

UNASSUMING YET UNFORGETTABLE



Kurt Schwarz
Executive Director

It cost our ministry about \$15 to make, but few items have had a greater impact on our summer program. There isn't a camper or counselor who has ever been to camp that can't tell you exactly what it is. Most have lost their voice over it, some have cried upon receiving it, but all remember it. It is a 36" long and 4" diameter piece of PVC pipe with a red, white, and blue paint job that is chipped and worn from many years of service. It's the Spirit Stick - the most coveted prize at Inspire Sports Camps.

Why in the world would we dedicate an article to this unassuming inanimate object? One of our speakers, a pastor from Philadelphia, made a powerful observation a few years back. He couldn't believe the yells, cheers,

and utter excitement he saw when the Spirit Stick winning cabin was announced before he went on stage. After his message, he recalled, 'They were going crazy, they can't do this at home! This is an opportunity for these kids to let their guard down, take a break from the distractions that occupy



Even a dinged-up PVC pipe can be used

their minds back home, and just be a kid.' He reminded us that childhood has been stolen from so many of the kids he sees and the young people we serve. Moreover, he talked about how much they needed this (a week at ISC).

Campers are assigned to cabins by age group. They come from different cities, neighborhoods, and life situations. The Spirit Stick is designed to bring unity to cabin groups. Whether they come from Newark, Philadelphia, Paterson, or the South Bronx, they are all one

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Counselor's CORNER



Orlando Gordon

Kean University

Athletic Training Major

“Inspire Sports Camp 2021! Next Level!” was a chance to see the change that the campers go through, as they begin to go to “Next Level” and learn more about God. The speakers in CLUB led to some powerful follow-up discussions in our small group times. I was able to share about my quiet time experiences with God, and I was able to answer many of the questions each of the boys had. One of the most amazing moments is when one of them exclaimed, “I need to stop letting the opinions of others affect me.” ISC also helped me go to the “Next Level” and trust in the gifts God has given me.

team this week. But the only way to win this prize is with encouragement for one another, good sportsmanship all day, and positive enthusiasm in all group settings. This criterion is judged all day long by coaches, leaders, and our team of directors. And, The Spirit Stick is awarded each night to a cabin that went above and beyond in each of these areas.

The most important aspect of this fierce competition is that it gives our counselors an amazing opportunity to build relationships with the campers in their group. This common goal provides a driving force for positive interactions and lasting memories. When we visit our campers throughout the year, our campers talk with great enthusiasm about the night that

they won the Spirit Stick. It is a moment of triumph and joy that can't be forgotten.

The mission of ISC is to create unforgettable experiences for underserved youth that lead to life-changing encounters with Jesus Christ. The fun and adventure of shooting hoops, catching a fish, flying on a zipline, and hopefully winning the Spirit Stick are unforgettable. But the ultimate goal is for campers to look back at this week and remember their week as the time they met Jesus as their personal savior. Amazingly, even a dinged-up PVC pipe can be used to pave the way to life-changing encounters with Jesus Christ. Thank you for making these life-changing memories possible.



SUMMER FORECAST & CAMPER SPONSORSHIP



We have already hit capacity for Summer 2022! Group registrations are already closed, a waitlist is growing, and we are set to host over 650 young people from inner-city neighborhoods across the Northeast!

Many of you reading this have been making camper sponsorship donations for ten years, and “sponsorship” continues to be our biggest fundraising initiative. You are vital to the mission. Thank you for your faithfulness! This year, our base camper sponsorship is \$210 (up from \$180). As in all sectors, our costs have risen significantly. However, I wanted to communicate this sponsorship change upfront, and acknowledge how much it will help us. As always, I am available to answer questions about this or anything else (kurt@inspiresportscamps.com). Thank you for giving hundreds of young people the opportunity to experience God’s love and meet Jesus this summer.

With Sincere Gratitude,

Counselor’s CORNER



Deanna Salem

Palm Beach Atlantic University

Business Major

Serving at ISC was beyond one of the most life-changing experiences of my life. Having the opportunity to not only witness God’s Love in such a faith-filled environment but actually encounter and spread it amongst others. I have grown spiritually, mentally, and physically alongside many loving staff members that I can gladly call family. ISC is intense in various social and team building activities, yet the greatest of these were by far the spiritual engagements and their impact on people’s lives.

THANK YOU!

You make ISC a reality for young people from inner-city neighborhoods across the Northeast.

On behalf of our campers, staff, and entire leadership team we "Thank You" for your relentless prayers and generous support.



All sponsors receive a handwritten thank you note and a baseball card picture of the campers that they sponsor.

Donations can be made with the enclosed envelope or by visiting www.inspiresportscamps.com/give

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