## School of Environment and Natural Resources

# Summer Internship at Camp Canadensis

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Major: Environment, Economy, Development, and Sustainability

## Camp Canadensis

This past summer, I worked at Camp Canadensis. It is a 7-week co-ed Jewish camp for ages 6 through 16. It is a 1000-acre camp located in the Pocono Mountains in Canadensis, Pennsylvania. I found this opportunity through handshake.

#### **Mission Statement**

"At Canadensis, our goal is to create an environment that is emotionally, physically and socially safe for campers and their parents in a first-rate facility. Focusing on the individual needs of each child within a group living setting, our approach is to promote a community defined by tolerance and acceptance where campers feel connected to their surroundings while developing friendships that are sure to last a lifetime."

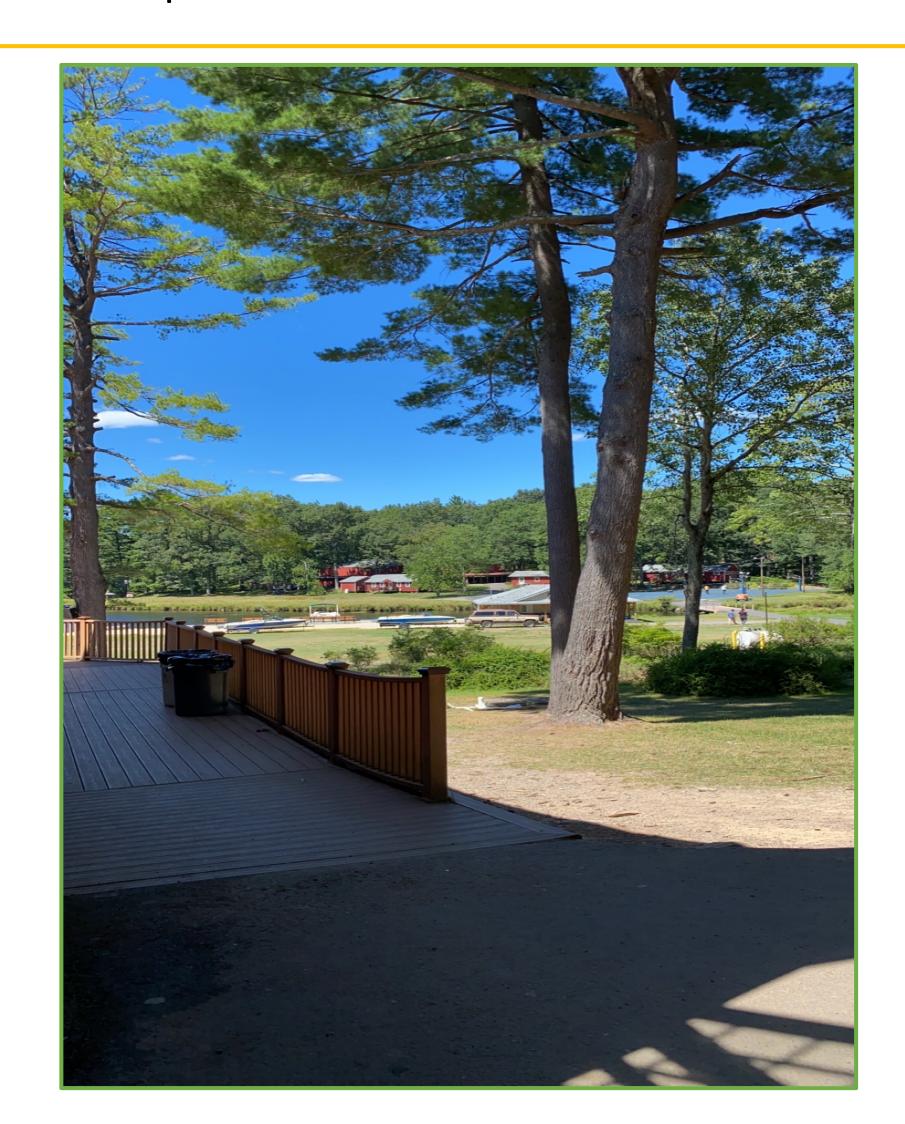


Photo: Lower Deck of the Dining Hall in Front of Lake Lenape

Photo: Cabins Located on Girl's Side of Camp



## Typical Day at Camp

8:00 am	Wake Up
8:30 am	Breakfast
9:45 am	Morning Line Up
10:15 – 10:55 am	Period 1
11:10 – 11:50 am	Period 2
12:05 – 12:40 pm	Period 3
1:00 pm	Lunch
After Lunch	Rest Hour
2:35 – 3:05 pm	Period 4
After Period 4	Snack
3:35 – 4:15 pm	Period 5
4:30 – 5:10 pm	Period 6
5:10 pm	Free Play
6:00 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm	Shower Hour
After Shower Hour	<b>Evening Activity</b>
10:15	Flashlight Time
10:30	Lights Out

## General Counselor Duties

Prior to the campers arriving, I had a week of staff training. Once the campers arrived, I spent seven weeks living in-bunk with three cocounselors and 12 campers. My specific campers were 10-11 years old. .

