LATE NIGHT MANUAL

Late night activities can be a great way of building relationships at camp and having fun together! At camp, we understand that our goal is to build relationships with young people so that we can share the gospel with them and continue to disciple them long after camp ends. So, as you plan late night activities, remember those key goals, but we also hope that this manual gives you some fun ideas!

Tips to get you started:

- Plan a mix of evening activities as different young people will be interested in different activities.
- Vary the level of energy needed on different nights! This should also include thinking about what activities will have happened during the day. For example, if you spent six hours hiking a mountain all afternoon, it might be a good evening for a movie.
- Have a start time that is late enough that discussion groups have enough time to have a complete conversation!
- Have an end time that still allows young people to shower and get to bed before lights out.
- Try to have things that don't require a lot of set-up right before they begin, or else someone will have to miss part of discussion group (which is one of the most important parts of camp!)

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Reality Show Night

Description & Outline of Events:

Divide the groups into several teams. Create a PowerPoint from which teams choose "challenges" based on reality TV shows. The winner of each challenge gets points for their team. Examples:

- Food Challenge
- Project Run Way - Teams pick one person and dress them up in a crazy outfit – then he/she has to do a catwalk
- Minute-to-win-it challenges
- Family Feud

The team that gets the most points from all challenges wins. Designate a host to facilitate the entire event.

Supplies

Purchase: minute-to-win-it supplies

Gather: PowerPoint with challenges, clothing for project runway

Food/Drink: food challenge items

Decorations: none

Decorations

signs or slides with the TV-Show graphics (Project RunWay, Minute To Win It, etc.)

Online Resources: (websites, music, video)

Play music from each reality TV show. Prepare other music for between challenges.

Factors to Consider: (space, age, staffing, inside/outside)

This is a lot of work ahead but not much help is needed if all materials and instructions are prepared ahead. You need an indoor space with a projector that is large enough. Be careful what you pick for food challenges; you don't want your participants to get sick.

What worked well:

It is easy to include everyone because of so many different challenges and it gives opportunity to show a lot of talent and creativity throughout the whole night. Even though teams are competing, they are together in one room.

Other Notes & Variations:

Prepare funny skits for "commercials" between the challenges (make up funny products, advertise camp merch, or promote follow-up activities for after camp).

Supply & Staff Hunt

Description & Outline of Events:

1. **Phase One - Supply Hunt.** Kids are in 4 teams. They hunt around the property looking for plastic baggies filled with supplies for Phase 2. Each bag has a color on it to identify which team it belongs to.
2. Once they find all the bags (8 or 9), they report to the game leader and do an "Inventory Check" to show they have all the supplies. The leader has an official list for each team where they check off each item.
3. After the "Inventory Check" they have to put together their supplies - take apart a flashlight and separate it into 3 bags, rope, hand shovel, etc. These supplies are clues for where they will look in Phase 2. Then the leader gives directions for Phase 2 which are written on a Top Secret Form.
4. **Phase 2 - Staff Hunt.** Using their supplies, teams look for 5 staff members hiding on another part of the property. In a tree, in a hole, etc. If they found a staff member, they get a piece of paper to prove it and after they find all five they report to the game leader.

Supplies Needed

Purchase: none

Gather: plastic baggies, flashlights, hand shovels, rope, "top secret mission" forms

Food/Drink: none

Decorations: none

Online Resources (websites, music, video): none

Factors to Consider: (space, age, staffing, inside/outside)

You need lots of outside space for this game. You need one area for Phase One for them to look for supplies so the staff can hide in another area for Phase 2.
Don't allow other teams to steal or move plastic bags that aren't their own. Monitor. Make sure staff can be found.

What worked well:

Breaking the game into phases makes it last longer and involves more people. Hunting for supplies and putting them together was a hit.

