

# How do I apply for a job as an Adventureland Day Camp Counselor?

1. Complete an application from our website [www.adventurelanddaycamp.com](http://www.adventurelanddaycamp.com).
2. After receiving your paperwork, we will contact you for an interview appointment. At that time, bring the completed application and associated "paperwork".
3. Once you are offered the position, if you do not already have current clearances, you will need to obtain the 3 clearances required by law to work with children.

## How to Obtain Required Clearances

- **PA Criminal Background Check.** Visit the state website here to complete this state background check: <https://epatch.state.pa.us/Home.jsp>. The fee is \$22. *Please note, you must print the electronic copy. You will not receive a hard copy.*
- **PA Child Abuse History Clearance.** Visit the state website here to complete this state child abuse clearance: <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home> The fee is \$13.
- **FBI Fingerprinting.** Visit the IdenToGo website to complete FBI fingerprinting here: <https://uenroll.identogo.com/>. The fee is \$23.85.  
**Use code 1KG738 to ensure clearance is ordered through the proper program (Department of Human Services)**
- If you are between the ages of 16 and 18 you will need your transferable working papers. You get these from the closest public high school to your house. It may not be the high school you attend.

## What will I get out of being a camp counselor?

- You will experience the unique feeling of satisfaction that results from being a positive influence in the development of children.
- The potential exists for you to discover new interests, new friends and new skills.
- You will spend the entire summer in the outdoors, engage in physical activities that promote your healthy physical development.
- You will gain increased ability in working with children and other adults. Increased skills in dealing with inter-personal relationships will benefit you with respect to your future career plans.

## What skills are we looking for in an Adventureland Day Camp counselor?

- The ability to work well with children of all ages.
- The belief that you can make the difference in the life of a child.
- The willingness and the ability to foster self-esteem, cooperation, courage, responsibility & FUN!
- The ability to work well in close proximity with others.
- A love of the outdoors - in all weather conditions.
- The ability to take charge and motivate others.
- Creativity, patience, kindness, cooperation & spirit.
- The ability and willingness to be a positive role model.
- The willingness to pitch-in and go the extra mile.

## How long will the job last?

Our summer season at Adventureland Day Camp lasts 39 days (8 weeks). We generally hire staff that can work all 39 days 1<sup>st</sup>. All staff members are required to attend our staff orientation that is 2 nights.

## Camp Day Hours for staff:

**Senior Staff** day begins at 8:30 am sharp with a morning meeting. **THESE MEETINGS ARE MANDATORY!** It ends at 4:30 with an afternoon meeting.

**Junior Staff** day begins at 9am sharp and ends at 4:00. We understand that some Junior staff will need to be dropped off earlier and picked up later than this because of transportation situations. If you are on the site you are expected to help out.

## Top Ten Reasons Adventureland Day Camp Looks Great on Your Resume!

10. Problem solving skills...and we're not talking about calculus.
9. As you guide your campers to make good choices, you too will learn to reinvent yourself. You may be good at things you've never even dreamed of!
8. You'll have experience working with children —a plus for future teachers, coaches, and many other professions in the field of child development.
7. Professional staff training, and lots of it!
6. You've proven you can devote long hours and lots of energy to a rewarding job.
5. Personal growth, maturity, and self-respect...you'll build these things along with your campers.
4. Being part of a team that works toward a common vision: building stronger, more caring, more competent children. It's a real sense of community and importance greater than oneself!
3. You'll build public speaking skills, the better with which to speak at meetings and make presentations to clients.
2. You'll know how to set a goal and take steps to achieve it.
1. You will learn to lead!

## Will this be as good for my resume as an internship at a big company?

Many people think you should only work at a camp if your plans are to become a teacher, social worker or want to work in the child-care industry. We're here to tell you that being a camp counselor prepares you for many work environments better even than an internship at a big company. You will learn the same important skills – problem solving, communication, and leadership – but within a supportive team that helps you get the most out of each day. Employers look for strengths like teamwork, tenacity, and loyalty. There's no better place to learn these skills than at camp. You will come out of the summer with strong organizational skills, experience talking to groups, and the ability to lead. You'll be able to mediate disputes, organize a team, and work well under pressure. Skills like these are exactly what potential employers – from banks to publishers to design firms – are looking for! Sure, potential employers value professional experience – the kind you would get from a traditional internship – but they also recognize the even more important life experience you get at camp: the teamwork, flexibility, and leadership you won't learn anywhere else. We work with experts who make sure to give you these tools at an advanced level.

## What are some of the challenges of working at camp?

We'll give it to you straight: camp is a lot of fun and can be very rewarding, but it has its challenges as well – challenges unlike those you'll find at any other job. We ask that you take a look at this list and seriously think about whether you have what it takes to overcome these common hardships.

**The need to always be “on.”** When you are with campers, you'll need to be on the watch, all the time – to participate *and* supervise in an activity without getting so involved that you forget to keep your campers safe. You'll need to keep an upbeat attitude, even with activities or individual campers you don't feel so enthusiastic about. The safety of our campers depends on your supervision and guidance.

