GEORGIA'S CAMP CHARLIE

A WEEKEND OF FAMILY FUN IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

II. KEY PLAYERS

Camp Charlie is designed to foster partnerships and build community. The success of your weekend is dependent upon getting various community members, organizations, and businesses involved.

Facilitators

The facilitator(s) will get the ball rolling by pulling together like-minded individuals or businesses to assist and lead in planning and carrying out the weekend. Camp Charlie is most successful when several partners work together to host the weekend.

Committee Members

At the beginning of the planning process, it is important to establish various committees and identify leaders on your team who are willing to take on more responsibility. Committees will have specific tasks and be accountable for meeting deadlines.

Partners

You are urged to recruit partners in the very beginning of Camp Charlie planning. Emphasize that this is an opportunity for them to be involved in a positive public relations program. Partners help plan the weekend, organize planning committees, and contribute volunteers and instructors for programs. They also recruit and/or sponsor families, assist with public relations, and share the work load.

Sponsors

Sponsors are groups and individuals who provide funding or in-kind donations to your program. You will need to consider finding funding sources to cover the cost of food, registration and promotion, program materials and instructors, activities and other various expenses.

Volunteers and Mentors

You will need a group of volunteers to help with meal preparation, programs, setup, and other various tasks during the weekend. Selecting those volunteers will be one of the most important things you do to ensure that your program is of the quality you want.

Potential Facilitators

- Members of the GWF Board of Directors
- GWF Associate Member Organizations
- Local Boy Scout Troop Leaders
- Local Community Organizations

Potential Sponsors

- Community Service and Sportsmen's Clubs
- Local Businesses
- Sporting Goods Companies
- Foundations and Corporations
- Citizens from the Community

Potential mentors/ volunteers:

- Experienced Natural Resources Professionals
- Educators from Any Grade Level or Discipline
- Families Experienced in Outdoor Activities
- Interns from Local Colleges
- Chapter Members of the Wildlife Society and other like organizations
- Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts

Potential Campers

- Urban/Suburban Families
- Single Parent Families
- Senior Citizens (Grandparents)
- Big Brother/Big Sister Matches
- Foster Children and Families

Mentors are hand-picked volunteers who love the outdoors, truly enjoy people, and want to share their knowledge and experiences. During the course of the weekend, they will serve their assigned family by making them feel welcome and comfortable, especially for those new to the camping world.

Campers

Camp Charlie offers an excellent opportunity to reach people who may not have spent much time outside an urban/suburban environment. By recruiting "beginners," you can draw from a population that may not have developed a connection to nature. You may also choose to narrow your focus even more by targeting specific audiences, such as single parents, grandparents raising grandchildren, physically disabled or foster families.

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Staff from the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge played an important role during Camp Charlie at the Okefenokee by providing hands-on activities. Other partners included Plum Creek Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Okefenokee Adventures.