

## **TRADITIONS AT WEKIVA YOUTH CAMP**

Teaching children traditions helps them appreciate what has come before and what others have done to make their experience possible. Traditions at camp give campers something to look forward to in returning year after year. Some of the traditions we have at Wekiva Youth Camp go back over 40 years.

### **Flag Ceremony:**

The entire camp gathers at the flagpole before each meal. At breakfast we raise the flag with a ceremony and say the Pledge of Allegiance and the Conservation Pledge. At dinner we lower the flags and fold them (retire the colors). Campers, staff, and volunteers are expected to stand at attention and remain quiet and respectful while the ceremony commences. If the flag ceremony is in progress while you are walking up to the flag circle, it is customary to stop where you are at the point that you realize the ceremony is taking place. After the flag raising and grace you may then approach the flag circle.

### **Roll Call:**

Gathering at the flagpole before meals not only gives us a venue to have a flag ceremony, it is also a good way to make sure we have accounted for everyone. This has turned into a roll call. Before the ceremony, the directors or circle leaders call out each cabin name and volunteers. The cabins and volunteers often respond with witty retorts that are indicative of the fellowship in their group.

### **Thursday Night Tacos in a Bag/Skit Night**

The dinner tradition is fun and allows extra time to get ready for Skit Night. Cabins come to roll call for “taco talk” – a brief and silly how-to-create-your-taco-in-a-bag demonstration. The camp eats outside on towels and benches (return them to your porch after dinner please.). Many times volunteers like to go out to a restaurant for dinner on Thursday. Check with the Camp Chairman. Volunteers return in time for skits.

### **Cabin Pledge**

On Friday night, during the candle lighting, each counselor will recite the environmental pledge that their cabin has written. Pledges should be about how you will not only protect the environment during the next year, but how you can educate family and friends about our earth and how to protect it.

