

# COUNCIL OF PROGRESS

## CAMP CRESTRIDGE

One of Camp Crestridge for Girls' Core Values is "Evolving Traditions." We have several things we do that we've always done and lots of things that we have adopted throughout the years. One of the long standing traditional times we have at camp is called Council of Progress. It has been around since the beginning of Crestridge in 1955. We focus on four areas of growth – social, mental, physical and spiritual. This comes from Luke 2:52, which says, "And Jesus grew in wisdom, stature and in favor with God and man." During Council of Progress, we challenge these girls in those four areas. This is a reverent time to seek to learn more about who God has created us to be and to grow in our relationship with Him. It is an evening where we tie in discipleship and tradition. We show our love and thankfulness for this place we call Crestridge AND seek to point girls towards Christ as their ultimate source of growth and life.



The evening starts with campers and staff dressing in their green shorts and white shirts. For those who have spent time at Crestridge, they'll have their honor bands around their necks. After dinner when the chimes ring, campers and staff quietly line up by village on the tennis courts. We put on a silence ban which means camp is quiet. When all campers are accounted for, they walk up the hill to the Chapel. As they walk in the Chapel they will receive a candle. When all campers and staff are in the Chapel, we start by stating our camp motto – "With my feet on the ground and my heart attune, I shall reach for the stars." (See the attached document that explains the camp motto) The speaker for that evening is then introduced and begins speaking about one of those four areas. If it's the first CP of the session, the evening continues with presenting the campers who are new to their village with their village honor band. If it's the second CP of the session, the campers receive a bar or star to put on their honor band if they completed their challenge.

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After the campers have received their honor band, bar or star, we begin the candle lighting. One of our Directors will present one final challenge by recapping what we just heard the speaker talk about. They will light the four candles on stage and then ask everyone to stand to light the candles. Once all the candles are lit we sing The Mountains Rise song. (See the attached document that explains The Mountains Rise song) From there all the campers and staff go to their cabins to pray together or sing a few more songs. Counselors will then begin CP talks with their campers. (See attached document for an explanation on CP talks)



As a new comer, just a heads up, it may seem more like a cult than anything else. I just don't think there is any way around it. The candles kind of give it that vibe ☺. Once you get past that, it's great. We love that this time offers girls a chance to be reverent about something, to carry on traditions that mean a lot to us and who we are, and most of all, give girls a chance to simply be still and be taught about who they have been created to be and become for His glory. We are excited to share this with you and to see the opportunities these nights will open up for you to be a part of coming alongside your girls in, life in general and in their walks with the Lord.

more to come

We will be unpacking this more during training to fill you in on all of the things you'll need to know regarding this during staff week. So, jot down any questions you have and hopefully we'll be ready to share the answers.