

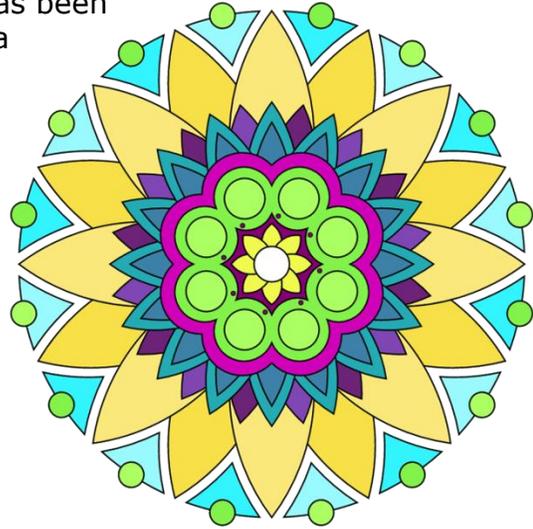
Closing Circle

Closing Circle, also known as Closing Wheel, can be used as a method for sharing or debriefing a single major activity, such as a rafting or climbing trip, or to bring closure to the entire camp session.

Each bunk group or camper, depending on the size of the group, receives a large circle that has been cut out of sturdy card stock. Each circle has been divided into wedges with each wedge representing a category.

Suggested categories include:

- Something that surprised me about myself
- Something I accomplished or was able to do
- Something new I tried
- Something I learned about myself
- A high point
- A low point
- A gift I received from the group
- A gift I gave the group
- A moment when I learned a new lesson about friendship
- A moment when our group felt the closest



Before the circles are passed out, it is important for leaders to frame what the activity will be about. For example, the leader could say, "This is a way for us to talk about the rafting trip, the whole summer, etc." Once the circles are distributed, let people take several minutes to write down their own responses to the given categories. After a certain amount of time have everyone sit together in a circle and share. The best way to have people share is to begin with one category and continue around the circle until everyone has spoken; then pick another category and repeat the process. Generally, everyone is happy to share everything they've written and more. For a group of eight to ten people, plan at least an hour for this activity.

- After everyone has shared, instruct them to draw something in the center of their circle that represents the experience for them. People also like signing each other's circles, which become mementos of their time together.