

INTERNATIONAL CAMP COUNSELOR PROGRAM

International YMCA
We build strong kids,
strong families,
strong communities.

The

PLANET



The newsletter for all ICCP participants, since 1959

RESPONSIBILITY

HONESTY

Dear ICCP participants,

Some of you have already finished your camp placement and the rest of you only have a few more weeks to go. I truly hope that your experience has been positive and rewarding. I hope you have been keeping a journal with memories of what each day was like at camp. Your journal will be a useful tool for you to reflect on the things you learned, things you taught to others, surprises, challenges and humor. Think how fun it will be to go back to your notes years from now!

One of the things we have learned from ICCP participants is that usually it takes some time for you to realize how much learning takes place during your exchange experience in USA. Do not be surprised if upon returning home you find yourself behaving and feeling very differently than when you departed. That is normal. Most of you will go through a readjustment period to get back into old routines. Part of the expected outcomes from an exchange experience is that you will go through personal growth, getting to know yourself a lot better, getting to know your culture and your customs better at the same time that you are learning and experiencing everything about the culture and customs of the United States. That is why you will discover that only after being back home some time you will have full understanding of everything the exchange experience meant for you as an individual.

Some of you have already started on your post-camp travels and the rest are probably already planning where you will go, do and see once your camp is over. We ask that you exercise caution in everything you do, especially if you will be in unfamiliar surroundings. We want you to enjoy the rest of your time in USA as much as possible but we also want you healthy, safe and out of trouble.

On behalf of the ICCP staff, I thank each of you for choosing ICCP as the program for your exchange experience in USA this year. We hope you will consider participating again either by returning to your present camp or by asking us to send you to a new camp. We are very interested in getting your evaluation about your experience. Your feedback for improvement and also about the things you feel we do well helps us make decisions about changes in the program and operation.

Enjoy yourselves and stay safe!

Amarilis Soler, Director

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Recruiter Visits

A special thank you to Alexandra, Alveiro and Harold, our ICCP recruiters from Russia, Colombia and Germany, who came last week to join us in our camp visits.

Alexandra



Alveiro



Harold

Participant Evaluation

Your opinion is really important for us, complete the online Participant Evaluation. You may find the evaluation by going to:

<http://www.formstorage.org/EvalByPart2006/participant.html>

Camp Visits

This month ICCP staff is visiting some camps to see how our participants are doing. We are really happy to see how much fun you guys are having and how happy the camps are with your work.

Below are some pictures of some camps that we visited, and if you want to see more pictures you can go to our website www.internationalymca.org



Camp Awosting



Camp Chinqueka



Camp Jewell



Camp Weequalic



Eagle Spring camp



Camp Island Lake



Camp Shohola



Camp Lenox



Becket Chimney Corners



Becket Chimney Corners



Camp Farwell



Camp Grotonwood



Camp Becket



Camp Abnaki



Camp Green Eyrie



Camp South Shore



Camp Hazen



Camp Conrad Weiser

Travel After Camp

Before you know it your time at camp will be over. You may have plans to travel after camp or maybe to do some sight seeing! ICCP would like to offer you the following advice:

- You are able to travel within the U.S (ONLY) up to 30 days after the end date that is printed on your DS- 2019 form.
- ICCP must know where you are at all times. Please fill out the form online at: www.ymcaiccp.org, Go to International Participants/ Your Update Page.
- You will save money if you buy your tickets (bus or train) at least 7 days before your traveling date. You will find good deals at the following websites:
 1. www.greyhound.com
 2. www.amtrak.com
- ICCP has arranged discounted rates for you to stay in New York at the Westside YMCA. To take advantage of this offer you should call the Westside YMCA (212) 875 4100 and ask for the ICCP discounted rate (\$ 55 single room, \$ 58 double room). Upon arrival you will need to show your ICCP emergency card, DS-2019 and Passport.
- ICCP has also arranged discounted rates for you to stay in New York at the Harlem YMCA. To take advantage of this offer you should call the Harlem YMCA (212) 281-4100 and ask for the ICCP discounted rate (\$ 32.50). On arrival you will need to show your ICCP emergency card, DS-2019 and Passport



Camp Sloper



Camp Horizons

U.S. Tax Refunds

As a J-1 visa holder you are legally required to file a U.S tax return. The good news is that you may be due a refund! Filling out U.S tax forms is very confusing and time consuming. We want to inform you of a service that can make it easier for you!

