

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 | Evening Activity |
| 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 co-counselors 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 co-counselors for always being there for me and making the job fun!



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