

Information for Prospective CAMP FERN Counselors

Camp Fern is a small camp with an enrollment limited to 150 campers so that we really get to know all of our campers and consider them a part of our family. The summer consists of four separate sessions; 1 week Coed, Girls, Boys, 2 week Coed. The coed sessions are a basic camping experience, which serves as an introduction to Camp Fern. Both the Boys and Girls sessions are 4 weeks long and offer more advanced activities, special trips, and programs.

Being a camp counselor has many rewards. You receive "on the job training" plus the valuable experience of working with kids. It is a FUN way to spend the summer while you are receiving job experience. Camp Fern is also a great reference when you start looking for a full time job because all employers value a person who deals well with people. Kids are so full of affection and fun. Whatever you give to them is returned countless times over. It is amazing what a difference you can make in these children's lives.



The dates for the 2010 summer are:

PRECAMP	Sunday, May 23 - Saturday, May 29	(1 WEEK)
COED CAMP	Sunday, May 30 - Saturday, June 5	(1 WEEK)
GIRLS' CAMP	Sunday, June 6 - Saturday, July 3	(4 WEEKS)
BOYS CAMP	Sunday, July 4 - Saturday, July 31	(4 WEEKS)
COED CAMP	Sunday, August 1 - Saturday, August 14	(2 WEEKS)



Counselors can either work the entire summer or for part of the summer. Girls are hired first for girls' camp. Some also work coed camp and a limited number also work boys' camp. Girls do not just work boys or coed camp. The same also applies to the guys, only it's reversed (boys don't work just girls' camp or coed camp.)



Living Quarters

Two counselors live in a log cabin with 10-12 campers. We have 12 camper cabins. Campers are grouped according to age and grade with ages ranging from 6-15 at four-week sessions and 6-12 at the two-week session.



Responsibilities

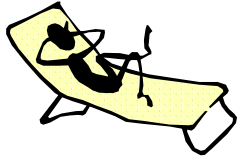
Counselors teach many different activities from crafts to mountain climbing. Every counselor gets one "off period" a day, which means you teach 5 out of 6 periods a day and may be asked to help with 1 hour of "free time" once or twice per week. During your teaching periods you are responsible for teaching the campers a new skill as well as showing them a fun time. You are also in charge for 2 or 3 evening activities (with help) when ON duty. Our counselors are also expected to enforce all Camp Fern rules and policies. The main thing to remember in being a counselor is flexibility. Some days you may be asked to lend an extra hand, but sometimes you might get extra off time.

OVER →



Off Time

We feel that adequate OFF time is very important for all of our counselors. We never want anyone to feel "burned-out." All counselors are encouraged to use our facilities during their OFF time.



1 period OFF duty (1 hour) daily
Every other evening OFF duty (7:30 p.m.-1:00 a.m.)
Every other rest hour OFF duty (1½ hours after lunch)
½ day OFF, 3 times in a four week session



Philosophy

Camp Fern is a fun, relaxed atmosphere where all people-big and little-are allowed freedom to pursue their own interests as well as follow through with responsibilities.

We are a private camp, not a church camp, but as Christians we feel it is important to have a daily vesper service and church on Sundays in our Green Cathedral to guide us to live a life of character. Campers help us put on these services. We welcome people of all religious beliefs to camp and we will respect your beliefs, just as we hope that you will respect ours.



Salary

Base pay for someone with one year in college and no special skills is about \$150 per week. Pay is higher with each subsequent year in college or with WSI or LIFEGUARD certificates from the Red Cross or INSTRUCTOR certification from the National Rifle Association or ROPES COURSE CERTIFICATION. In lieu of this addition to the salary, Camp Fern will split or pay for the cost of such certification (ask for details).



IN ADDITION, each counselor may receive a BONUS at the end of each four-week session, based on performance. Camp Fern also covers room, board, and laundry.

If you have any more questions about Camp Fern, please call:

Margaret Lee, owner
1046 Camp Road
Marshall, TX 75672
Phone: (903) 935-5420
Fax: (903) 935-6372
Email: info@campfern.com



The Important Things That You Need To Know Before You Apply CAMP FERN COUNSELOR POLICIES

We are so excited that you are applying as a Camp Fern counselor this summer, but we want you to know upfront some things that are expected of you. A Camp Fern summer is a summer you will remember forever, but it does take a lot of commitment on your part. We are all at camp primarily for the kids-to show them the best summer of their lives.

