

News for Participants

SUMMER 2009

Keep in mind:

- You may remain in the U.S. legally for 30 days to travel after the ending date on your DS-2019 form.
- If you leave the U.S. during the 30-day travel period, you will not be allowed to re-enter the U.S. on your J-1 visa.
- You can have additional insurance coverage, up to a total of 17 weeks, but must notify ICCP
- After-camp jobs at another site need approval from ICCP in order to extend your dates in SEVIS

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A Summer to Remember

More than # participants from # countries around the world have been at camps and conference centers around the U.S. this summer, working with children in program or in support staff roles in kitchens, offices and doing maintenance on the properties. In the northeast, you will remember how much rain there has been and, in the west, you will remember the heat. But, no matter where you have been placed, you will remember the friends, the relationships, and the experiences.

For most, the summer experience has been one of hard work, many rewards, and lots of fun. It has been said, "It's an experience that lasts a lifetime," meaning that

the friendships made and the skills learned will be with you forever.

Want to return in 2010?

Each summer finds international staff at camps from the previous summer. If you would like to return next summer, *TALK WITH YOUR CAMP DIRECTOR NOW!*

The procedure is simple. ICCP will handle the visa arrangements and the rest (dates, salary, job) is between you as a returning staff member and the camp. You do NOT go through your recruiter as a returning staff. You deal with your camp directly.

Questions? Call ICCP Toll Free 888/477-9622 or send

an email to ips@ymcanyc.org

Enjoy the rest of your summer in the U.S.!



**Emma (Australia)
at 4-H Camp Howe
in Massachusetts**



**Support Staff from Turkey
with Chef Mike at Camp
Chimney Corners (MA)**

Other Opportunities to Return

Returning to your camp is but one option available to International YMCA participants in J-1 visa programs.

Winter Work & Travel is for university students to work in the U.S. during our winter while on your official

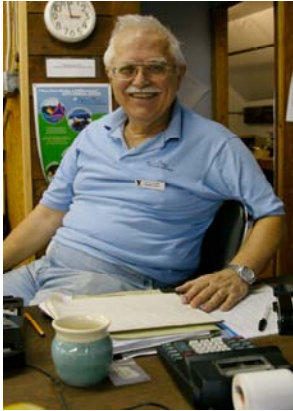
summer break. These are four-month (120 days) visas.

Trainees can come to the U.S. for up to eighteen months to learn new skills in a field for which they have been educated (degree required) and in which they

have at least one year of work experience outside the U.S. Without the degree, a minimum of five years of experience is needed.

Interns must be current undergraduate students or will *continued on page 3*

Nuri Tirpan—Young at Heart



Nuri Tirpan, from Turkey, spending his 14th summer at camp on Lake George, in New York

Nuri Tirpan, from Turkey, turned 72 years *young* this past February, and is spending his fourteenth summer at the YMCA's Silver Bay YMCA of the Adirondacks on Lake George (NY).

Born in Istanbul, Nuri first came to the U.S. to obtain his Master's degree in electrical engineering while a Teaching Assistant at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Troy, NY). While speaking Sundays in various local churches, he men-

tioned to one couple that he was looking for something to do during the summer. The rest, as they say, is history!

Nuri spent the summer of 1959 as a helper in the kitchen and returned for the summer of 1960 as a dishwasher. He completed his Master's degree in 1961 and went to Montreal, Canada, where he worked for five years as an electrical engineer.

In recent years, Nuri spends

the summers at Silver Bay in the Craft Shop, where he teaches enameling and glasswork.

Asked what it is about Silver Bay that keeps him returning, summer after summer, Nuri's answer is quick and simple. He says, "the people here are great and there is a real sense of community. People care about each other, they are the 'cream of the crop' and I probably have more friends here than in the rest of the world combined!"

Camps often need staff to accommodate post-camp groups, family camps and other programs.

After Camp Jobs

Camps often need staff to accommodate post-camp groups, family camps and other programs. Many summer camp staff look for post-camp work at a different site after completing their initial placement.

Participants are allowed to work a maximum of 120 days from the start date on their DS-

2019 form or, if a counselor, until September 20—whichever comes first. Support Staff (office, kitchen/food service, maintenance/housekeeping) can also work 120 days maximum but can work after September 20 if their "proof of student status" form confirms they do not have to be back at their university.

After camp jobs are posted on our site at the "After Camp Jobs" link on the page for Participants on our web site:

www.internationalymca.org

Be sure to contact ICCP for approval, to get your dates extended in SEVIS and to extend your insurance coverage.

ICCP in the News

Reprinted in part from the "Matinsville Bulletin" in Falls Church, VA July 7, 2009



America Dominguez, from Mexico, with children at the Collinsville YMCA

The International YMCA's International Camp Counselor Program (ICCP) has been a learning experience for both a Mexican college student and the children she works with at the Collinsville YMCA in Virginia.

America Dominguez, 20, is in the U.S. for the first time

and the YMCA in Virginia is hosting an international camp counselor for the first time.

"We thought it would be interesting to have someone from Mexico because there is a growing Hispanic population here," said the Y's executive director, **Brad Kinkema**, who

is also providing America with a family-stay in his home.

America says, "I love Mexico but there are a lot of places in the world to know. I want to make the most of my life." She added, "I came with an open mind. I'm excited, and I'm really happy."