#### Responsibilities

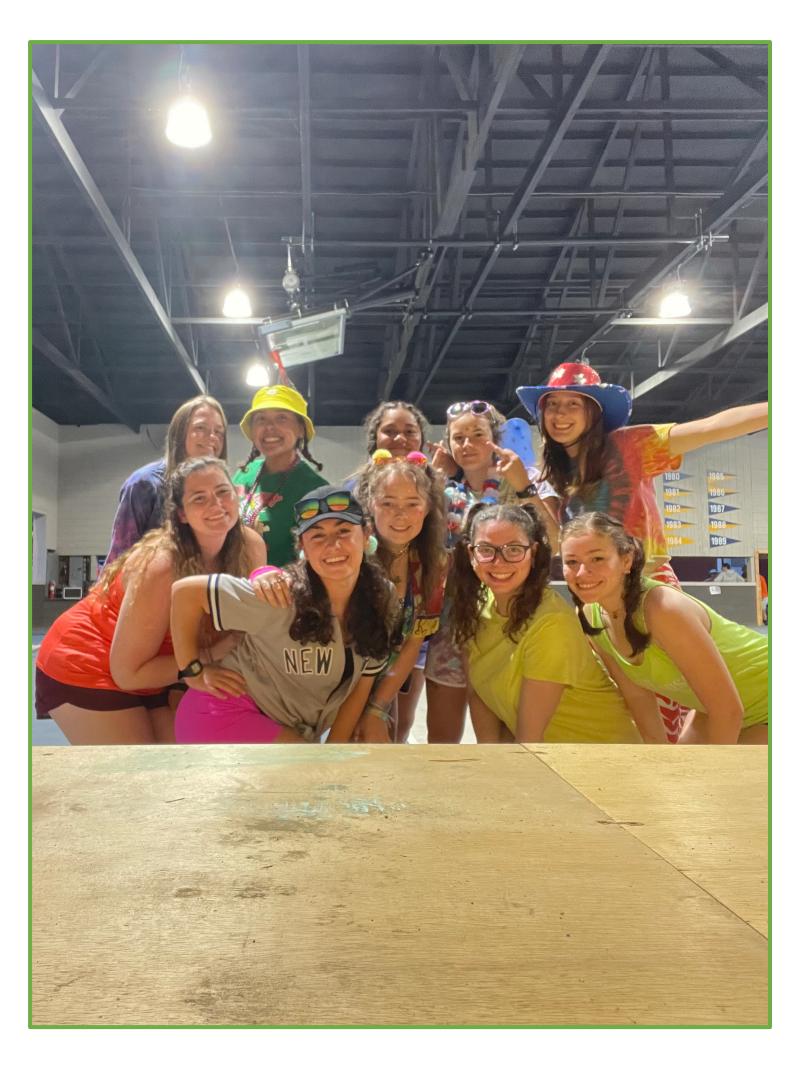
- I had to make sure my campers were safe and having a fun experience at camp
- We migrated as a bunk to scheduled activities, including a wide range from soccer to paddle boarding to rock climbing
- I had to problem solve through issues regarding homesickness, bullying and exclusion, and eating
- I listened and comforted my campers when they confided in me with their personal problems
- I communicated thoroughly and effectively with other counselors and head staff members (supervisors)

### Photo: Our Bunk Poster





Photo: Me and Fellow Counselors at Rak Dan



Reflection

Before Camp Canadensis, I did not have a lot of experience working with kids. I would like to do something in environmental education after I graduate, so I thought this internship would be a great opportunity for me to gain leadership skills. I learned how to best communicate with kids and coworkers. Moving forward, I feel more confident in possibly exploring a job in environmental education. This job was exhausting and difficult at times, but it was a great experience to explore my skill set and confirm potential career paths I may enjoy.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Camp Canadensis head staff for allowing me to experience working at this camp for the summer. I would also like to thank my cocounselors for always being there for me and making the job fun!