

I. SCREENING PROCEDURES ▼

The majority of our Word of Life counselors are students and graduates of Word of Life Bible Institute. Before admittance to the Bible Institute, each applicant's background is carefully screened. Even though we know we're starting with a good bunch of applicants, we still review their experience and interview them personally. We also check in with the Dean's Office and several other adults who know and can attest to their character and integrity. This helps us ensure that every counselor we hire meets our rigorous standards and is placed in the most effective role.

And last but not least, every camp staffer is screened by state authorities to make sure they clear the National and New York State Sex Offender Registry.

II. INTENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM ▼

We fill every minute of camp with fun by doing some serious preparation and training before campers arrive.

As students and graduates of Word of Life Bible Institute, counselors have spent at least one school year studying the Bible in one of the strongest Bible training schools in the country. The unique curriculum they follow balances classroom knowledge of the Bible and Theology with practical ministry principles and life growth. They also study topics such as counseling, evangelism, and gain real-world ministry experience throughout the year. Most students have the opportunity counsel during our winter camping season and go into the summer with practical camping experience.

Staff and counselors are also required to complete an intensive, on-site, 10-day training course that covers topics including leadership, counseling, safety and first aid, child and teen issues, spiritual prevention, camp programming, and team building.

They also receive specific training on our very own Child Protection Policy and learn all the best practices for working with children and teens. Best practices cover things like awareness, prevention, reporting and response. Throughout the camp season, staff and counselors attend ongoing in-service training both individually and in group settings.
