

SUMMER CAMP COUNSELLOR USA

Hit pause on classes, work, and the same-old-same-old. Spend 2 to 2.5 months in the USA as a camp counsellor and load up on adventure, fresh air, and campfire stories you'll never stop telling.

This isn't just a summer job. It is a glow-up for your CV. You will flex leadership, public speaking, teamwork, and problem solving while actually having fun. Employers love this stuff, and so will future you.

You will plan and run activities, hype up your campers, and be the role model they remember. Arts and crafts? Check. Sports and games? Check. Teaching life skills without it feeling like school? Big check.

Real talk: it can be tough. Early mornings, busy days, curveballs. But you will walk out braver, sharper, and way more confident than you walked in. Growth arc unlocked.

Try new things. Push yourself. Find your people. Be a camp counsellor. Ready to dive in?



1
INVALUABLE
LIFE & CAREER
SKILLS FOR
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

2
EARN
INTERNSHIP
CREDITS

3
REFERENCES
AND LETTERS OF
RECOMMENDATION

4
A UNIQUE
COMPETITIVE
ADVANTAGE ON
RESUME



8
STIPEND,
ROOM &
BOARD
PROVIDED
FOR FREE

7
A SUMMER
FULL OF
ADVENTURES

6
RELATIONSHIPS
& NETWORKING

5
MAKE
A REAL
DIFFERENCE

PROGRAMME DETAILS



ELIGIBILITY

- Be able to depart for camp between 1st May to 15th June
- Between 18 - 27 years old
- Possess a set of skills to plan and run camp activities
- Be sufficiently fit and healthy for rigorous camp schedule
- Have previous experience of working/spending time with children and teenagers
- Be able to pass a criminal background check

DATES & DURATION

Camp start dates vary for each summer camp, normally starts from mid-May to early June and ends from early August to mid-August. You can specify your preferred start date in your online application, and you will be matched with a summer camp with matching dates.

STIPEND

You will be paid at least USD 200 - USD 250 per week (at least USD 2300 for the entire program), depending on your skill level(s) and a experience you posses.

FOOD & ACCOMMODATION

You will receive free housing and meals throughout the duration of the summer camp

OTHER BENEFITS

Amenities, airport pickup and drop-off, professional trainings, references and letter of recommendation are provided at no cost

LOCATION

Over 500 summer camps across the United States

INTERNSHIP CREDITS

Camps are happy to sign/evaluate your internship at summer camp. Students undertaking courses in Business, Humanities (English, Psychology, Sociology), Art, Design & Media (Digital Film Making, Photography, Digital Imaging), Communication Studies, Sport Science & Management, and Education are likely to earn internship credits from the programme

POSITIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Depending on your skill set, you will be hired either as an Activity Counsellor or an All-round/General Counsellor. In either role, you will lead and/or assist campers of all ages in one or more activities.



Don't panic! Counsellors on US summer camps aren't the lie-back-on-a-couch-and-tell-me-about-your-mother kind, they are simply the people who provide general care for the kids and get involved in the activities and daily programmes at camp. There are different levels of counsellor positions available from working with kids as a general counsellor in a wide range of activities to teaching specific areas like sports or waterfront. We're not talking about professional sports coaches, or teachers here... we're talking about YOU! Whatever your skills and strengths, there is a summer camp position waiting for you!

POSITIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

GENERAL COUNSELLOR

As a General Counsellor, you will be traveling from activity to activity with the group of campers that you living with on a daily basis. During the times you are at an activity, you will be participating with campers and helping the instructors/Specialist Counsellors to facilitate that activity.

During activities, you'll want to pay close attention to the group and individual dynamics to make sure that all campers are feeling good about themselves and are involved in the activity. If you have a child who is uncomfortable with their skills at a particular activity, this would be a great time to work with them one-on-one to build their confidence.

In addition, General Counsellors are involved in specialist clinics- both helping out and learning skills in an existing activity, and proposing new programme options for the kids and running them! Don't be worried if you're not an activity expert. Go out there and try your hardest. Your kids will love you for it!

SPECIALIST COUNSELLOR

As a Specialist Counsellor, you will coach and/or teach in your specific area of skill. During this time, you will be working with both boys and girls, ages 6 to 17, all of which will have different levels of interest and skills in your speciality.

All Specialist Counsellors keep a log book of lesson plans and skill development for each cabin that they work with on a daily basis. Having the ability to differentiate instruction for campers of varying skill and interest levels is critical in this role.

Finally, depending on the activity, Specialist Counsellors will be responsible for coaching a team, officiating a game, running a practice, or putting together a performance. Remember, participation is more important than the end result. Add enjoyment to your activity area and help give campers a winning experience!

