

# Cabin Groups

## CLASS LISTS

# Sharing Groups

### INSTRUCTIONS

Groupings should be drafted by **April 3** and completely finalized the week before your session. It will be very difficult to make any changes to groupings after! We will send teachers their own individualized Google Sheets form for submitting and updating your school's groupings. Please read this entire document carefully. We have found that following these instructions is absolutely critical to the success of the program. Thank you!

### Cabin Groups

Cabin groups are small, "family-size" groups of children (usually about 7-9 students) who stay together in a cabin with their high school/college student cabin leader(s). Cabin groups also eat breakfasts and dinners together, as well as sit together at campfires. Cabin groups are single-sex groups (There are boys cabins, girls cabins, and all-gender cabins if requested.)

### Sharing Groups

Sharing groups are the learning groups with which students spend the most time during the day. Sharing groups are mixed gender and are a bit larger than cabin groups (about 12-20 students).

### What is the purpose of these groups?

At The Mosaic Project, we give students the opportunity to befriend other children whom they otherwise might not have the opportunity to meet. Therefore, each cabin group and each sharing group are comprised of a mixture of students from all schools attending the session. There will be at least two students from each school in every group, unless we are told of students willing to be in a cabin group without others from their own school.

### An Important Ask

We ask that you assist us in creating these groups. Please place all students in your class into recommended groupings. The success of the program is dependent on creating groupings of children who can support one another while also reaching out to students from other schools. Therefore, we ask that you not place inseparable best friends, siblings, or cousins together. This is an opportunity to break up cliques and encourage students to befriend new people, inside and outside your class. A good grouping would consist of students who get along very well with one another, but who spend most of their time with different sets of friends. **Please, let us know about any students who absolutely should NOT be placed together.**

If your class has cliques in which you know there is social drama, please, please, **PLEASE make sure that everyone within that clique is separated!** To not separate them, or only to partially separate them in a residential program is only to invite further drama. We want to enable students to be free of that drama during their week with us and to experience a different way to be with one another. Thank you for your help!

### **Parent/Caretaker Requests:**

Sometimes parents request that certain students be placed together in groups. When these requests keep best friends or cliques together, we ask you to help parents understand that the purpose of the program is to allow students an opportunity to get to know new people. Please avoid making promises to parents about groupings. Such promises may place you, our staff, as well as the students, in very difficult situations. We will honor such parents' requests provided that, in your judgment, the students' experience of the program will not be hampered.

Please do not tell parents/caretakers or your students who they will be paired with in their cabin or sharing groups ahead of time– EVER – Not even on the bus ride there. When students get sick or can't come or have to go home, we may have to rearrange the groupings and things can change.

### **When Making Groupings, PLEASE:**

- Make the correct number of groups requested – no more, no fewer.
- Evenly distribute students among groups.
- COMPLETELY separate cliques, best friends, siblings, and family members.
- Separate students who do not get along.
- Place students together who get along well and are supportive of one another.
- Check in with students you are considering placing alone in a cabin group.
- Talk to us if you have questions or need to change your groupings.

### **Racial/ Ethnicity Background**

We ask for each student's race/ethnic background because we are committed to providing the students with a diverse learning environment. We are not only committed to racial/ethnic diversity, but also to diversity of socioeconomic class, religion, culture, physical ability, personality, etc. We intend to ensure (at a minimum) racial/ethnic diversity in all our learning groups. This information will be used only to determine this balance and to share with funders who request a demographic breakdown of the students we serve. Please consider your students' race/ethnic background as you make your groupings as well. If your class is diverse but tends to segregate along race/ethnic lines, this is an opportunity to mix your students up.

The abbreviations we use when making our groupings are:

- AA African-American
- W White
- L Latinx
- API Asian-American & Pacific Islander
- SA South Asian
- ME Middle Eastern
- NA Native American