Tax Back International (Taxback.com) specializes in tax refunds for J-1 visa holders and will guarantee to reclaim the most possible money for you.

Tax Back International
 333 N Michigan Ave, suite 2415
 Chicago, IL 60601, USA
 Tel: Within the USA 1888 203 8900
 Tel: Outside the USA + 353 16706959
 Fax: 1 312-781-2707
 Email: info@taxback.com
 Website: www.taxback.com/ymca

To receive a free refund quote in 48 hours you can go online at www.taxback.com.

We hope this information is helpful to you.

Social Security

New government regulations affect the processing of your social security applications.

You could very well be ending your summer program and still not have received your Social Security card. Not to worry! The Social Security Administration anticipated this and gave the following instructions:

- Leave a signed letter authorizing your camp director to receive and open your social security letter in your absence. Your camp director will need the social security number for payroll and tax issues. Include your home address so that your camp director can forward your card to you.
- You should be getting paid by now. When you applied for your social security card you should have received a receipt. That receipt should have been submitted to your camp's payroll department to insure you are paid on a timely fashion.

If you have any questions, contact Sheba Clark at 1-212-727-8800 Ext. 4305 or at sclark@ymcanyc.org

Health Insurance

Everybody knows how expensive medical treatment in the U.S.A. can be. That is why ICCP guarantees 16 weeks of coverage for all participants. The first 12 weeks are granted automatically, but if you should need coverage for extra weeks, **how do you do this?**, YOU MUST make the request to ICCP, **Who to contact?**, your contact person is Portia Haynes phaynes@ymcanyc.org.

We suggest that you keep the Insurance claim form and the \$ 10.00 deductible together at all times along with your passport, in case of an emergency.

When you go to the hospital make sure the doctor fills out your insurance claim form and sends it to the insurance claims office, located at:

**American International Companies
Domestic Accident & Health Claims
P.O. Box 15701, Wilmington, DE 19850-5701
(800) 551-0824 or (302) 661-4176**

Be aware that the insurance does not cover dental and eye care, or illnesses that are pre-existing. Your coverage information can be obtained on the website at www.coalitionamerica.com; PIN # 3014.

Let's have fun but also be safe this summer!

If you should need additional coverage AFTER the 16 weeks, we recommend an insurance company called Gateway USA. Their rates are very reasonable. For additional information, please visit their website at www.gatewayplans.com

Jobs after Camp



The following sites are hiring staff through the end of the summer. If you have successfully completed your camp assignment, you may contact them for another camp experience.

ICCP is not responsible for negotiating your salary, but you must inform ICCP of your change of address at all times by sending us the "after camp travel itinerary" form that was given to you at orientation.

(PLEASE NOTE THAT CAMP COUNSELORS CAN ONLY WORK AS A CAMP COUNSELOR AND SUPPORT STAFF CAN ONLY WORK AS SUPPORT STAFF. IF NOT SURE, CHECK YOUR DS-2019 FORM WHERE IT SHOULD INDICATE CAMP COUNSELOR OR SUMMER WORK AND TRAVEL FOR SUPPORT STAFF)

Camp Name: YMCA of the Rockies (Estes Park)
Contact Name: Emily Ironside
Contact Phone #: (970)586-3341
Contact e-mail: eironside@ymcarockies.org
Job Position, and details:
Looking for support staff for 3 weeks or more can stay until 8/26th.

