

Messages from 2009 Junior Camp Counselors

Grant

I enjoyed being a junior camp counselor at the SCOA 2009 summer session. It was a good experience for me because I learned how to interact with kids, as well as adults. Another counselor and I were in charge of a team of kids. We were with them all the time they were at camp, so I had to learn how to make sure everyone on the team had fun. As usual with groups, some kids require more attention than others and you have to learn how to manage your time to make sure that each of them feels a part of the team. I also learned what was needed for a camp to operate successfully, as well as thinking about what could be improved for the next year. Usually, we would have one camp counselor introduce and lead the activity, while the other counselors would explain the activity and would make sure that the kids were having fun. I would recommend this position to those who are interested in youth sports, working with children, and would like to experience a different culture. Be prepared to work hard.

Stephen

Last year, I was a junior counselor for SCOA. The junior counselor position's duties were quite similar to those of a normal counselor's. All four of us were paired with a normal counselor, whom we helped with the group running activities. The camp experience was a blast. At camp, you can expect a great experience teaching the children the joys of such sports as soccer, dodge ball, kickball, and football (though some of the football kids are amazingly gifted football players), as well as simply bonding with the children and sharing parts of each other's culture and language (though you should try to limit the dirty words, kid's tend to pick up those words instead of others for some reason). The hours are long, the terrain is often muddy and humid enough for you to be able to swim through the air, and you probably shouldn't expect too much sleep at night but seeing the smiles on the kid's faces when you're teaching them a campfire song, roasting s'mores, or performing the team skits are worth the trials and tribulation. Sure there were the tough times where you felt like gouging out your eyes with chopsticks, but the things that you gain (friendships, insight on foreign culture) **FAR** outweigh the negatives. Given the opportunity, I would do the entire experience again, after all nothing can be more fun than playing football in the mud, no matter what language.

Why not "Cross the Bridge"?