

# Legacy

*(These are the songs I had ready to play: they meant something to the staff of this particular camp and were important in their history. Obviously, you would use ones that are meaningful to your people and that are helpful to the mood):*

**Beat the Drum**  
**Better When We're Together**  
**Just Can't Get Enough**  
***New Beginning***  
**Own True Way**  
**Kind and Generous**  
**The Wood Song**  
**Grandma Said to the Boy**  
**We Remember You Well**  
**Glen Mhor CD**  
**Unwritten**  
**Safe Here - Craig**  
**What the World Needs Now**

**You will need:** an iPod (or some way to play music), slips of paper cut (one for each person), markers, slides, projector, screen, photo albums, listening station, quotes at each station with instructions, map of the world or globe, a list of the participants put into groups of 4 to meet later in the session - *tell them their groups before they enter the space*, the definition of legacy written out on large paper, a basket with tiny bottles with corks (*I found these at a Dollar Store - about 1.5 inches high*), tiny markers to write names on cork

## **4 questions on whiteboard (hide until you ask these)**

Why should you care?  
Why should you respect these legacies?  
What has a legacy done for you?  
Why is a legacy important?

## **AHEAD OF TIME:**

Print out on large newsprint the Definition of a Legacy (*have it hanging over the door as they enter the room or on the floor so they must walk over it to enter*): **anything handed down from the past , a gift (especially personal property, as money, by will; a bequest).**

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS WAS PREPARED FOR WORK WITH A SUMMER CAMP STAFF DURING LEADERSHIP TRAINING. PLEASE CHANGE THE NAMES AND WORDING TO SUIT YOUR SITUATION.**

## **SET UP STATIONS AROUND THE ROOM**

**Stations:** (have a **quote** at each station along with a **question** ). When appropriate, have markers and a large sheet of paper at each station on which the teens can write or draw their answers)

**1) QUESTION: What history do you see at our camp? What do you think is its significance? What shows at camp that we care about legacy/history?**

**QUOTE:** I want to leave a legacy  
How will they remember me?  
Did I choose to love?  
To make a mark on things?  
I want to leave an offering  
And leave that kind of legacy

**2) QUESTION:** (Looking at photos/slides/anniversary pictures) - **Take a few moments to look at the faces of the past** (*put them out on a table and let the teens peruse - try to get as many generations as you can*)

**QUOTE:** You are the designer of your destiny. You are the author of your story.

**3) QUESTION:** (Reading old alumni letters) - **Take a few moments and read the words of past staff.** (*this particular camp has staff (who are not returning this summer) write a letter to the staff of this summer which are read during staff training - I had access to copies of these and printed them out and gave them time to read some) Perhaps you have something else that can go in here*)

**QUOTE:** If you would not be forgotten as soon as you are dead, either write things worth reading or do things worth writing.

**4) QUESTION:** (Listening to the Camp CD) - **Listen to the sounds of camp** (*this camp made a CD for sale years ago of the staff singing camp songs. I had it on an iPhone and had several earphones attached to it so people could listen for a few moments) Perhaps there is something similar your camp has.*)

**QUOTE:** We all die. The goal isn't to live forever. The goal is to create something that will.

**5) QUESTION: What is your very best memory of camp?**

**QUOTE:** The things you do for yourself are gone but the things that you do for others remain as your legacy.

**6) QUESTION: What have you learned at camp?**

**QUOTE:** We have a responsibility to live up to the legacy of those who came before us by doing all that can to help those who come after us.

**7) QUESTION: Draw what you think the future of camp will look like.**

**QUOTE:** As you near the last stage of your life, what legacy would you like to leave? Let that be a guide for how you live today. Just remember...material success does not last but leaving a legacy of love trumps everything else.

**8) QUESTION: What will you do today that will make a difference 1 year from now?**

**QUOTE:** You will not be remembered by petty things, rather you will be remembered by how your life affected others.

**9) QUESTION: What could you do this summer that could hurt this place and these people?**

**QUOTE:** What you do today has an impact on tomorrow.

**10) QUESTION: What was here before you came (not the physical stuff)?**

**QUOTE:** What legacy will you leave - the choice is all yours.

**11) QUESTION: Place a sticker on this map (or globe) of the world where camp people have gone and/or are now living.**

**QUOTE:** The greatest legacy anyone can leave behind is to positively impact the lives of others. Whenever you add value to other people's lives, you are unknowingly leaving footprints on the sands of time that live on, even after your demise.

