campers directly under your supervision. Also, some of us (such as a.m. cooks) will be getting up earlier than others and the rest of the group will need to be sensitive to that. So, **please understand that there will be both a time when we need you to be inside AND a time when we need you to be in the rooms.**

2. **Technology:**
   This could be the hardest sacrifice you as missionaries will be asked to make! **We have a no cell phone and a no iPod, MP3, etc policy for campers.** The reason is obvious – we want kids to get away from the rut of their every day life and be able to have fun and hear about Christ without the constant interference from modern technology. Well, we as Summer Staff certainly can’t be walking around with our phones and iPods if we ask them to give them up. Moreover, Young Life wants Summer Staff to benefit from no technology in much the same way, so **there is a no cell phone and no iPod policy for Summer Staff and Work Crew.** Don’t tempt yourselves – leave your iPod Shuffles at home! (This policy includes laptops, but if you have a special need to use internet access arrangements can be made at the camp office.)

3. **Relationships:**
   We ask Summer Staff to not enter into romantic relationships with other Summer Staff during the month. You will be more focused on serving Christ and on your job if you do not, and you will also then have the opportunity to focus quality time with a larger group of people. Please feel free to keep in touch with one another after Summer Staff, and if you meet someone you are interested in we will be thrilled for you! **Please just follow up after, not during, the month!**
4. **Behavior:**
Recognize that many of you will be visible to the campers and the Work Crew. These high school people will be watching you, and your behavior will have an impact on them. Every year when we take kids to camp at least one of them sees Christ in a Summer Staff person and tells me they want to marry someone like the people they have seen at camp. Christ will shine through you. In language and action, please conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel. *(Philippians 1:27)* This includes proper response to all authority.

Additionally, we will all serve the Lord better and gain more from the month if we focus on loving the Lord and one another in every circumstance. Consider these verses:

> “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, love your neighbor as yourself.”  **Luke 10:27.**

> “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.”  **Hebrews 10:24.**
What to Bring

Remember the list Saranac sent you:

- Appropriate work clothes for your job
- Layers for cooler nights
- A one-piece or conservative two-piece bathing suit
- Raincoat and/or light rain gear (It rains often)
- Calling card for long distance calls. Remember, no cell phone policy!
- Extra money if you wish to purchase items in the store/snack bar, a work crew/summer staff picture, or to spend for possible night-off activities
- Laundry bag
- A month’s supply of personal toiletries
- A Bible, notebook, and pen
- An alarm clock (that is NOT your cell phone!)
- A watch (since you will not have your cell phone)

Also, you will need the following clothing for program events each week:

- Obstacle course – We will need to dress in camo/dark clothing to help run the obstacle course. You will probably want to bring an extra pair of shoes for this.

- Country Night - We will be doing the rodeo and having dinner at the beach this night as well as the county fair and square dance. We will dress in western theme.

- 50's night - We will be converting the dining hall into Arnold’s Diner. We will also be dong a tableau, and a sock hop. See pictures at the end of this document for ideas.

- Luau night 5 on the beach – We will wear Hawaiian garb.

- Banquet Night – We will wear a nicer outfit.

*Do not spend a lot of money buying these things. Use what you have, buy cheaply, or borrow.

BRING APPROPRIATE ATTIRE: All clothing, headwear, etc shall be modest, above reproach and not cause undue attention to ourselves. We may have to sacrifice our “personal sense of style” for the welfare of our community and the advancement of the gospel. What a privilege!

Other important packing notes:

- Please pack only what you need. Living quarters are “cozy” so having lots of luggage, clothes, and items will be cumbersome and not serve you or anyone else. Pack wisely!

- Please avoid bringing excess cash and valuables. Traveler and personal checks may be cashed at the store, and we are able to give cash back on a purchase at the store when using a debit card.

- Linens, pillows, blankets, and towels are provided. You will have the opportunity to have your clothes and linens washed once a week by the laundry staff.
## Summer Staff Summary Checklist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>What</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Now</strong></td>
<td>Completely read &amp; understand information provided in this email and anything you have received from Saranac.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pray every day for our assignment- yourself, each other, the A-team, campers, leaders, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prepare physically for assignment. Fitness makes a big difference in how you can serve!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Email <a href="mailto:admin@online.younglife.org">admin@online.younglife.org</a> 5 email addresses of people committed to praying for you while on assignment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Email <a href="mailto:admin@online.younglife.org">admin@online.younglife.org</a> which conference call you will attend.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>By Conference Call</strong></td>
<td>Read and reflect on “Preparing for Summer Staff” (at end of this document) and be ready to discuss it on conference call.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 10, June 17, or June 24</td>
<td>Attend conference call. Be in a quiet place and from a landline if possible. <strong>Call number:</strong> 1.712.432.6100  <strong>ACCESS PIN:</strong> 99533. Have &quot;Preparing for Summer Staff&quot; in front of you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>By Arrival at Camp</strong></td>
<td>Come fully prepared spiritually and ready to serve!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stay on top of any communication with us and Saranac.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preparing for Summer Staff
By Jim Cunningham

Serving on Summer Staff at a Young Life property is one of the most exciting things you will ever do. You will be joining with 40 other Summer Staff, 40 Work Crew, 20 property staff and property interns, and 12 field staff and their families to proclaim the gospel to nearly 1,600 campers and their leaders. What you are embarking on is truly a holy endeavor, and the place where you will serve is indeed holy ground.

