

Glow in the Dark Memories Embers

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Theme: Fun, creativity and a tangible memory for the treasure box

Age of campers: Any

Time allotted/actual: 30 mins

Location: An enclosed, small room. Preferably with white walls.

Props/Materials/Symbols: Large black light(s), white t-shirts for everyone, highlighters, glow in the dark paints (aerosol cans NOT recommended). Ensure the paints are non-toxic in case they get on skin. Also ensure that whatever is used can withstand being washed.

Prep done: Turn the black lights on at least 20 minutes in advance so that they can warm up.

Opening/Mood set: The point here is to have a fun and appropriate treasure to take home/keep. Each shirt is handmade and signed with a unique drawing, painting or message from all of your friends in the cabin. The atmosphere is fun, chatty and celebratory. The idea here is for the event to be a culmination of a shared experience, somewhat like a yearbook signing get-together, but through a different medium.

Questions/Activities:

1st activity: While the campers are painting, start a conversation can be started about everyone's favorite memories, mental pictures they have of the session, and funny inside jokes.

2nd activity: Pay special attention that the campers are not drawing or writing inappropriate things on each other, as the shirts will go home with each of them.

Closing: Hang the shirts out of the clothes line together and promise together to wear them as a cabin group the next morning.

Were other people involved? If needed, have a helper set up the black lights for you in advance.

Thoughts on pacing? Take as much or as little time as the campers want to take. KIBID (Kill It Before It Dies) may be required if mindfulness and engagement dip to levels that are below active gifting to each other.

What would you change next time / what did you learn / how would you enhance it? We found that the best writing tools were colored highlighters (pinks, greens and blues) as those show up both in incandescent AND ultraviolet lights.

Camper feedback: "My shirt is awesome!!"

Notes:

Glow in the Dark Paint links:

-<http://coolglow.com/1/51/51/Glow-Paint/?gclid=CMzjsbqfzqwCFckZQgod5AeOrA>
Cheap, but works for what it is needed for.

-<http://glowinc.com/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=11>
Expensive but *extremely* high quality

-http://www.google.com/products/catalog?q=glow+in+the+dark+paint&hl=en&client=firefox-a&hs=qvk&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&prmd=imvns&bav=on.2,or_r_gc.r_pw.,cf.osb&biw=1280&bih=670&um=1&ie=UTF-8&tbnm=shop&cid=7357035990887617677&sa=X&ei=KrDNTskeiI6IAu2jsfoL&ved=0CKkBEPMCMAQ
This one is the exact same one that we use at camp. It does not glow or show in daylight however, so it makes for blank shirts worn at any other time than at night or under black light.

Select paints and highlighters that are labeled “fluorescent” so that they will glow brightly in the black light (as opposed to simply charging up in incandescent light and only glowing in the absence of light).