**12) QUESTION: Make a list of the careers people have gone on to since they left camp (ex. teacher, nurse, librarian, architect, doctor, dentist, consultant, social worker, etc.)**

**QUOTE:** The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone. But the things you do for others remain as your legacy.

*Before they enter, have music playing from the songs you have purposefully chosen that will play for the duration of the silent activity. You are looking for songs that will help enhance the mood you are looking for.*

**FRONTLOAD:** Explain that you wish everyone to enter the room in silence with a respect for the past and what and who has gone before - they are to do the activities in silence until you speak. You may even wish to have them removed their shoes because they are walking on sacred ground.

FOR 25 MINUTES (they will travel from station to station - as individuals and whenever they wish but they must do so in silence)

5 Minutes

After 25 minutes, or when you see that they have had enough, have everyone gather together and sit on the floor in a circle.

**Take up together:** how did you feel? what did you learn? what do you think was in place before you came?

10 Minutes

**Now ask them:** How do we get you to think beyond this summer? This day? Your actions? (*you are not looking for answers here - pause and then explain gently that it isn't all about you -- yes, it's your time but there is more, much more*).

**Divide into groups of 4** (*you told them these prior to the start*)

Reveal these questions on a screen or paper or whiteboard and ask them to discuss these 4 questions.

Why should you care?  
Why should you respect these legacies?  
What has a legacy done for you?  
Why is a legacy important?

After 10 minutes, take up these answers. Ask them to share something brilliant they heard someone in their group say.

5 Minutes

Now add whatever you would like to say and whatever is appropriate for your situation.

Here are some of the talking points I used at this particular camp:

- people will leave - you will not be here forever but if you want camp to be, you need to teach them how to do the job, to share with them the importance of this place
- they need to know how camp works, why camp works and how people feel loved and cared for
- how will you get the story out?
- Its not enough just to share it with those at camp
- Why am I asking you? Well, we have a responsibility because we know better -- we can change the world
- we do not always know what legacy we will leave - there is a ripple effect - explain the concept of ripples in the water after a stone is thrown

5 Minutes

In a moment but not yet, you will write your own legacy...

Here are the Steps to Creating Your Own Legacy:

- decide your priorities (what matters most to you about camp)
- what is the one thing you want to leave for the next generation to experience

- think about it and write it on this slip of paper - sign your name
- when you are done, put it in 1 of these tiny bottles and write your name on the cork with this tiny marker when you bring it to the front

Explain: it's like a message in a bottle (you never know who will find it) -- in these bottles, you will have your legacies

Say:

The pages of yesterday cannot be revised but the pages of tomorrow are blank and you hold the pen. Make it an inspiring story.

Give them time in silence to write their legacy - play: **The Page is Yet Unwritten** in the background.

5 Minutes

Collect all the bottles and keep them in a special basket or container. Perhaps a new tradition can be created that the summer after someone has left and become an alumnus, you can open their bottle and post their legacy.

**If you are able, have an alumnus or several alumni close the session by reading this (or have them record it if they can't be there in person)**

So we, the alumni, pass you the torch. It is now up to you how brightly you will burn.

*Leave a Legacy. Leave something when you go. A tree planted. A garden cultivated.  
A wound healed. A book written. A child taught.*

*Be a sculptor. Leave your fingerprints on the hearts of those you touch.*

*Be an artist not a wage earner. A linchpin not a laborer. No matter your station, no matter the job.*

*If you're a janitor, don't sweep floors and empty trash - sparkle the world with cleanliness, order and beauty. If you're a mason, don't look to the ground and chisel rocks. Gaze at the sky and build cathedrals.*

*Act on your inspirations. Never be content with the status quo - fight it with a relentless passion for excellence.*

*Leave it all on the field of life. You can lie in your deathbed tortured by "if only's" or rest with the assurance that the world is better because you lived.*

Go. Live. Do. Be. Leave a Legacy.