

AGES & STAGES WITH ACTIVITY IDEAS

at American Village

8 - 12 Y.O.

- Starting to make groups of friends
- Appearance of "cliques"
- First feelings of competitiveness
- Boys vs Girls mentality
- Girls maturing faster than boys
- Copying counselors
- Lots of energy
- Need to differentiate oneself from younger children

May need special attention in certain areas of care (hygiene, dress, bathroom breaks).

1. Large-scale group games
2. Recreational athletic games
3. Simplified sports
4. Arts and crafts
5. Short hikes, nature discovery
6. Singing, dancing, acting
7. Storytelling, comic book creation

All children are equal in France and at American Village.
No activities or tasks are assigned based on gender bias.
Boys and girls can like the same things (sports, dance, crafts...).

12 - 15 Y.O.

- Physical changes
- Interest for elaborate creations / technique learning
- Definition of interests
- Belonging to a group very important
- Appearance of romantic feelings
- Testing limits (personal & imposed)
- Some concerns about mockery

Needs for:

- initiatives and responsibility
- expressing self-identity
- engaging activities
- logic

1. Large-scale games
2. Athletic games and athletic workshops
3. Activities that introduce skills
4. Elaborate arts and crafts
5. Singing, dancing, acting
6. Nature appreciation activities
7. Teambuilding activities

15 - 17 Y.O.

- Importance of self-identity
- Tendency to show "ambivalence"
- Romantic feelings and sexual awareness
- Testing limits (personal and imposed)
- Concerns of mockery & judgement

Needs for:

- independence, autonomy, choice
- logic
- expressing opposition, debate
- discussion, reflection
- privacy
- role models
- responsibility

1. Specialized & technical activities
2. Debates & Logic activities
3. Singing, dancing, acting
4. Athletics
5. Leadership & Teambuilding activities
6. Camper-organised activities
7. Nature appreciation activities
8. AmVil "activities clubs" (learn or practice a skill or interest, 3 - 4 meetings over the week)

Teenagers want and need choice. Propose several activities with sign-ups. Make sure you offer activities that will interest your campers. You can even put out an ideas box!