There could be many reasons why you have decided to serve on Summer Staff. Certainly the chance to participate in the proclamation of the gospel to teenagers should be at the top of the list. But there are other reasons, many of them great reasons, some of them not so appropriate. It is the purpose of this brief document to help to orient you for the experience you will have this summer, and to encourage you to go into it with the proper mindset.

The Gospel

Proclaiming the gospel should be your primary motivation this summer. Each and every person serving at camp will proclaim the truth of Jesus Christ, verbally, non-verbally, or both. The camp speaker will obviously play a key role. So will the leaders. Some of us will have a more visible role; some will be less visible to campers. But be sure that every person at camp is indispensable to the proclamation of Jesus Christ. We hope that you will take some time to study 1 Corinthians 12 before you head to camp. It is obvious from that passage that every member of the body is not only important, but absolutely necessary for the body to function.

Growth in Christ

One of the great privileges you have this summer is to grow in Christ. We often think of Summer Staff as a time to serve others. And that it is. But did you know that this might be the most important growth experience of your life? You will have the chance to learn from others, break some bad habits, set some good patterns for the future, and watch the Lord work powerfully in you and through you in incredible ways. Go into your month expecting to grow and expecting to change! And be sure to strive for that kind of experience. Keep up with your spiritual disciplines, or ask others to help you create some! You will spend many hours with other Summer Staff folks. Encourage each other spiritually! Memorize Scripture together. Share what you are learning from the Word. Pray together and hold one another accountable. This month will be a great opportunity for you to experience God’s presence all day long. Nurture that! Everything you do that month, every moment and every interaction, is a chance for God to speak to you and change you.
In 1 Corinthians 9, Paul, after a long discourse on how he is prepared to sacrifice anything for the sake of proclaiming the gospel, goes on to say, “I do all this for the sake of the gospel, *that I may share in its blessings.*” Paul understood that to proclaim Christ is to be blessed by Christ. You will be blessed!

**Community**

You will have an incredible experience of community and Christian fellowship that you might never have again. Sometimes it will be like a party with friends, sometimes it will be more like sitting in a foxhole in the midst of a raging battle. In either case, you will remember this month for the rest of your life. We hope that you will celebrate that, learn from it, and allow it to set a high standard for Christian community that will affect you for life. You will need to be honest, vulnerable, patient, and caring. You will need to put the needs of others before your own. If you go into this experience asking “how can I contribute to this community and serve others”, you will have a great month. If you go into it wondering how your own needs will be met, how your ego will be stroked, how much other people will like you and how much you will ‘matter’ to the team, you will almost certainly have a difficult month. Consider Hebrews 10:24-25: “24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

**Authority**

Some people know that they have problems with authority. Some figure that out when they find themselves under authority. And some people never figure it out, but have problems with authority all the same. At camp, you will get up close and personal with this dynamic. As post-high school people, you are used to being on your own. At school and at home you likely keep your own hours and make most of your own decisions. But at camp, it is imperative that we all function under authority. On a battlefield, the only way order is kept and missions are accomplished is if everyone knows how to function under authority and obeys without question. And you will absolutely be in a battle. Lives will be saved and lost, for eternity. The people in authority over you will not always have the time to explain why they expect you to do a certain thing or keep a certain rule. You will not always agree with their decisions. Count on that. But part of what God seems to want to teach everyone who serves at camp is how to function under authority.

Ponder these verses from Romans 13:1-3: “1Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.”

And from Hebrews 12: “7Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.”
If you don’t respond to the earthly authorities that God has established in your life, how will you respond to God’s authority? For many Summer Staff, this is one area where God might want to do some serious work in your life. *Those in authority over you are not responsible to you, they are responsible to God.* So if you struggle with them, figure that it is up to God to make it right. It is not up to you.

**Work**

You would think that everyone who applies for Summer Staff expects to work hard. Unfortunately, this does not seem to be the case for many folks. But make no mistake, you will be expected to work. And you will be expected to work HARD! I don’t know that young people today go into many situations understanding that they will not always be comfortable. Please understand this: you will not always be comfortable. There will be long days, short nights, extra work that you did not count on, and the chance to take up the slack for others on the team who may not be pulling their weight. Yes, you will have fun. You will create a wonderful community. You will make lifetime memories. But you are not serving on Summer Staff for those reasons. In short, you are at camp to work. You have been called to do a task, an important task, and one that allows the camp to function as it should and makes it an effective tool to proclaim the gospel. If you do not do the work you are expected to do, the whole team will suffer.

