

Job Description: Summer Long Youth Leader A Youth Training Program for Camp Owaissi

General Description

Summer long youth leaders are generally 16-18 years old and have a commitment to the Christian aims and purposes of the Camp. **All Summer Long Youth Leader applicants should be interested in working with children and possess maturity, flexibility, a strong work ethic, and the ability to have fun.** Up to a total of 6 youth will be enrolled in the program each summer. We anticipate that most summer long youth leader will have been a volunteer youth leader at Camp Owaissi or another camp for 1-2 years before applying.

The Summer Long Youth Leader program is an educational program, with a curricula designed to develop the people and technical skills necessary to be an effective camp leader. **It is *not* "working" at camp.** Since this is a training program, Summer Long Youth Leaders are not paid a salary, nor is a job for the next summer at the completion of the program assured. Summer long youth leaders will be paid a stipend of \$800 for the entire summer and be provided with room and board.

The goal of the program is to further develop leadership skills that can be used throughout life and to help others and yourself identify and achieve goals. We also further develop your skills in leading and teaching children. The purpose of this training is for summer long youth leaders to act as Head Cabin Leaders and work directly with our more experienced programming staff to learn about a particular activity area. They will be required to adhere to all staff requirements during that 7 week period and participate in both staff and youth leader training.

The Summer Long Youth Leader program teaches management and leadership skills and can provide basic training in such skills as first aid, group leadership, time management, and a variety of outdoor skills. This program can also lead to leadership opportunities at school, in extracurricular activities and at future jobs, however, there is no guarantee that upon the successfully completed the program, that he or she will be hired by Camp Owaissi for future summers.

How are Summer Long Youth Leaders Chosen?

The program will be limited to no more than 6 Summer Long Youth Leaders and admittance to the program is through a competitive process that will include an application, an interview, and the attendance of and participation in the Youth Leader Orientation Weekend April 17-18.

It is important the Summer Long Youth Leader candidate shows initiative and contacts the camp on his or her own to request the application materials. He or she should then carefully complete all of the application materials, and return the packet to the Executive Director in the time allotted. All essay-type questions should be in the applicant's own words and neatly typed or handwritten. The formal interview will take place in person during the Youth Leader Orientation Weekend. Some phone interviews may be given to interested candidates who live more than 5 hours away.

Program Outline for 2010?

This new program will consist of : Working with a mentor and summer staff member to develop the leadership, teaching and procedural knowledge needed to be an effective camp leader. You will also be required to train with staff and volunteer youth leaders during pre-camp; as well as participate in special training for the summer long youth leaders during the summer. Training will consist of planning and playing games, health and safety training, leadership skills, and waterfront safety.

Summer Long Youth Leaders assist in the administration of the program and in the execution of camp logistics such as, registration, drop-off, pick-up and equipment set up and take down. In addition, Summer Long Youth Leaders work with the Program Coordinator and summer staff to organize and conduct sessions, prepare lesson plans and lead sessions on selected days. Summer Long Youth Leaders will also help with the following activities: welcoming campers; participating in planning and implementation of evening program, camp cleanups, worship, and other special activities.

Training with the campers and staff will consist of being matched with a summer staff member to provide assistance during program time and to use the skills developed in the Summer Long Youth Leader training sessions. It will also consist of meeting with a mentor on a regular basis to receive training in being a Cabin Leader. Summer Long Youth Leaders will attend staff meetings and volunteer youth leader meetings while working closely with the Program Coordinator. The Program Coordinator will provide each Summer Long Youth Leader with three evaluations: at the end of the pre-camp training period, during the middle of the summer, and at the end of the camp season.

Responsibilities for the Summer

The Summer Long Youth Leaders will be subject to the same code of behavior and policies as regular program staff and will participate in all aspects of camp life. Under the supervision of the Program Coordinator they will:

- Be a role model in a Christian faith journey
- Provide a safe and fun cabin environment for campers
- Stay with campers in a cabin and performing the duties of a cabin leader which include, supervising and leading all aspects of cabin life
- Help ensure campers are healthy, safe, and getting the most from the camp experience.
- Visually observe behavior of campers and report any concerns to Program Coordinator
- Make the camp a fun place to be, helping to devise and plan games and activities.
- Supervise cleaning and meals
- Help provide a safe and supportive atmosphere for campers
- Help campers resolve conflicts
- Offer emotional support and guidance to campers
- Work with a summer staff person to learn the ins and outs of that program area and to develop and co-lead sessions
- Work with the mentor to learn the basics of child development, programming, and supervision procedures and policies, etc.
- Work and participate as a team member with other staff in all aspects of camp life.
- Participate in informal and formal activities with campers.

For more information contact: Jessica Thompson, Executive Camp Director at (250) 769-3676 or campowaissi@hotmail.com