



Camp Erdman International Training Program



YMCA Camp Erdman is committed to contributing to global understanding by participating in cultural exchange. As part of our commitment, we conduct a Multinational Training Program for International participants.

The J-1 training visa allows non U.S. citizens to be a part of YMCA Camp Erdman's program. The training program you receive is created by Camp Erdman and requires approval from ICCP. The visa is acquired through the organization ICCP (International Camp Counselor Program) a division of the YMCA. The offices are located in New York City

To qualify for the program, potential participants must be:

- 1) University students majoring in a related field or recently graduated (within the last year) **OR**
- 2) Have graduated from a University located outside the US and have at least one year of experience **OR**
- 3) Have five years of experience in a related field all obtained outside the United States **AND**
- 4) You must also be able to show proficiency in the English Language.
- 5) Be able to show proof of a clean background check
- 6) Be between the ages of 20 and 32.

The International Training Program is 13 months long. Start dates are in January and May of each year. We require that applicants have some previous experience working with children and a strong desire to provide positive life changing experience to others. **We also prefer candidates with strong swimming skills, those who are not afraid of heights and are able to drive.**

During the majority of the year Trainees will have roommates and live in staff housing. We provide free housing, three meals day, a weekly stipend of \$100.00 (tax free), and basic medical insurance that is purchased through ICCP.

The training program is divided into Four Modules:

Module 1 "Spirit" Either School programs or Resident Camp components depending on arrival dates.

Module 2 "Heart" Either School programs or Resident Camp components depending on arrival dates.

Module 3 "Legacy" Trainees identify, plan and complete a major project that will have a significant impact on the mission of the camp. They will continue to provide support and leadership in the school programs area.

Module 4 "Aloha" Trainees will plan and participate in the training of the new class. They will also prepare a presentation of their Legacy projects for the new class. They will participate in a graduation ceremony. At the end of the training period they will receive a written evaluation of their participation and performance during their training program.

School Programs Module

Module consists of training for both the Environmental Education and Leadership programs.

Environmental Education Program

Offered to 1st - 6th grade (6 yrs- 12yrs). Fun hands on Science based elementary curriculum (classes) along with traditional camp activities (team building games, crafts, swimming, archery, campfire, & hiking). Program runs from September-June.

Leadership Program

Offered to 6th -12th grade (11yrs - 18yrs) Includes low and high ropes course along with challenging hikes, kayaking, climbing wall/rock climbing, and some of the traditional camp activities (camp fire & team building games) Program runs from August-June.

Residential Camp

Mostly takes place during the summer. A traditional camp experience of living in a cabin with children and providing traditional camp programs, arts& crafts, dance & drama, sports, swimming, nature, beach writing, archery, theme days, camp dance, and of course camp fire! Runs June-August and during intersession breaks.

(The conference program is primarily staffed by volunteers however; International Trainees also assist as needed. Some International Trainees choose to become the Conference Lead Instructor or do a project involving conference activities as part of their Module 3 project.)

Conferencing Program

Offered to all ages usually takes place on the weekends and various times throughout the year. This can be church groups, boy/girl scout groups, and corporate groups (basically anyone can participate in this program). These groups participate in five activities: swimming, archery, hiking, arts & crafts, climbing wall. Groups also have the option of participating in the low and/or the high ropes course. Runs year round.

Cultural experiences

Learning about other cultures is an important part of our program. Trainees will have opportunities to share about their home culture. Trainees will also attend outings and trainings in order to understand the host culture of Hawaii.

Mentoring Program

Trainees are assigned two mentors. One mentor is trainee who has been here for some time and will help with the adjustment. You will also receive assistance from a full-time year round staff member who will provide personalized guidance for your professional development.

Conditions

Camp is a very active with lots of things going on so trainees should be willing to be flexible. Trainees work with children much of the time so they should be positive, outgoing and enthusiastic. Those who would describe themselves as "shy" will probably not be successful in this environment. Mastery of English is essential. Training is in English and trainees will be teaching skills to other and must be able to be comfortable in front of a group communicating in English.

The program is a lot of work and requires long hours. Trainees begin at 7:30 or 8:00 in the morning. Several evenings per week they also help with our evening programming and could be involved until 9:00 PM or even a little later on occasion. Trainees should be prepared to work 6 days per week. Although we do our best to make sure that everyone has two days off per week there are occasions when that is not possible. There are several weekend events during the year when all trainees participate.

Housing is shared. You can expect to share with between one and 10 others depending on the situation. Trainees move around as others leave and situations change. While we try to keep this to a minimum, you can expect to move once or twice during the year. Trainees are required to sleep in their own beds.

The closest town is approximately 20 minutes away by car and bus service is not available. Trainees generally get into town about once per week.

There is absolutely no drinking of alcoholic beverages on the camp or within two miles of the site. No one who has been drinking alcohol can be transported in camp vehicles. There is no smoking on YMCA property.

The YMCA is a values based character building program and we expect trainees to demonstrate the core values of **the YMCA: Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility.**

You must fit the following criteria:

- Would be able to get to Hawaii by the next training date
- Willing and able to stay for **13** months
- Eligible for at J- 1 training visa
- Able to share living space in a close communal environment
- Competent swimmer that is willing to obtain life guarding certificate
- Comfortable with heights and able to be trained on challenge course equipment.
- Able to drive.
- Motivated, enthusiastic worker who enjoys working with children
- Be committed to the YMCA core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility.

For more information, contact:

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