CAMP PROGRAMMES



Adventure	Camping Climbing	High Ropes Hiking	Low Ropes
Aquatics and Waterfront	Diving (Spring Board) Fishing Sailing	Surfing Swimming Windsurfing	Canoeing Jet Skiing Kayaking
Arts and Crafts	Candle Making Leather Craft Model Making Painting Sewing Stained Glass Textiles Tie-Dye Basket Weaving	Camera Work Ceramics Costume Design Fine Arts Glass Blowing Jewellery Making Knitting Loom Weaving Magic	Make Up Artist Mask Making Media Arts Metal Smith Photography Stationary Making Videography Wood Working
Music	Guitar Piano Singing	Violin Bag Pipes Drumming	Harp Music
Horseback Riding		Stable Management	
Performing Arts	Ballet Choreography Dance Cheerleading	Circus Skills Lighting Set Design Sound Technician	Tap Dance Theatre Stage Management Hip-Hop
Special Skills	Animal Care Chess Ecology Nature Rocketry Camp Fires Cookery	Digital Editing Dressage I.T. Leadership Mechanic Nanny Newspaper	Nutrition Radio Recording Studio Science Trainable Lifeguard Train Lifeguard Trainee Teacher
Sports	Aerobics Archery Basketball Fencing Field Hockey Golf Gymnastics Lacrosse Martical Arts Mountain Biking Mountain Boarding Soccer Tennis Volleyball Board Diving Boat Driving Cross Country	Cycling Equestrian (Western/English Style) Fitness Trainer Go Carts Landsports Life-Guarding Motocross Open Kayak Outdoor Adventure Paddle Boarding Paint Ball Power Boat Driving Quad Bikes Rib Driving Roller Skating	Rowing Shooting Show Jumping Ski Boat Driving Spinning Swim Coaching Synchronised Swimming Track & Field Trapeze Wake Boarding Water Skiing Yoga Instructor Zip Lines Zumba Instructor Skate Park Dodgeball



APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Preliminary Interview

The interview will assess your skills, experience with children, suitability and to make sure you understand the programme. This is a great opportunity for you to have questions answered.

2. Online Application

Before you can start the online application, you need to make your first payment. You are required to profile your skills, experiences, interest, education and family background for placement purposes. You will also need to complete questions and upload supporting documents such as professional references, certifications, and **application video** to make your application stand out from the crowd.

3. Placement Process

Once your application is accepted, you can be placed anytime from that date right up until April 1st. Placement can be a lengthy process and our US partner aims to place you at a camp that matches your skill set, personality and experience. You could be placed at any of the camp types you indicated on the your application.

4. Camp Director Interview

If you have been shortlisted for an interview with a Camp Director who has decided to consider your Camp Counsellor application, you are required to prepare thoroughly for the interview beforehand. This interview with a Camp Director will be carried out through Skype, and normally lasts for 60 - 90 minutes.

5. Camp Placement

If you have not been offered a placement after the first interview, you will be arranged for another interview with another summer camp. Your payment will be automatically refunded if you do not pass the interview or are not offered any placement by April 1st - so you've got nothing to lose! On the other hand, if you're provisionally accepted, it is then time to make the remaining programme fee payment, apply for a criminal background check, get a medical examination, and complete visa application.

WHAT TO EXPECT...

Let us give you a little insight into life on camp as a Counsellor!

1. Orientation Week

You and your fellow Counsellors will all arrive at camp on the same day and for the first week there will be no campers there. This is called Orientation Week and is used to train all of the staff and help you get settled into camp life. You'll learn everything you need to know about the camp, become familiar with the camp rules and cover topics such as child protection. This week will also be spent getting the camp ready so you could find yourself cleaning bunks, painting fences and getting everything set up and looking great! If you're specialising in a particular activity, you'll also have time to become familiar with the equipment and your area. Orientation Week is hard work but a lot of fun as you get the chance to bond with all the other camp staff before the craziness starts. So by the time Orientation week is over you'll be ready and waiting for the kids to arrive!

2. Counsellors working together...

As a Counsellor, you will never be alone with the campers. You'll be constantly supported by other staff members, so you're all working together throughout the entire summer. On camp there will always be a mixture of new staff, senior staff who have worked there previously, and an experienced Camp Director. Rules are put in place to ensure that you don't have to take full responsibility on your own, for any children at any time. So for example, if a young camper wishes to use the bathroom during lunch time, you AND another counsellor will take them to use the bathroom. It's reassuring to know that on camp you're never working alone and are always supported!

