



**WHO WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE AS A
CAMP COUNSELOR, DICK CHENEY OR
OSAMA BIN LADEN?**

Sleepaway camp is traumatic enough as it is, what with the separation, the bullying, and the inedible food. But this year, the calls home aren't going to be due to homesickness—and they may be monitored, for your protection. Those won't be crocodile tears, either, because there's a new face in your bunk. If you thought swimming in the lake was sheer terror, meet your newest counselor, Dick or Osama.

Dick Cheney . . .

True, he's the only counselor with a serous heart condition. And, granted, he's a bit out of shape—even for tetherball. But Dick's made it very clear that his number one goal is the safety

and security of all campers at all times. Because, as he says, your rivals in Camp Jihad across the lake “are preparing to attack” Camp Patriot at any moment. Capture the flag is for amateurs. This year, it’s all-out war.

Counselor Cheney is certain to wield his power behind the scenes, convincing other counselors—especially gullible, green CITs—to do his bidding. In fact, there have been pretty convincing rumors that the unintelligent, inexperienced camp director really answers to “Camp Cheney,” a highly secretive “shadow camp” that actually makes all the decisions and runs the larger camp. Cheney also has a cadre of underlings (known as JCs or “Junior Cheney’s”) who leak damaging information about unruly campers to the camp newsletter. Counselor Cheney has a vindictive streak, and may punish wayward campers by spreading rumors of bedwetting and other “unpatriotic” actions. Campers who refuse to go along with his activity schedule may be tagged as “traitors” or not sufficiently supportive of the camp and its policies. An avid hunter, Cheney will most likely be put in charge of the rifle range. Note, however, that his enthusiasm may get the better of his aim.

Cheney will probably institute new disciplinary measures in your cabin to keep difficult bunkmates segregated from the general cabin population. A purpose-built “detention cabin” will house “seditious” campers suspected of seeking to sneak dates into cabins, clogging the toilets, carving their names into the rafters, and bringing down the camp administration. These campers may be blindfolded, fed a diet of nothing but bug juice and Scooter Pies, and subjected to “rendition” to mommy and daddy. Their camp fees will not be refunded, either. Counselor Cheney may also seek a new fee policy whereby the costs for more afflu-

ent campers are lowered while those for more needy campers are raised. This policy will, according to Cheney, spur wealthy campers to invest in the camp and make improvements that will help all campers equally.

Or Osama Bin Laden?

Let's be honest: Bin Laden knows *a lot* more about working in camps than Dick Cheney. He's also an experienced hiker and horseman who has no trouble living off the land and retreating into the wilderness when necessary (though he'd prefer access to a satellite phone). Could your summer at Camp Jihad be the best one yet?

Osama has been very proactive in courting you and your parents, going as far as sending you a "meet the counselors" videotape espousing his "camp ideology" and voicing his contempt for your archrivals over at Camp Patriot. At Camp Jihad, you'll learn how to fire an assault rifle, burn a flag, and drive a fully loaded car or truck at 90 miles per hour while weaving left and right. How fun! Of course, counselor Bin Laden himself may not be present during all activities, particularly when Camp Patriot's spy satellites are passing overhead. But his retinue of followers, admirers, and hangers-on are happy to carry out his orders—or even make decisions on their own.

At Camp Jihad, the organizational structure is slightly different than at your average Catskills summer camp. Campers are divided not by bunk but by "cell." In fact, you may not even get to live with the other campers in your cell: you will meet up with them at activities or just before your mission begins. Sleeping

quarters will be cots in military-style tents (or caves, if available), and campers will be expected to do their own laundry—no need for nametags!—and clean their own rifles. Friday will not be pizza day.

Counselor Bin Laden will plan general camp strategy, handle the finances, and oversee multiple cells. His second-in-command, Ayman “Skip” Zawihiri, will handle day-to-day activities such as indoctrination, arts and crafts, tunneling, swimming, and communicating in code. Bin Laden’s overall goal for the camp, of course, is the destruction of the “imperialists across the lake,” Camp Patriot. To this end, you and your fellow campers may be called upon to sneak into the camp, pose as “patriots,” learn their ways, and then attempt to destroy the camp through subversive activities. Note, however, that unlike Camp Jihad, Camp Patriot welcomes girls and the dining hall serves soda with caffeine. Do not be swayed by their decadence.



Eight weeks can seem like forever, or it can be over before you know it. It all depends on how much fun you’re having. But nothing can ruin a summer at camp like a bad counselor. So remember, you’ve got to live with this guy every day. Camp Patriot or Camp Jihad? Cheney or Bin Laden? Word around the lake is they both snore.