Over the years I have noticed that on most every team, people fall into one of three groups. There are 10-20% who tend to not pull their own weight. There are 70-80% who faithfully do what they are asked to do. And there are about 10% who go above and beyond what they are expected to do. This has proved to be true on every one of the nearly 20 camp assignments I have had. And I have learned one important truth. The 10% who go above and beyond what they are expected to do will have by far the best experience. They have more fun, grow in Christ more, and leave with the knowledge that they did everything they could do to make the team more effective. Nobody goes into this thinking that they will choose the easy path. But many do just that. And choosing the easy path will cause you to leave camp with regret, rather than satisfaction. Perhaps you have never been asked to work hard for 30 days. This month, you will be! Please take some time to meditate on 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.”

**The Opposite Sex**

I would imagine that it will not take you very long to notice that there are people of the opposite sex on your team. They will be sharp folks who love Christ, wish to serve Him, and enjoy the ministry of Young Life. That makes them quite attractive and “dateable”, don’t you think? We would be very happy for you if you meet someone who you eventually date and even marry. Your Summer Staff coordinator will come to your wedding and buy you a toaster.
But let me make an important point. Your Summer Staff assignment is NOT the time for you to start such a relationship. Here are some practical reasons why:

• That’s not the reason why God has called you here. You are at camp to work, not to pursue relationships with the opposite sex. And pursuing such relationships invariably distracts you from your real calling.

• It disrupts the team. When folks on Summer Staff become focused on one other person, it usually creates drama. And drama is not something you need when you are in a foxhole.

• It is not the “real world”. When you are at camp you are relating to the same people day after day, eating the same food, keeping the same hours, having the same priorities. There is something about the Summer Staff experience that is “romantic” in and of itself. And you often find that when you get home to your real life, things are not as they seemed at camp. Far better to pursue relationships when you are in a more “normal” setting.

• If you focus on one person, you will miss the blessing of knowing others on the team. Let’s face it... when you get infatuated with another person, you get “tunnel lock”. He/she is what you spend most of your time thinking about, and they are who you spend most of your time with. And in doing so, you will absolutely miss the many tremendous non-romantic relationships that God has given you the blessing of developing.

• You don’t have time! In the camp environment, you will need to expend every ounce of energy just to do what is expected of you. Romantic relationships can be both energy consuming and time consuming. You don’t have any of either to spare. Staying up late at night is a sure-fire way to run yourself down. And when you are run down, you will let the team down.

So... take it from me. Though it may be that God will allow you to meet someone who you will want to pursue after the assignment is over, do not do it at camp! Cutting corners and sneaking around is something that will handicap your relationship from the start. God can and will honor your sacrifice. Can you think of a better way to start a relationship than by being obedient to Christ, keeping proper priorities and allowing Him to develop your relationship in His timing? That, my friend, is the way to start a healthy relationship. If you find that “special someone”, make a pact with him/her before the Lord that you will be about the real reason He called you to camp. And decide that only after your commitment is up will you pursue the relationship.

**Attitude**

Most of what will make your month either a great experience or a difficult one will be your attitude. At times you will be tired, grouchy, sick, and frustrated. Within a week or two, people will get under your skin. “Neat freaks” will struggle with the messy people. Messy people will struggle with those who want things neat. Fatigue will likely cause folks to be frustrated with everything and everyone around them. And if often seems that nothing EVER goes according to plan! And it all comes down to attitude. You simply cannot control your environment. But you CAN control how you respond to it. Those who are flexible and who
keep a good attitude will flourish on Summer Staff. Those who cannot flex with the inevitable daily surprises and changes, and those who let people and circumstances get under their skin will want to catch a bus home. Having a “yes attitude” will allow you to be a blessing to others, and it will allow God to really build you as a person. Go into this assignment with the idea that your first response will always be “Yes!”, and with an attitude of joy in all circumstances. 1Thess. 5:16-17

Spend some time meditating on Philippians 2:1-18:

1If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! 9Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 12Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

14Do everything without complaining or arguing, 15so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe 16as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. 17But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. 18So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

Mission

This summer you will participate in what will perhaps be the best “missions trip” of your life. You will experience what it is like to be in full-time ministry because there will not be a single minute when you will be “off the clock”. And this could be just the experience that God will use to encourage your heart in the direction of full-time Christian service. Why shouldn’t you at least pray about being in full-time ministry? Did you know that the majority of Young Life staff served either on Work Crew or Summer Staff, or both? There is something about this experience that God may use to encourage you in that direction. We would encourage you to be open to that!

There you have it. This is not an exhaustive document, but it will be valuable if you take the time to consider these dynamics. May God richly bless you as you serve Him this summer!
50’s Night Ideas - Males
50’s Night Ideas - Females