

Consultants' Camp



Consultants Consulting Each Other
September 3-9, 2011

Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch
Loveland, Colorado

What is Consultants' Camp?

Consultants' Camp was founded in 1988 as a venue where consultants of diverse background, experience, and interest could meet to share experiences and ideas, grow professionally, and have fun. Camp provides an open, supportive and commercial-free environment where we can learn from each other.

Who attends?

Campers are a varied group, about 30-40 from around the world, who share an interest in learning and improving their consulting work. We define consulting in a broad context, to include anyone who provides advice or support.

Campers share a mutual respect and appreciation for people, and for the interaction between people and the technologies with which they work.



Not a typical conference

Camp is unusual. PowerPoint is nearly absent. Instead, we do something revolutionary for a conference: we confer. The setting, size, and structure of Camp support an atmosphere of collaborative inquiry.

Sessions are small, ranging from three to 20 people. Session format can be tutorial, discussion, or experiential. Other sessions can be just fun: like a fireworks demonstration or a pizza making class. Discussion is spirited, respectful, and incisive.

You may attend as many sessions as you wish, and you may choose to host sessions. As this is an open space conference, the agenda is discussed at the opening session and evolves over the week.

Participation in Consultants' Camp is by invitation only, and any Camper can invite you. If you'd like an invitation, ask the Camper who gave you this document to sponsor you.

What is the program?

Campers explore topical issues in business, organizational development and consulting. The first camp session identifies subject areas that interest the participants, and the week's agenda evolves to address those topics. The program has always been outstanding, and we've all come away with invaluable learnings.

Camp begins with dinner at 6:00 PM on the Saturday before Labor Day, and ends at noon on the following Friday. Sessions are held in mornings and evenings, leaving afternoons free for reflection, conversations, or recreation in the beautiful surrounding mountains.

Sessions are usually 90 minutes long. They vary in format from demonstrations of new techniques, to open discussions, to panels. One unique kind of session

is the "reverse tutorial," in which the session leader sets an agenda designed to help the leader learn something specific. In effect, the leader of a reverse tutorial gains access to the experience and insight of up to 40 of the world's top consultants.

Some sample sessions:

- Hillel Glazer: Marketing consulting services through the Internet (web site, blogs, online newsletters, social networks, etc.)
- James Bach vs. Judah Mogilensky: CMM or contextual processes?
- Bill Pardee: Compassionate Communication — Empathic Listening in Business

Because campers design the program, we get exactly what we need most.

What are the main benefits?

Campers shape their own experiences. Typical benefits are:

- Exploring new approaches with experienced, supportive experts
- Testing new approaches to current challenges
- Connecting with a like minded support group
- Renewing energy and purpose from the supportive, stimulating environment.

How do I get there?

Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch is an hour's drive from Denver, and an hour and fifteen minutes from Denver International Airport (DEN). The Ranch is located on the banks of the beautiful Big Thompson River, just West of Loveland on the way to Estes Park and not far from Boulder, Colorado.

- From Denver International Airport (DIA): As you exit the Denver Airport, turn north on the Toll Expressway E-470 toward Ft. Collins. Exit the tollway at I-25 north, toward Fort Collins, proceed about 30 miles to the second Loveland exit (Exit # 257B), US Hwy 34 west (toward Estes Park). Continue through Loveland, west toward the mountains on Highway 34 aka Eisenhower Blvd. The ranch is approximately 13 miles west of I-25 and approximately 7 miles west of Wilson Blvd. (there is a Kmart and a Walgreen's at this intersection if you need any last minute items).
- **NOTE:** The Ranch entrance is located between mile markers 84 and 83. Turn right at the wooden Sylvan Dale sign before you enter the Big Thompson Canyon. (If you get to the Dam Store, you've just missed the entrance.) Follow the signs marked "Office," past the stables, continue to the office at the far end of the parking lot, approximately 0.3 miles from the highway. Your group may have special signs up once you hit the ranch, marking which way to go, so please check for these!
- Please see the Sylvan Dale website (www.sylvandale.com) for information regarding shuttle services from the Denver airport.

How do I register?

To register as a first time Camper:

- Get an invitation from a Camper who will be at Camp as your sponsor. Your sponsor or the camp leader will send you a registration packet.
- Complete the registration form and return it with a check or credit card payment to the address on the form. The camp fee is set to cover costs only, currently at \$180.00.

The Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch, outside Loveland, Colorado, (www.sylvandale.com) will confirm your registration and request a room deposit. Rooms are heavily discounted for Campers.

