

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.



At the end of each session, this past summer we had 8, we have a final campfire with the whole camp and perform group skits and songs.

Camp Oty'Okwa is a sleep away camp that typically works with underserved communities around central Ohio. It operates through Big Brothers Big Sisters. I found out about this job because I have previously worked at this camp and attended the Latino week session as a camper. This summer I worked as a camp counselor and support staff.



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AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



The camp has 700+ acres of land! Here is me with some of my campers enjoying one of the many hikes.

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

The field,
flagpole,
and
activity
barn with
a scenic
sky



Skills Gained:

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

Canoeing at
Lake Logan! We
also canoe at
the Hocking
river.



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.



My first cabin group of the summer.



A snapshot of
the typical
morning
scenery. Right
beside the
cabin.



Final send off for the AmeriCorp that worked with us over the summer.

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.