Other Notes & Variations:

Carnival Night

Description & Outline of Events:

1. Students choose their own groups of 4-5 and are released to go choose their first activity. Keep it feeling relaxed and let groups go from station to station in any order they want until they have done all 12. Groups collect red tickets at each station they complete.
2. **Stations:** tattoo, cotton candy, 'go fish', frisbee through the hula hoop, bean bag toss, tick tack toe on a cardboard board, balloon popping with darts, water gun bottle thing, knock down the bottle with a nerf gun, get a coin into a glass jar toss, hair dye, kissing station (guess how many Hershey's kisses candies are in a jar) etc.
3. Finish with students turning in their tickets and getting a bag of candy and then announce the correct kiss guess.

Supplies

Purchased: paint to create a lot of the stations with cardboard, balloons, temporary hair dye, temporary tattoos

Gathered: bean bags, hula hoops, glass bottles, coins, water guns, nerf guns & nerf darts

Food/Drink: cotton candy machine rental, candy, Hershey's kisses

Decorations: lights and paper pennant banners (optional)

Online Resources **(websites, music, video):**

carnival music

Factors to Consider: (space, age, staffing, inside/outside)

It uses a lot of space and is outside so the weather is a factor. You need staff at each station.

What worked well:

This was our final late night and the chill, relaxed pace was perfect for where kids were at. It was fun, engaging, they could go through it with their friends.

Other Notes & Variations:

This event requires a lot of prep work (painting the dartboard, tic-tac-toe board, fish station) and supplies, though not all supplies have to be purchased.

Medieval Night

Outline of Events:

1. **Costume Contest & Photo Booth** - Students can pose with the stocks and show off costumes on the catwalk.
2. **Jousting** - Two people represent their team and stand on wooden logs with a joust in their hands made of a water noodle/floaty. They hit each other until one falls off. Students wear helmets.
3. **Obstacle Course** - Each team chooses a Princess to carry through a marked-off course.
4. **Identify Your Potion** - Each team lines up in front of a row of cups filled with different drinks. One person at a time runs up and tries one of the drinks. They then guess what it is. If they are right, the cup gets removed from the row. If not, they went back to their team and another person took a turn. They could choose whatever cup they wanted each time. The team that correctly identified the potions first, wins.

Supplies Needed

Purchased: cups for potions, noodle "joust" sticks, prizes

Gathered: football/bike helmets, medieval costumes, markers for obstacle course

Food/Drink: drinks for potions

Decorations: wooden or cardboard "stocks, " fabric for a photo booth background, paper flags

Online Resources: (websites, music, video):

medieval music to play in the background and for the catwalk

Factors to Consider: (space, age, staffing, inside/outside)

To keep jousting safe, watch for twisted ankles when falling and headshots are illegal**.**

What worked well:

Jousting is awesome and very guy friendly.
Potions are fun, but make sure the drinks are hard to identify.
Keep the photo booth moving, it can suck up a lot of time.

Other Notes & Variations:

Movie Night

Description & Outline of Events:

Movie night is a simple evening activity with little set-up and preparation required. Watch a pre-screened movie that appeals to a wide range. It is very important that the movie has been watched ahead of time specifically with camp in mind to make sure it is appropriate. If the theme of the movie connects in some way to the camp theme, that is even better.

Supplies:

Purchased: none

Gathered: movie, projector and computer

Food/Drink: popcorn, snack foods, candy, drinks

Decorations: none

Online Resources (websites, music, video):

none

Factors to Consider (space, age, staffing, inside/outside)

- Comfortable seating
- Make sure campers know it is not snuggle time (consider lighting)

What worked well:

Little planning and preparation needed.

Other Notes & Variations:

A movie night can be a great option for after hike day or on a rainy night.

Dance Night / Rave

Description & Outline of Events:

- It is a fun night dedicated to dancing. You can do your country's traditional dances, have short-term teams teach line dances, recreate old camp dances, or learn new (easy) partner dances. You can also include just fun group dances (almost wedding style).
- You can have a dance competition one-on-one or divide the campers in teams
- At the end of the night you can just have freestyle dancing. It usually works well in the end because everyone is warmed up!

Supplies:

Purchased: Glow in the dark sticks, disco ball (colourful lights)

Gathered: everyone's favourite songs to dance to

Food/Drink: make sure you have a lot of fresh water, soft drinks, "mocktails" (optional)

Decorations: make the room dark, designate a dance floor with lights or other decorations

Online Resources (websites, music, video):

Create a custom playlist with everyone's favorite

Factors to Consider (space, age, staffing, inside/outside)

You should know your campers well, for some a dance night might be the last thing they want to do.
This event can be done inside or outside depending on lighting, weather, and sound system.

