

## **Camp Savio: A Haven of Memories, Growth, and Unconditional Love**

**By Jc Montenegro, PhD**

After dedicating more than two decades of service to Camp Savio, I have been fortunate enough to witness numerous campers grow into counselors. This transition, which I previously overlooked, now fills me with immense appreciation for the Camp Savio culture we have fostered through our unwavering commitment, love, and care for the children and youth who participate in our camp. In this article, I aim to pay tribute to the remarkable adults who have selflessly supported us as volunteers. From the dedicated cooks to the efficient registration team, the tireless coordinators of t-shirts and databases, and the diligent individuals who ensure cleanliness, this heartfelt thank you is dedicated to all of you. Without your invaluable contributions, what you are about to read would not have been possible.



With this article, I want to make it clear that we are far from perfect. Our camp, with its vast number of over 500 children and young people, inevitably encounters its fair share of drama. However, what sets us apart is our unwavering commitment to facing these challenges with kindness and compassion. We understand that it is not an easy task, but we strive to deliver a high-quality program despite the hurdles we face. Our uniqueness lies in our

sincere efforts to navigate through the ups and downs, always maintaining a heart filled with empathy.

Camp Savio has left an indelible mark on the lives of countless campers and counselors alike. It is a place where lifelong friendships are encouraged, personal growth is nurtured, and a sense of belonging is cultivated. For many, Camp Savio is more than just a summer camp; it is a compassionate family, a second home, and a sanctuary where individuals can truly be themselves. In this article, we will explore the cherished memories and transformative experiences that Camp Savio has provided to those who have had the privilege of being a part of its vibrant community.

### **Camp Savio as a Camper:**

For campers those campers who are now a counselor and shared with us their impute, Camp Savio offered a refuge from the challenges they faced in their everyday lives. It provided them with a supportive and loving environment, where they felt welcomed, encouraged, and accepted without judgment. Camp Savio became their safe haven, a

place where they could express themselves freely, make lasting connections, and create cherished memories. It instilled in them a sense of confidence and taught them valuable life skills, such as resilience, teamwork, and self-expression.



**Camp Savio as a Counselor:**

Transitioning from a camper to a counselor, they discovered a new purpose in serving as mentors and role models for younger campers. As counselors, they embraced the responsibility of creating an unforgettable experience for the campers, just as they had experienced it themselves.

They strived to be the best versions of themselves, spreading love, energy, and positivity throughout the camp. Camp Savio not only reinforced their passion for working with children but also fostered a strong sense of camaraderie among fellow counselors, who shared the same goals of making a difference in the lives of the campers.

**The Impact of Camp Savio:**

Camp Savio has had a profound impact on the lives of those who have been a part of its vibrant community. It has taught campers and counselors alike the value of vulnerability, trust, and unconditional support. The camp environment encourages campers and counselors to step outside their comfort zones, be unapologetically themselves, and build meaningful connections with others.



Camp Savio has nurtured personal growth, fostering independence, social skills, and a positive mindset. It has served as a place where individuals can find support, joy, and a sense of belonging in a world that can often feel isolated.

Camp Savio has touched the hearts and lives of many, leaving them with a treasure trove of memories, lifelong friendships, and personal growth. Its compassionate and inclusive community has provided campers and counselors with a sanctuary where they can be themselves, embrace their uniqueness, and flourish in a nurturing environment.

Camp Savio will forever hold a special place in the hearts of those who have experienced its magic and will continue to create lasting memories for future generations of campers and counselors.