Our goal for the summer is for everyone to have fun, but we do have camp rules because our years of experience have shown us that things run better when there are guidelines. We are not an "all-rules, no-fun camp," but we do expect that while you are at Camp Fern, you follow all of our rules and policies.

ALCOHOL: Camp Fern has a No Drinking Policy for all staff members under the age of 21. In order to ensure this, all such counselors are subject to breath tests when returning from their time away from camp; curfew is 1 am for all staff. Counselors who are 21 or over are allowed to consume alcohol on their off nights, but they must have a totally clean breath test at 7:30 am following their off night in order to maintain their employment. Alcohol is prohibited on Camp Fern property. That includes staff vehicles. It is most important to us that any actions taking place on your off nights do not affect your job performance the following morning. This is a ZERO TOLERANCE policy. We trust that you will want to give our campers your best, not your leftovers.

ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES: Camp Fern will not tolerate the possession, or use of, illegal substances at any time. Violation of this policy will result in immediate dismissal. **Camp Fern reserves the right to implement a random drug/alcohol test at any time during the summer.**

TOBACCO: Our goal is to eventually make Camp Fern tobacco-free. That would mean that no counselor would use tobacco at all during the summer. But since we're not there yet, our policy is pretty simple. No matter what form; whether you dip, chew, or smoke-if you use tobacco, you can only use it in one designated area on camp. The Counselor's Cabin is the only place on camp that tobacco will be allowed. We would prefer that you not use tobacco at all during the summer, but we understand if that's not a commitment that you can make.

TATTOOS: If you have a tattoo, we ask that you keep it covered at camp. We realize that in some situations we will have to make an exception. We require this not because we believe tattoo wearing is wrong; we strongly believe in the rights of the individual to express their own preferences and uniqueness. Our counselors are very strong role models to our kids and we do not want our counselors telling campers how great tattoos are and then having those campers beg their parents for tattoos when they get home. So for our campers and their parent's sakes we simply ask that you keep your tattoos covered when you are around the kids.

BODY PIERCING: Once again we welcome all counselors, including those with body piercing, but while on duty all counselors must keep ALL rings, studs, hoops, etc. out of their noses, navels, tongues, etc. In other words, **while on camp, you must be "pierce-free."** The reasoning for this decision goes back to the role model issue discussed with tattoos. Staff members are allowed to wear earrings when tastefully worn, and Camp Fern reserves the right to determine what "tasteful" is.

As a counselor, you will have the opportunity to enjoy sports, swimming, riding, climbing, skiing, and other exciting activities if you abide by these simple guidelines. These rules are for the sake and safety of both counselors and campers and help insure that everyone has a fantastic summer.

I have read, and understand, the counselor policies stated above. If hired, I understand that I will be expected to abide by these standards during my employment with Camp Fern, and that failure to do so could result in my immediate dismissal.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please sign and return with your application.

CAMP FERN HISTORY

When Camp Fern first opened in 1931, it was a cooperative effort among parents and friends of the children who spent their summers on the banks of the pine tree-lined lake in East Texas. Peggy Hilliard was an only child and her parents loved to entertain children. The Hilliards wanted their only child, Peggy, then 6, to have a camp experience, so they had other girls around the private lake to come over for two days of arts and crafts, hikes, nature study, swimming, and horseback riding. They brought their own horses from home and spent the night at the summer log cabin. Interest in the summer camp grew and it became evident that a summer camp was forming and with the encouragement of many, Vernon and Maggie Hilliard decided to make the endeavor official in 1934, and Camp Fern was born.

They decided to find another location across the lake to actually build a camp. It became a registered business, and the Dining Hall and Recreation Hall were built; one for serving meals, the other for housing bunks. Over the next several years, logs were floated across the lake from adjacent property, and cabins were built to house campers.

"Uncle Vernon" and "Aunt Mag" were mom and dad to hundreds of children from Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas, and his gentle spirit and her contagious laughter were known far and wide. Uncle Vernon died in 1950, and Aunt Mag, in 1961. Fern was then operated by Peggy and her husband Bill Rotzler, who died in 1993.

In July, 1999, after 65 years at Fern, Miss Peggy was finally freed to meet her Maker. Three generations since Fern began; it is a full time business for Peggy's daughter Margaret Rotzler Lee. Her brother, Dr. Bill Rotzler, his wife, Marcia and sons Hilliard and William, serve as consultants. Camp Fern, the first summer camp in East Texas, is one of the few fourth generation camps in all of Texas. Campers come from as far away as Austria, South America, Alaska, and Hawaii. Many current campers are grandchildren of the original Camp Fern veterans.