3. When the kids arrive!

After Orientation has finished, you'll feel like you've known everyone on camp for years - not a matter of days! As soon as the campers arrive, that's when camp really gets started and the fun truly begins. Your days will be action packed and the daily schedules will kick in. You and a number of other Counsellors will be given a group of campers to look after during their stay on camp. They could be there for just a week or they might be there all summer! Either way you'll be sharing accommodation with the campers and other Counsellors. Your day will start getting the kids up and out to breakfast and will end with getting them to bed at night. Evenings are normally spent with the camp all joining together to enjoy a fun activity to end the day. This could be a pool party, movie night, talent show or a campfire cookout!

4. Time Off

As a Counsellor, you are working 24/7 on camp keeping a constant eye on the campers. If you are at a camp where the campers stay overnight, you will normally be given a period off during the day to have some time to relax. Obviously there always needs to be staff working, so you'll work on a rota basis with the other Counsellors. You'll also have certain evenings off and normally 1 full day off a week. If you're working on a day camp, you'll have evenings and possibly weekend off. On your days off you'll be able to get off camp and explore the local area!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CAN I SCHEDULE A FACE-TO-FACE APPOINTMENT?

To maximize social distancing, we are not accepting in-person appointments during this time. For the time being, we conduct zoom briefing sessions periodically, please stay tuned to our social media platforms for upcoming briefing sessions. Alternatively, contact us through email, phone call or Whatsapp for quicker feedback.

DOES LACK OF SKILLS PUT ME OUT OF THE PROCESS?

While it is preferable to have a specialist skill in a particular activity, this is not a requirement of the programme. The skills and knowledge you have obtained through a hobby, by playing on local teams, in a club with friends, or at university will be enough to teach or assist campers at camp. If you're struggling to find skills you have experience in, make sure you expand each skill category to see the full list of over 90 activities in the online application. Remember, you don't have to be an Olympic athlete with experience coaching/leading the activities - a decent level of personal experience is enough to make you qualified as a General Counsellor. General Counsellors attend most activities with campers and normally assist Specialist Counsellors in running their activities.

DO I NEED QUALIFICATIONS TO GO TO CAMP?

These are American children you are teaching are not experts. Practical experience working with groups of children is what we're looking for, however, qualifications are a bonus! So, you don't need specific qualifications to work at camp - a high personal experience level is often enough for many camp directors. We will assess your skills and experience before we put you forward for a face-to-face interview. We won't take you forward unless we think there's a chance of finding you a placement.

HOW DOES THE INTERVIEW PROCESS WORK?

Before starting your Camp Counsellor application, you are required to attend a face-to-face interview with our recruiter in Singapore/Malaysia to assess your suitability for the J-1 visa programme. Basically, we check you're a nice person, will be eligible for a visa and have something worthwhile to offer, and you should be all set. Once you've paid your Registration Fee, you may start to complete the online application. We will check through the information, and may call you if anything needs to be clarified. If everything is good, the placement process will begin afterwards. Interested camps will contact you to arrange a suitable time to carry out a Skype interview and go through some in-depth questions about your motivation, skills and experiences with you.

WHAT IF I FAILED MY FIRST INTERVIEW WITH A CAMP DIRECTOR?

You will be able to go for another interview with a new camp, and also, there are no limits on the number of interviews that you can go for. If you were not offered a placement during your first interview, do not feel too disappointed. It may be because your skills and experiences are not required by the camp, or simply you were too nervous.

CAN I CHOOSE THE STATE IN AMERICA WHERE I WANT YOU TO PLACE ME AT A CAMP?

You are unable to choose camp location but every camp is unique and located in picturesque settings. Our US BridgeUSA sponsors carefully match each participant to a camp that will best utilise their skills and experience. Remember, you have time before and after camp to travel and sightsee. Use that time to visit the particular state, area or relative of your choice. If you're worried about being at camp on your own, don't be - you'll make more than enough friends once camp starts!

PROGRAMME FEES

CCUSA's program fee is USD 800, which covers the following:

- A 8-10 week camp placement
- US visa sponsorship fee
- State Department fees (SEVIS)
- Legal work documentation (DS-2019)
- Accident and Medical Insurance

Item	Cost
Programme Fee	USD 800
Certificate of Good Conduct (issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	RM 20
Medical Check-Up	RM 100 - RM 200
Food & Accommodation (included)	RM 0
Monthly Expenses (personal spending)	RM 0 - 600/month
Insurance (included)	RM 0
Visa	USD 185
Return Airfare	RM 4,500 - RM 6,000
Total Cost Estimation	Approx. RM 8,500 - RM 10,000*

*These are estimated expenses and actual expenses may differ based on price shifts, exchange rates and personal spending habits. Do adjust these estimates based on the duration of your programme.

A person is seen from the back, wearing a blue t-shirt with the word "STAFF" printed in large, bold, orange letters. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and foliage.