Hiking in Asia Leads to Key Role in Thailand

Zack Zimmerman (25), with camp experience at YMCA Camp Coniston in New Hampshire and YMCA Camp Kern in Ohio, set out on a backpacking trip throughout Asia in 2007 with three friends from camp. A year later, he returned to live and work in Chiangmai, Thailand but, this time, with a purpose greater than travel. With a career goal of working in camp administration, he got a job with the Y's camping program, and quickly began to apply his life-long experiences in camping, helping to develop cross-cultural programs, programs for "street children" and for local children.

As the only native English-speaking staff member of 80 Y employees, Zach surprisingly found communicating relatively easy, given the Thai's abilities in English and his efforts to learn Thai.

Camp Programs

Two-week day camps during school vacation included sports,

karaoke, team-building and group games and were challenging for Zach as the children spoke very little English.

Another camp session was called "English Camp" with a focus to teach English to 9-12 year-olds. Zach developed activities to teach telling time and giving directions and included his leading and teaching many camp songs and games learned at his U.S. camps.

Summer in Thailand is in March and children are out of school. Two day camps, each two-weeks long, were planned, with the last night an "overnight" at a park. Zach was able to implement many features of "typical" American camps learned at Camp Kern.

On weekends, Zach traveled to YMCAs in Sanphatong and Lamphun to help teach English.

Tao Center

Besides camp programs, Zach had the opportunity to visit Tao, a center operated by the

Chiangmai YMCA that provides outreach programs for local communities. Here, there are programs for the elderly, children, women suffering from violence, people who are HIV-positive, and those with disabilities, which is ranked as their #1 problem. Money and support for vocational training is provided.

Immigration is also a major concern in Thailand. About 50% of the children at the Tao center are immigrants in the childcare program. Many people from Myanmar (formerly Burma), Laos and Vietnam travel to Thailand for a new life and live there illegally. The Tao center also provides health care to many as it is easier than getting them to the hospital.

Family Life

Zach was fortunate to stay with a host family, providing him with great insight to the culture. Many Thai families have fishponds outside their

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Zach Zimmerman
spent 7 months at the YMCA in Chiangmai, Thailand



Other Opportunities to Return

have graduated within twelve months of the start date at the U.S. host site but the Training Plan written by the host site must be a match with the field of university study.

Approved fields for Trainees and Interns include Education, Health Enhancement, Arts &

Culture, Hospitality & Tourism, Business management, The Sciences, Engineering, Architecture and more! For a complete list, and for more information, go to this link on our web site:

www.internationalymca.org/TrainingAndInternships/Home.shtml

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These programs are great opportunities! However, you need a U.S. host site. If you are interested, contact your current or past camp or employer to see if you can return. It would be a wonderful experience for both of you.

www.internationalymca.org



Varied opportunities

INTERNATIONAL YMCA ~
Serving the World Since
1911

Our Programs

- ICCP—Summer Camp
Counselors and
Support Staff
- Trainees & Interns
- Work and Travel
Summer & Winter
- Global Teens
- Go Global
- United Nations
- Study Tours

www.internationalymca.org

In the US:
Call us TOLL FREE
888/477-9622

Insurance Reminder

Participants covered by International YMCA insurance requiring medical attention for non-work related injury or illness can access information and forms at the link for Participants on our web site, www.internationalymca.org

The password is **PART09**

A completed claim form and the deductible must be presented each time medical service is provided.

Evaluations Reminder

The International YMCA is always working to improve its programs and the experiences of its participants. One way in which this is accomplished is through the evaluations submitted by our participants.

Please take the few minutes needed to complete the form for your program and then submit it. This can all be done online. Thank you!

Summer Work & Travel: www.formstorage.org/csFormbuilder/forms/SWTPartEval.htm

Trainees & Interns: www.internationalymca.org/TraingAndInternships/Evaluations.shtml

ICCP (Counselors & Support Staff—Regular Program):

www.internationalymca.org/ICCP/Forms2009/Part_eval_2009.shtml

ICCP Direct Placement/Returning Staff:

www.internationalymca.org/ICCP/Forms2009/DRET_PART_eval_2009.shtml

Zack in Thailand *continued from page 3*

homes to keep fresh fish for eating. One morning, he saw the dog eating a fish it had caught in the pond! Zack describes his “Thai family” life as a “back to basics” way of life. He was in bed by 10 PM nightly and his morning “alarm clock” was the simple crow of a rooster right outside his window!

On his last night in the village, every family gathered at the school for a kantoke dinner, a big part of Thai culture. Traditionally, kantoke dinners are prepared by the host in honor of the guest. Each family sits on the ground around a tray and enjoys dinner while various others perform songs and

dances on a stage. Traditional kantoke dinner consists of nam-prick num—baked eggplant and chili seasoned with soy sauce or fish sauce, served with hung le, tender pork curry mixed with peanuts, onion and potato, sticky rice and fried chicken. Zack says, “I ate like a king!” One of his favorite Thai sayings is, “Phom gin neigh neigh” or “Phom gin tuk yank” which means, “I eat easy/everything!”

Zach had many other interesting and meaningful experiences, including playing a key part in initiating ICCP participants from the Chiangmai YMCA. This summer, many worked at US camps and a Global Teens trip just returned.



Zack Zimmerman (r) with teens at Chiangmai YMCA in Thailand

Mail from Camp

Here is one of many typical messages from ICCP participants at U.S. summer camps:

“I’m very happy to mail you. It’s time to thank ICCP for the summer camp to let you know that I have a wonderful time at YMCA STORER CAMP. I don’t know what I can say to thank you for this great summer. I learned lots about everything in US. It is really good for me to be here to really know about this country. I would be glad to participate for a next camp again.”

—Evens Joicen, Haiti

