

-So You Want to be a Summer Camp Counselor?-

Thanks for your interest in being a Summer Camp Cabin Counselor here at Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp. We're happy you found us.

The hiring process is competitive, and a huge part of selecting a counselor is not just making sure you're the right fit for us, but making sure *we're* the right fit for you. Being a Camp Counselor here is **not for everyone**, and we always like to make sure we've let you know exactly what you'd be getting yourself into.

Working at camp is an enormous commitment. In fact, for all intents and purposes, it's a twenty-four hour a day, two month long commitment. The summer season runs from Staff Training the last full week in June all the way through to when our final campers depart at the end of the third week of August. For both training and our summer sessions, the work week is Monday morning until Saturday afternoon where it's followed by a short 43 hour weekend and then we do it all over again. We hire counselors from all over the country and all over the world, and all counselors are welcome to stay on camp for the full duration of their contract.

As a cabin counselor, you and one other staff member would be living in a cabin with up to 16 children for the week, and you would be tasked with creating a safe, interactive, welcoming environment for all our campers. Not only that, but our counselors also teach our course area classes and run all camp activities and games. They are required to be constantly exuding enthusiasm and a positive attitude, and need to be able to operate socially and responsibly with their campers from sun-up to sun-down, and often in between when an issue arises in the cabin in the middle of the night. These long hours only come with about two hours off a day (and not always that much time). Sleep becomes quite the commodity.

Camp is physically, mentally, and emotionally exhausting. A counselor is part role-model, part teacher, part coach, part older sibling, part disciplinarian, part supervisor, part therapist, part friend, part baby-sitter, and part entertainer. Many of our campers have declared their week at Lindley G. Cook to be the best and most important week of their whole year. We work hard to live up to that expectation by having a high standard for both our camp program and our camp staff.

I've personally worked all sorts of jobs: retail, service industry, education, freelance...and being a camp counselor is without a doubt my favorite job I've ever had. It's also without a doubt the hardest job I've ever had.

So. Did I scare you off? ...No? Still interested?

If so, we'll move on to the next step of getting in an application or scheduling an interview.

Sincerely,

Ben Clawson

Program Director, Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp

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-What the Staff Had to Say-

“Connecting with the kids made the long hours and exhausting days 100 percent worth it”

“The Senior Staff was an *amazing* support system”

“Camp is like no other place. It creates endless memories, good characters and an appreciation for nature, friends, and life.”

“It’s tough, but it’s rewarding and we have a ton of fun. I learned to be more outgoing, less insecure, and it’s okay to be silly. This place is truly amazing.”

“Every day I feel as though I learned something. Being around campers all the time reminded me to be serious but silly at times, and I think I built up a lot of stamina and overall became more confident.”

“This camp is magic. The best part was seeing myself in the campers and pushing myself to be better so I could serve as a great role model.”

“It takes a certain kind of person to effectively work here. They need to be kind and supportive to their campers as well as their peers. They also need to be a bit crazy as well.”

“I learned I can rise to the challenge of multiple responsibilities and continue to have a positive attitude.”

“The worst part was having to say good bye.”

"I took care of kids between 8 and 16 years old, taught classes, ran activities, wore a long skirt for a day, took care of pee-soaked bedsheets, checked heads for lice, avoided screaming at children, and got disgustingly, abhorrently, atrociously dirty. Seriously. Imagine a kiddie pool full of pond scum, lake sludge, ice cream, corn, chocolate cake, rice, soggy toilet paper, chicken noodle soup, paint, eggs, flour, sour milk, and rainbow sprinkles. Now imagine yourself jumping into it. And sitting there. With a smile on your face. For a solid twenty minutes. And stick your whole face right into it for good measure. All that, and you get pretty close to how dirty I was. Anyways, it was basically the best summer of my life. I'm planning on doing it again next year. Camp rocks."

-And What a Few Parents Had to Say-

“As always my kids had a blast at camp! They are constantly singing the songs and re-living memorable moments! I feel like I know some of the campers and counselors very well based on how much they talk about them! Thank you for putting together such a memorable camp experience for the kids (not just mine)!”

“Once again, our camper returned with stories and songs and some really dirty clothes! We especially love to see that big giant 4H smile he wears around on his face and in his heart. I just wanted to say thank you again to you and the rest of the staff for all that you do and for the positive environment you create for these campers. I feel like they all come back with their inner child recharged.”

“He would prefer to live at Lindley G. Cook rather than at home, despite no electronics! This speaks highly of how much he loves this camp. We appreciate the care and companionship the staff has given him. It truly is his home away from home.”