

Theme: Going Above and Beyond the Call of Duty (Mine)

Required Speaker: One of the Team Captains

Team: Explorers

Speaker – Courtney Eline

3...2...1...Action!

3am. I am suddenly awakened by a sobbing camper at the foot of my bed. I am told of a horrible nightmare about the midget and monsters in the woods. After 45 minutes of sitting next to her bed and humming, she finally falls back asleep.

Fast Forward

It begins to downpour during rest; bunk-in. Rather than watching a movie as usual, I urge all the girls to change into their bathing suits as we head outside singing and dancing. Who knew "Ooh Aah Cha Cha Cha" actually makes it rain?!

Rewind

Second period all of Strauss has leagues. My team is sent to play Newcomb at the volleyball pit. While cheering the team on I hear a cry and see Taylor from the opposing side down on the ground. Without hesitation I scoop her up and carry her to the infirmary, only to find out later that it was just the shock that made her so upset.

Pause

July 9th, 1st encampment, 2007. Everyone is sent to the lake and the breakout of the Seven Seas Bowl begins. As the officers are announced I hear my sister's name called as lieutenant. Tears stream down my face because I know that this has been her dream since she was in Bunk C. Moments later my name is announced as well. Not even thinking of what else to do, I run for Kayla and hug her as we both cry with joy.

Play

For the next 3 1/2 days not only am I a Bunk A counselor, going to sick call, running showers, serving at every meal, and sitting down to High-Lows each night, I am the leader of an amazing team, the Explorers. Now I also motivate, delegate, and organize, choose and manage campers and counselors for each activity, write speeches, and try to remember everyone's name.

Stop

The last day of camp has arrived. I rush around checking under beds and behind cubbies for forgotten items. I make sure to get all of the girls' addresses so I can send them birthday cards and letters throughout the year. Tears roll down my cheeks as the busses pull away. As I begin to think, however, a smile grows on my face because I know that 2nd encampment is just 3 days away and the whole process starts over again.

Eject

People have told me that these actions demonstrate going above and beyond the call of duty, but for me they are just one more reason for returning to camp each summer. The bonds formed and memories made are worth so much more than the extra effort put forth or time spend. I would never trade either for anything in the world.