Summer Internship at Camp Oty'Okwa

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Located in South Bloomingville Ohio

In 1942, Camp Oty’Okwa was founded to serve children in Central Ohio. Throughout our history, we have had the same philosophy to work with children, fostering an environment of positive role-modeling through small groups to help children gain confidence and self-esteem. Our hope is that these qualities will continue to produce results that last a lifetime.

Responsibilities as a Camp Counselor:

- Ensuring the safety of campers
- Engaging campers in different recreational activities; hiking, canoeing, rock-climbing
- Fostering a healthy environment with camp morals of esteem, empathy, and leading by example
- Working with co-counselor to plan week

Responsibilities as Support Staff:

- Help plan and organize camp events: final fire, Olympic days, Latino party, talent shows, movie nights
- Outdoor education
- Support counselors who are struggling

Skills Gained:

- Public speaking
- Environmental education
- Proper time management
- Organization and collaboration of events for 60+ people
- Social/communication skills with kids 4-14

How it relates to future aspirations

Community engagement with youth in the environment. A lot of these kids come from central Ohio, where they do not experience much green space. The intersection between this is what I want to do in the future.

Reflection:

Overall, it was a very fulfilling summer. As I mentioned already, I have previously worked at this camp, so it was nice to reconnect with past campers. Make no mistake, it is a hard job taking care of kids, but the memories and connections you make with the staff are unreplaceable. Thank you Camp Oty’Okwa.

I am undecided as to whether I will return because I wish to study abroad.

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