

# Facilitator's Guide: Takeaways for Discussion

**Format:** Group discussion

**Estimated Duration:** 10-15 minutes

Taking a group on a trip can be one of the most challenging times for staff. You're in a new environment, there's a different schedule and the day-to-day routine has been disrupted.

The following are a few takeaways we hope you'll discuss—specifically how they apply to your camp, staff and programs:

## Head Counts

Head counts need to be conducted both on and off the bus—and during all transition times. It's important to specify who is responsible for what tasks to be sure no one is assuming another staff member is doing a head count.

## Beyond Head Counts

Try to think beyond simply counting the number of campers—call out names, look for faces and have campers engage with staff. These are all ways to make sure both staff and the campers are engaged and will notice if someone is missing.

## Buddy Systems & Sweeps

Use a buddy system to reinforce adult supervision. This way a child will know if their buddy is missing. Conduct a sweep of any location—especially bathrooms—after the group is ready for departure. Remind children to check for their buddy before moving to the next location.

