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Camp Counselor/ Surf Instructor

Overview

Surf Camp, Inc. is looking for energetic, dedicated, and service-oriented Camp Counselors to join our Carolina Ocean Odyssey overnight camp. This position is ideal for individuals passionate about surfing, marine science, and coastal conservation. As a Camp Counselor, you will play a vital role in creating a life-changing experience for our campers, aged 10-17, by teaching surf and ocean safety, leading educational activities, and supervising them throughout their adventure.

Although surf instruction experience is not required, you must be proficient in surfing. All selected candidates will undergo comprehensive in-house training and certification. As a counselor, you'll work closely with your team and the leadership group to ensure that all campers enjoy a safe, fun, and educational experience. This position reports to the Program's Team Unit Leader.

What You'll Do:

Leadership & Supervision

- ❖ Provide 24-hour supervision to campers in both bunk rooms and during field activities.
- ❖ Lead and supervise camp activities, ensuring camper safety, engagement, and enjoyment.
- ❖ Foster a positive, inclusive camp environment by maintaining high standards of behavior and discipline.
- ❖ Serve as a positive role model by displaying maturity, responsibility, flexibility, and sound judgment.

Surf Instruction & Education

- ❖ Lead surf lessons, teaching campers ocean safety, surf etiquette, and wave dynamics.
- ❖ Present and supervise hands-on educational activities on topics such as marine life, barrier island ecology, rip currents, and salt marsh functionality.
- ❖ Ensure all campers learn the fundamentals of surfing in a safe and supportive environment.

Logistics & Equipment Management

- ❖ Assist with daily camp setup and breakdown, including organizing and maintaining equipment.
- ❖ Manage ongoing supply and equipment inventory to ensure everything is ready for each session.
- ❖ Safely transport campers in 15-passenger vans to various camp activities and excursions.

Camper Care & Safety

- ❖ Ensure the physical, emotional, and social well-being of all campers throughout the program.
- ❖ Administer medication and monitor dietary preferences for campers.
- ❖ Practice open communication with campers, parents, and the leadership team to address any concerns.

Team Collaboration & Communication

- ❖ Attend and participate in all scheduled staff meetings with the leadership team.
- ❖ Collaborate effectively with counselors and staff to meet camper needs and ensure smooth camp operations.
- ❖ Provide feedback to staff, helping them grow professionally and contribute to the overall success of the camp.

Responsibilities:

- ❖ Lead daily surf lessons, ensuring all campers understand and practice ocean safety, surf etiquette, and wave riding techniques.
- ❖ Supervise all camp activities, including educational sessions on marine science, beach ecology, and environmental conservation.
- ❖ Ensure campers are actively engaged, fostering a sense of excitement and curiosity about the ocean and its ecosystems.
- ❖ Assist with camp logistics, including setting up and breaking down activities, and maintaining inventory of equipment.
- ❖ Safely transport campers to various activities, ensuring smooth transitions and timely arrivals.
- ❖ Communicate effectively with campers, parents, and staff, providing updates and addressing concerns as needed.

- ❖ Complete all pre-session tasks, including reviewing the camp binder, preparing supplies, and ensuring everything is ready for camper arrival.
- ❖ Serve as a role model for campers, helping them feel welcome, included, and supported throughout their camp experience.
- ❖ Follow all emergency procedures and maintain high safety standards at all times.

Skills & Qualifications

Required

- ❖ At least 19 years of age with a high school diploma.
- ❖ Minimum of 3 years of surfing experience with a solid understanding of surfing fundamentals.
- ❖ Current certifications in **Lifeguarding, CPR, and First Aid** (must be valid at the start of staff training).
- ❖ Must be in excellent physical condition and able to lift 50 lbs unassisted.
- ❖ Ability to pass a **500-yard open-ocean swim test**.
- ❖ Strong communication, decision-making, and organizational skills.
- ❖ No conflicting summer commitments, including travel, work, or other leave of absence.
- ❖ Able to pass a government background check and possess a clean driving record.
- ❖ Ability to work long hours while maintaining high energy and stamina.

Preferred

- ❖ Pursuing or earned a BA or BS in marine biology, environmental science, education, recreation, or related field
- ❖ 2 years surfing experience
- ❖ Familiarity with southeastern marine ecosystems and organisms
- ❖ Previous experience working in an overnight summer camp setting
- ❖ Environmental education certification or teaching credential
- ❖ Ability to accept and give constructive criticism
- ❖ Energetic, morning person with a positive attitude

Why Join Us?

- ❖ **Industry-leading summer stipend** commensurate with experience.
- ❖ **Accommodations and meals provided** during the program, valued at \$2,000.
- ❖ The opportunity to **inspire youth** and make a lasting impact through surfing, marine conservation, and education.
- ❖ **Pro-deal opportunities** on outdoor gear and equipment.
- ❖ Work in a **dynamic, fun, and supportive team** while enjoying the beautiful beaches of Topsail Island, NC.

Position Duration

Programs run from **early June to early August**, with mandatory staff training at the end of May (specific dates TBD).

About Surf Camp Inc

Since 2001, **Surf Camp, Inc.** has been a leader in **learn-to-surf** and **marine science adventure camps**. Our brand is built on our commitment to **Safety, Learning, and Fun**, and we offer diverse camps for kids, teens, and adults, focusing on building confidence, developing character, and fostering a deep respect for the ocean.

Mission Statement:

"Our mission is to cultivate a love and respect for the ocean by building confidence, developing character, and inspiring stoke through safety, fun, and learning."