



Summer Stuff Day Camps

PO Box 5866, Evanston, IL 60204
(773) 981-3442

2010

INTERN ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The intent of this letter is to provide both interns and parents with a better understanding of what an intern's role is at Grasshoppers and Summer Stuff. Occasionally there is a misconception as to the responsibilities and expectations. It is best to be as candid as possible so that the experience is a happy and successful one for all the interns, campers and adult staff.

The intern program was started many years ago to provide an opportunity for young people to make a real-life contribution to others, to learn to be responsible for something meaningful outside the home and to experience the good feelings that come with volunteering. "Contributing to society" is an important component of building self-esteem.

The young people who seem to enjoy and do best in the intern program are those who are friendly, outgoing, talkative, somewhat self-directed, yet are able to take direction. A child who is unusually shy and quiet and has difficulty in unstructured situations might feel uncomfortable in the camp setting.

The primary responsibility of all staff is the campers. The teaching staff and aides need to give the majority of their time and attention to providing the very best environment for the campers. This means that after the initial orientation, an intern has to be able to follow directions as well as take some initiative on his/her own.

Each program has a mandatory pre-camp orientation. At orientation, we will cover safety issues as well as the role and responsibilities of the intern. Such responsibilities include:

- Helping set up and/or put away equipment
- Making lemonade each day and serving the snack
- Escorting children to and from the building
- Assisting the staff with preparing and presenting an activity
- Helping "connect" children to an activity or friend
- Entering into conversation with children regarding their play
- Assisting with general camp maintenance, i.e. clean up, hanging art work, replenishing materials
- Participating in all camp activities such as group singing, games, etc

In addition to the pre-camp orientation, Grasshopper interns attend a mandatory weekly one hour meeting. At each meeting, we will discuss the four areas of child development; physical, intellectual, emotional and social. The interns will do observations in these four areas as well as plan an activity for a small group of children, i.e. reading and acting out a

story, planning an art project, or presenting a science activity. We will discuss these in detail during the summer.

In Summer Stuff, much of the above takes place in the pre-camp orientation, as well as in daily staff meetings, where we talk about methods of interacting with children, activities, behavioral issues and developmental expectations.

Being an intern is a hard job. Interns are constantly on the go and sometimes may feel like a “gofer.” It can be hot, but you still have to perform your responsibilities. You will most likely be tired at the end of the day.

On the positive side, it is a fun and fulfilling experience. If you have a positive attitude, like to work, enjoy young children and are interested in learning about them you will have a great time. Also, the children will love you, and in return, you will love them. You will make new friends, both young and old and be appreciated by the teachers, aides and directors.

In regards to the application process, intern applications are processed on a first come, first serve basis. Returning interns may select to work either one or both three week sessions. New intern applicants may only select one three week session. You will be contacted via phone as soon as your application is received and your placement determined.

We hope this letter will help you decide whether or not you will join us this summer. If you don't feel the program is right for you that's okay. Each of us has different interests and gifts; we each “contribute” in our own unique ways.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. We would be happy to speak with you.

Sincerely,

Ellen Darnieder
Executive Director
Summer Stuff Day Camps
director@summerstuffdaycamps.com

Kevin Olsen
Director
Summer Stuff Day Camps
kevin@summerstuffdaycamps.com
(773) 981-3442