What worked well:

Be hyped up!!!
Have short-term teams learn something traditional and nationals learn something from them. Know ahead of time who can help teach dances if necessary.

Other Notes & Variations:

Project Just Dance videos to allow everyone to learn a new dance together. Serve several different "mocktails" to add a special touch.

Gargon

Description & Outline of Events:

This is a high energy night game which should be played in a dark building. Games last 15-20 minutes (you choose) and can be played over and over. In the main room you need a countdown on a projector or have a person who is yelling out the time every 5 minutes. This game is the whole group vs. one person who is the “Gargon”.

Take apart a flashlight into 3-5 pieces: body, batteries, and the piece with the blub. The Gargon hides all the pieces separately throughout the building. EACH PIECE MUST BE VISIBLE IF THE LIGHTS WERE TURNED ON. (no hiding in cupboards and closets etc.)

Once the pieces are hidden the Gargon tells the group to start the game and the timer/music begins. The group’s goal is to find each part of the flashlight, put it together, and shine it on the Gargon, ending the game. If this happens then the whole group wins. If the timer ends before all pieces of the flashlight are found then the Gargon wins.

The Gargon is supposed to run around and tag people. It is epic when the Gargon runs around because of the lack of light, and music. If a person is tagged they have to sit down immediately. To be freed, a person holding a part of the flashlight can touch the person who is sitting down. When a group finds a piece of the flashlight they can choose to carry it on their person until the rest of the pieces are found (risky), gather them to a specific place, or to leave them where they found them until all pieces are found. THIS IS IMPORTANT because if a person holding a flashlight part is caught the flashlight part cannot be transferred to a new person; the Gargon takes it and re-hides the piece.

Supplies:

Gathered: Working flashlight with batteries (separate into 4 parts = top, case, and two batteries, 2 sets of small bells, speaker for music, timer

Online Resources (websites, music, video):

Create or find a playlist of epic background music. Example: Halo soundtrack

Factors to Consider (space, age, staffing, inside/outside)

This is an indoor game where it needs to be quite dark in the building. I have never seen it played outdoors but someone can try. Make sure that all your students play and that you have staff playing/monitoring where everyone is at. You don’t want students running off during the game to somewhere alone.

What worked well:

Because this is an indoor game it is a good option for rainy or cold days.

Other Notes & Variations:

Hollywood Night

Description & Outline of Events:

- Throughout the week English classes make 2-3 minutes videos (it can be lip syncing, music video, themed, or open). There are plenty of free phone apps that the students can use to put together a video. This should not take up too much time English class time. If necessary, groups can create their videos during free time.
- The night of the event students dress up (they need to know this before they come to camp so they can pack accordingly) and as they enter the main room they are interviewed by two hosts and “paparazzi” take pictures of them on the red carpet. Decorate the main room and play chill jazz music in the background.
- For the main event, everyone gathers together in the main room, the videos are shown. Have an emcee or two host the event to transition between videos. You can add live performances and additional videos as well.
- After all the videos are shown, the committee announces the winners (best movie, best picture, best actor, actress, best joke, best costume, best scenery...) We make sure that every movie gets one oscar.
- Finish the night with a dance party (train, limbo, macarena, cha cha slide, etc.)

Supplies:

Purchased: plastic oscars/awards, black hats, fancy gloves

Gathered: projector, computer, speakers, camera

Food/Drink: fancy drinks served in nice glasses, snacks, cake

Decorations: Hollywood sign, red napkins, red carpet (can be real or paper)

Online Resources (websites, music, video):

Frank Sinatra or jazz music playlist, dance party playlist

Factors to Consider (space, age, staffing, inside/outside)

This works best in a big main room with a projector. You will need two hosts, a photographer, 2-5 judges to decide awards, and someone responsible for the music and playing the videos.

What worked well:

This is a great activity to end the week with. Students are dressed up, they show their creativity and end the camp with fun dancing. Always a success.