Camp Name: Associated Camps, Inc
Contact Name: Laurie Epstein Graves
Contact Phone #: (570)448-2108
Contact e-mail: laurie@bhvc.org
Job Position, and details:
Looking for support staff



Camp Name: West Side YMCA
Contact Name: Sharyn Harrison
Contact Phone #: (212)875-4201
Contact e-mail: sharrison@ymcanyc.org
Job Position, and details:
US certified Lifeguards, males or females that can stay until late august or longer.

Camp Name: Camp Jened
Contact Name: Sue
Contact Phone #: (845)434-2220
Contact e-mail: campjened@pronetisp.net
Job Position, and details:
Special Needs camp for adults, looking for counselors willing to work with special



Camp Name: YMCA of Greater NY
Contact Name: Michael Peters
Contact Phone #: (845)858-2200
Contact e-mail: mpeters@ymcanyc.org

Job Position, and details: Male counselors from August 4th to 19th, Female counselors from August 4th to 26th, and one Female counselor from August 16th to 26th.

Camp Name: YMCA of the Rockies (Snow Mountain Ranch)
Contact Name: Nathan Russell
Contact Phone #: (970) 887-2152
Contact e-mail: nrussell@ymcarockies.org
Job Position, and details:
support staff (from August on).

Cheap Places to Stay in NY

Other affordable places to stay in NY .

Chelsea Youth Hostel

251 West 20th Street between 7th & 8th Avenues
NYC
1-212-647-0010

American Youth Hostel (AYH)

103rd Street and Amsterdam Avenue
NYC
1-212-932-2300

Gershwin Hotel

7 East 27th Street between 5th Avenue and Madison
NYC
1-212-545-8000

Do you want your pictures on our website?

E-mail your coolest pictures of your experiences at camp to emckinney@ymcanyc.org, and we can upload them to our website, that way all your relatives or friends will be able to see what a nice experience you are having here, but remember, do not send pictures where campers appear. Indicate your name, country and camp name.

Want travel outside the USA and come back?

If you plan to travel outside the USA, you must be aware of a few requirements.

First, check that your visa is a '**Multiple Entry**' visa, indicated with an M under 'Entries'. Multiple entry allows you to enter the U.S. as many times as you want until the expiration date of the visa. 'S' indicates single entry; you may only enter the U.S. once and if you leave, you will not be allowed to re-enter.

Second, check the **expiration date of your visa**. You cannot reenter the U.S. after this date. Third, find out if you need '**Travel Authorization**' (the YMCA must sign the lower right corner of your DS-2019). If you do not receive Travel Authorization, you may have significant difficulty re-entering the US and you may even be denied entry to the US.

To obtain Travel Authorization, send a letter to International YMCA, second floor, 5 West 63rd Street, New York, NY 10023 indicating when you are traveling and where you are going. Please include contact details such as your address, telephone number and an email should we need to contact you. Send this letter and the original DS-2019 to the above address at least 15 days before your planned departure. Please send a self-addressed envelope for us to return your DS-2019 form. For tracking purpose, we advise that you use FedEx, Express Mail or another agent that provides package-tracking options.

If your program has ended and you travel outside the U.S., you must have a valid tourist visa to reenter the U.S.

If you have any questions about travel, please contact the YMCA first. Do not wait until you want to reenter.

Want to come back?

Interested in returning to your camp but for a longer period? Discuss your interest with your camp director. Many camps hire internationals to be trainees for a year or more. ICCP can assist with the visa paperwork.

It's never too early to start making plans for next summer. If you are interested in coming back to camp, here we give you some advice:

- Talk to your camp director or supervisor now. You can even download (<http://www.ymcaiccp.org/Participant/PartForms.htm>) and complete some of the paperwork before leaving camp.
- Had a good time but would like a new camp next year? No problem. Simply contact the ICCP recruiter in your country upon return and complete the paperwork. We would love to have you back with us and maybe you can even be a volunteer at orientation now that you are an expert. 😊
- I hope you continue to choose ICCP as your program of choice to help you return to camp.

Emergency Contact Number
After business hours
and
24 hours a day on
weekends
& holidays

1-(917) 273 8964

