



Counselor

Nick Cedillo - Respiratory Therapist

There is no denying that Nick brings the fun to his cabin! Always willing to jump in and be silly with the campers and make sure they are enjoying their experience. All while serving as one of our lead respiratory therapists!

You started as a counselor as a respiratory therapy student from Ohio State University. How many years ago was that and why did you want to participate in camp? My first year at CHAMP Camp was in 2019. I was lucky enough to celebrate my 21st birthday on the second day of camp, actually. Not exactly how you plan a 21st, but I knew what I was getting into. CHAMP Camp was said to be the most "rigorous" of options for the home care segment of our clinical rotations, but also the most fun (if you were up for it). How could I turn down a challenge like that?

How has your experience changed from your first year to this last year? On the first day, I definitely felt my imposter syndrome take over a little. There were many kids and counselors with long time connections and friendships, and I was just a student showing up to learn. Not to mention, I'm very very bad with names (sorry!). But that feeling didn't last long, and by the end of the week, I felt like I had just gotten to know my closest friends.

This past year (my fifth). I returned as my cabin's lead RT (a responsibility I would have avoided if possible). Upon arrival, I felt a subtle shift in dynamic - different from before. No longer was I the fun nephew in the CHAMP Camp family. Suddenly, I was the fun uncle. I could reference years past and moments I recall about the kids, as well as recall a LOT more names. And while I'm always learning, it was nice to realize that I had a lot to teach, too.

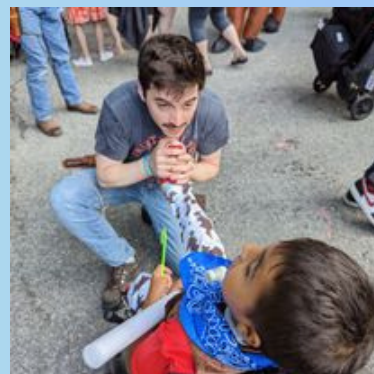
What impact does camp have on your personal and professional life? Each year, this camp is a lovely reset - and reminder- of how lucky we are to be able to create so much fun in such little time. There isn't much better than a child's joy (cliche, but true)... and we get to spend an entire week focused on doing just that for our campers: making joy. I spend fifty-one weeks a year trying to make myself happy - except for one week in June, where my only focus is making our campers happy. And every year, that one-week never fails to be my happiest of all.

What advice would you give someone who is considering becoming a counselor? If you are thinking about becoming a counselor... I'd ask you to think about your fifty-two weeks. Is there a chance, however small, that you could spare one of them? I promise you that it will not only make an impact on these campers, but also on the other fifty-one weeks of your year.

Plus, it's fun.



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RT knowledge and a heart for fun!
We love Nick!