Other Notes & Variations:

Depending on how many videos there are and guests - the program usually goes around 45 minutes and then have a dance party for another 45 minutes.
This could be a good time to share a slideshow or video recapping camp so far.
One variation is to have students dress up as a movie character or a specific celebrity.

Bonfire

Description & Outline of Events:

- This is an activity that often takes place right after the evening program. Have someone work on building the fire during whatever program takes place right before.
- Keep this event chill. It is about conversations and hanging out.
- S'mores, sausages, and other snacks are fun to have.
- Depending on the camp this is also a great time for singing worship songs.
- This can go long, so have a plan to put the fire out if you need to cut things shorter.

Supplies:

Purchased: fire starters, matches/lighter

Gathered: firewood (Sometimes you can find this around your camp facility, sometimes you need to purchase it. Be sure to know what is the norm in your location.)

Food/Drink: s'mores supplies (ask short-term teams to bring stuff from the US if possible), national traditional campfire foods

Decorations: none needed

Online Resources (websites, music, video):

Play music

Factors to Consider (space, age, staffing, inside/outside) A bonfire pit is always helpful, but sometimes camp facilities will allow you to build a space yourself for this. It takes a while to get the fire going, so having staff work on this before students arrive is a good idea. It is also a fun activity to get students to help with. Make sure a staff member is around at all times for safety.

What worked well: Using this time for intentional conversation with students. It's always a great last night activity, or at least towards the end or camp. It can be fun to sing worship songs.

Other Notes & Variations:

This can be a fun time to try and share snacks and candies from the short-term team's country and the country where your camp is.

Hawaiian Party

Description & Outline of Events:

This event is similar to a dance party, but with a tropical twist! Play island-themed music as well as fun dance music. Throughout the night you can interrupt dancing to play limbo or other games. Set up a photo booth with a tropic background and have leis, hula skirts, and hawaiian shirts as costumes.

This event works well outside and if your location has a pool that is even better!

Supplies:

Purchased: Hawaiian leis, hula skirts

Gathered: a stick for limbo

Food/Drink: Fruit skewers, tropical fruit, non-alcoholic mojitos or fruit punch, ice cream

Decorations: lights, paper palm trees, tropical decorations, backdrop for a tropical photo booth

Online Resources (websites, music, video):

hawaiian, caribbean, luau, or other tropical music playlists. Example: 1 Hour of Tropical Music

Factors to Consider (space, age, staffing, inside/outside)

Outside or by the pool is great, but it can also be outside.

What worked well:

Other Notes & Variations:

Christmas Night

Description & Outline of Events:

Students dress as if going to a Christmas party. Decorate the space with Christmas decorations and play Christmas music. This can be a fun time to discuss Christmas traditions in the countries represented at the camp.

Before camp, tell students to bring a wrapped white-elephant gift (an inexpensive and usually funny gift) for a gift swap. All the wrapped gifts are put on a table or the center of the circle. Students draw numbers from a hat to set the order. Starting with the highest number and working your way down, each student has the option to unwrap a new gift or steal a gift that has already been unwrapped. Once a gift has been stolen twice it can't be stolen again. At the end, the person who draws first gets the chance to keep their original item or steal one of the unwrapped and available gifts.

Supplies:

Purchased:

Gathered:

Food/Drink: holiday punch, holiday desserts

Decorations: Christmas tree, christmas lights

Online Resources (websites, music, video):

Christmas music

Factors to Consider (space, age, staffing, inside/outside)

If students are dressed for Christmas this might not work well if the weather is hot. Depending on the size of your group, you might want to divide the group into two or three smaller groups for the gift swap.

What worked well:

Other Notes & Variations:

Instead of having students bring gifts you can also provide gifts for the swap or at least have extra gifts and wrapping on hand.

Late Night Outline

Plan your own activities using this template

Description & Outline of Events:

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Supplies:

Purchased:

Gathered:

Food/Drink:

Decorations:

Online Resources (websites, music, video):

Factors to Consider (space, age, staffing, inside/outside)

What worked well:

Other Notes & Variations: