



Counselor

Brad Locke - RT Student to Cabin Leader

Brad Locke is another long-time returning counselor having volunteered with CHAMP Camp for 21 years! He has experienced a variety of roles at camp so we asked him a few questions to get his perspective on camp.

How did you get involved with camp?

I became involved with Camp during my junior year at Ohio State University. One of the seniors came and spoke to my class about their time attending CHAMP Camp. At the time I had never heard about the camp and didn't even know that camps like it existed. The senior spoke about how awesome the experience was and how it is the best week of the year. I signed up to attend right after that.

What inspired you to come back after your first year?

My first year was exhausting, emotional, and challenging- but I had a lot of fun and felt like it was a place that I "belonged". I left camp my first year with a renewed sense of purpose and a fresh perspective on life and the world around me. It also helped that I was paired with some amazing kids (Keith and Derrick to name a few) and was mentored by some awesome counselors too.

You started as an RT but have changed professions and now utilized in a leadership role. How has that, if at all, changed your perspective of camp?

I've often thought about how my role at Camp has changed over the years. Being a RT for many years at Camp, I felt directly involved in ensuring that the campers had a memorable and safe experience at camp shaped through maintaining the medical care of the campers. Moving away from RT and into a different profession and changed role, I've been able to view my time at Camp in a different way. It was difficult to move away from a healthcare role, as I loved being a RT and providing that specific care at Camp. However, I have found that while I am not as directly involved in the medical care as I once was, my role in providing a memorable and safe experience for the campers is still the same. Being a cabin leader for the last few years, I used that opportunity to help create an atmosphere where both the campers and counselors are having an awesome experience during the week.

What does attending camp do for you both personally and professionally?

We often think about what the campers get out of going to CHAMP Camp. They find the courage to get outside their comfort zone and take a leap of faith to try something new. Outside of Camp the campers may experience boundaries, limits, and setbacks- but at Camp those don't exist. Personally, this is inspiring to me. At Camp, there are a million moments that inspire and humble me- every day. When life becomes challenging, when there are setbacks or limits placed on what we can achieve, I think back to my time at Camp and those million moments and how these incredible campers make it happen in big ways at Camp. My motto, which I think about frequently, is to 'live each day the CHAMP Camp way'. To me that is centered around taking all that I've learned and absorbed from these awe-inspiring campers and applying throughout my life.

Why should an RT or an "other" apply to be a part of CHAMP Camp?

Coming back to camp over the years, I've been privileged to see many of the campers grow and become amazing people. I've also been blessed to become close friends with many of the campers and counselors. Regardless of your role at Camp, we all are there to create a magical experience for the campers. It truly is a place like no other. It will challenge you, it will humble you, it will change you... but at the end of the week you won't want it to end. You will love CHAMP Camp.

Who lives life the CHAMP Camp way?
Brad does!