**“Regressive pull.”** When you're around kids, the tendency is to act like a kid – just when you most need to act like an adult. You'll need to resist the temptation to act childish and that takes serious self-control.

**“Envelope of Safety.”** You'll have to find the happy medium between being a friend to your campers and being the responsible adult who sets and enforces rules that keep your campers safe – emotionally and physically. This “envelope” is the area within clear boundaries that you set that allows for safe exploration and healthy risk-taking.

**Difficulties with campers.** As much fun as working with children can be, kids aren't perfect. Sometimes campers can be tough; they may be asserting their independence by disagreeing with you or expressing

homesickness (even just for the day!) by complaining about seemingly everything. They will find many, many ways to try your patience and test their boundaries – calling each other names, talking when you’ve asked for quiet, getting angry when you ask them to move on from a favorite activity. We will prepare you with tools to handle these situations, but please keep in mind that this can be stressful for the unprepared.

## Other Challenges

Working at camp has to be something that you really want to do. Besides the challenges as a staff member, you may also face obstacles when deciding to *become* a staff member. The following items will give you an idea of what these obstacles could be and how to overcome them.

**Wages.** If your only wish this summer is to make money, don’t work at camp – any camp! You will make much more at McDonald’s! But if you’re looking for other, deeper rewards, Adventureland could be the place for you.

**What will people say?** In a recent study of the benefits and hardships of a camp counseling experience by the Association of Independent Camps, some counselors complained that their parents or friends didn’t understand why they wanted to spend a summer at camp. Maybe your parents think you should be doing an internship. Or perhaps your friends don’t want you to work this summer.

(Have them become counselors with you!) We would love to have you join us at Adventureland this summer; we know that you will have a great time. We also want to know that you’ve made this decision knowing you are ready for the challenges.

So why would you want to be a camp counselor after hearing about all these difficulties? Because you’ll have the summer of a lifetime, that’s why! Besides being a part of your campers’ accomplishments, spending the summer in the outdoors, and coming away with valuable work experience, there are many other benefits to working at Adventureland. As a staff member you deal face-to-face with our campers on a daily basis and are the role model they will look to.

You’ll build self-confidence as you work through the challenges of the summer. You’ll learn how to solve a problem quickly without overreacting. You’ll have a chance to be part of something bigger than any one individual: a community built on caring and belonging. Our comprehensive **pre-season and in-service training programs** will give you valuable resources and hands-on practice for many scenarios. These training sessions are led by our directors, who have many years experience in camp. The best memories of your life are made at camp. You’ll make new friends and have the chance to really make a difference in kids’ lives. As one counselor once said, “If you give [children] a half hour, they will remember you the rest of their lives.” You’ll be giving your campers much more than a half hour...and you’ll receive tremendous rewards in return! After a summer with Adventureland Day Camp, you’ll have life experience that’s incredibly valuable no matter what road you choose in life. That’s what we offer you. We know that our staff is the single most important aspect of our operation, and we will treat you with the **respect** and **appreciation** that you are due. You will be part of a team whose watchwords are **consideration** and **kindness**. Your directors are mature staff members; they have years of experience at Adventureland and will be glad to pass their **wisdom** along to you throughout the summer. They are there to provide you with the **support** and **encouragement** that you need to do the best job you can.

## Senior Counselor

### Qualifications:

- College experience
- Enthusiasm and ability to work well with children
- Team player - ability to work well with others and also pitch in when others may need help
- Ability to act as a role model for campers, to instill a positive self-image and connect them to the world
- Ability to accept and respond to supervision and guidance
- Willingness to assist in teaching activities
- Good moral character: motivated, responsible, flexible, trustworthy
- Sense of humor, selflessness, patience, and self-control
- CPR/First Aid/Lifeguard certifications preferred
- Non-smoker (smoking is not permitted on camp site)

\*\*\* Must have these 3 clearances:

[Criminal History Record Information](#), [Child Abuse Clearance](#) and [Federal Criminal History Record Information](#)

## **Senior Counselor cont.**

### **Immediate Supervisor/Responsible To:**

- Directors

### **General Responsibilities:**

- Identify and meet camper needs
- Help campers leave their comfort zones and take healthy risks
- Lead and Participate in camp programs and activities
- Complete assigned administrative duties
- Maintain and improve the health, safety, and well-being of your group and other campers
- Help campers adjust to camp life and to each other; emphasize respect for self and others
- Assist campers in developing an appreciation of the natural world
- Follow and enforce all camp rules and policies

## **Junior Counselor or Assistant Counselor**

If you are entering tenth, eleventh or twelfth grade next year, you would be a Junior Counselor. You need to be 16 years of age to work at Adventureland. If you just graduated or are 18 years old by June 1<sup>st</sup>, you will be considered for an assistant counselor position. These positions are very much like the Counselor description you see above, but your immediate supervisor would be the Senior Counselor rather than the Directors. Junior counselors will be rotating through different groups every 2 weeks. The general responsibilities and essential functions are the same; the specific responsibilities are similar, but there is no direct interaction with parents.