

More FAQ's

What makes Camps Equinunk and Blue Ridge Special?

We are a brother/sister camp..... two camps in one connected by a footbridge. The boys at Equinunk and the girls at Blue Ridge have mostly separate facilities, activities, and daily schedules. However, some evening activities are coed and time is set aside once a week for brothers and sisters to visit with each other. Also you'll have time off to socialize with both the male and female staff. We pride ourselves in our spirit and family atmosphere. It is not uncommon to see a group of campers in the oldest age group hanging out with a group of campers in the youngest, and all staff helps contribute to and join in what we call "the Camp Blue Ridge and Equinunk spirit".

Where is Camp located?

Camp is located in northeastern Pennsylvania in the beautiful Pocono Mountains, approximately 3 hours from New York City and 2½ hours from Philadelphia.

How do I get to camp?

Please check out the Staff Travel Info on this website.

What is the weather like?

During the day the average temperature is between 70 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit (21°C and 26°C). The evenings and mornings tend to be much cooler so don't forget your sweatshirts! We do occasionally have rain, so bring a jacket. On the whole the summers are usually hot and humid.

When do I need to arrive at camp and when is the last day?

Please check with the office as dates vary depending on position at camp.

How many staff members work at Camps Equinunk and Blue Ridge?

We have a very large staff at Camps Equinunk and Blue Ridge. We have on average 150 counselor staff and 75 support staff who have many different roles at camp.

Where do the staff come from?

While most of our staff is from North America, we have a large number of specialist counselors and support staff joining us from overseas including Europe, Australasia and South America.

How many counselors return each year?

Most of our counselors from the United States grew up at camp. They return as counselors to create the same wonderful experiences for new groups of campers. We have an 80% return rate of staff. We also have many International Counselors and Support staff who returns to camp year after year. The friendships, spirit and traditions of our camp contribute to why so many people return to their camp family.

What are the kids like and where do they come from?

Most of our campers come from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Florida. We also have significant amounts of campers from the Washington DC and Philadelphia areas, as well as several from other areas of the United States. Over 90% of our campers return each summer. Many of them are second and third generation campers, meaning that their parents and grandparents attended camp. Most of them feel as if camp is their summer home, and they thrive on the friends they make at camp and the traditions that they participate in.

How many children will I be looking after?

It varies from bunk to bunk, but most bunks have 6 to 10 campers and 2 or 3 counselors in them.

As a specialist counselor how many periods do I work and when do I see the campers from my bunk?

Most specialty counselors are busy at their specialty during all activity periods, but meals, rest hour, free play, and nights spent in with your own campers are good times to develop strong relationships with them.

Do I have to bring any special equipment with me for the activity I am teaching?

No. Unless you will be working at a sport and prefer to bring your own small piece of equipment like a baseball glove, there is no need to bring equipment. The camp will provide everything you need to effectively teach your specialty although Tennis staff should bring rackets with them.

What is staff orientation?

Staff orientation begins with a tour of camp for new staff. For our counselor staff this is when the camp administration will make bunk placements and go over important rules and regulations, policies and procedures of camp life. Guest speakers from several agencies come and speak about a variety of topics such as appropriate counselor behavior and camper behavior. Team building activities and evening activities are planned so everyone gets to know each other better. Also, we use the time to unpack the belongings of the children in the younger age groups. It's a great way to get everyone ready for the summer to come!

For our support staff this is a time to also tour the camp and get to know your specific work area. You will go over job responsibilities and duties and get to know the other staff you will be working with. There will be important sessions informing you of important camp rules and regulations, policies and procedures of camp life. You will also attend important sessions run by outside speakers. Once orientation is over we're sure you will feel more comfortable and ready for the summer ahead.

Where will I live?

As a general counselor or specialist, you will live in a cabin with the campers. If you are a member of the support staff, you will live in shared staff housing with other support staff. All accommodations have electricity, hot running water and bathroom facilities.

Do I need to see a doctor before I come to camp? What Medical care is available at camp?

All staff are required to have a complete physical before arriving at camp and provide the camp office with a fully completed medical form signed by your physician along with completed health insurance forms. Our health centers are staffed by a full time Physician and professional team of RN's and are available to our staff for no charge whilst at camp. If you should need prescription medications due to illness we will be happy to purchase these items for you and deduct the total from your salary. In most cases, if you should need to be referred to an outside health provider whilst at camp this will usually be covered by your own insurance (you should make sure you are familiar with your insurance coverage policies such as what is and what is not covered and deductibles that you are responsible for). You are also responsible for submitting any claim forms, however one of our staff will be willing to help you with this.

IMPORTANT: Camps Equinunk and Blue Ridge require that all staff members provide negative test results for the TB (tuberculosis) test before coming to camp. The TB test is known as the PPD and the Montoux test. In the United States, the BCG inoculation is not administered, therefore is not required of international staff. However, the BCG is administered in many countries throughout the world, and once given will provide a false positive whenever a TB test is given. Therefore any staff member who does test positive for TB, and has had this inoculation must have a chest x-ray performed to ensure that the person does not have TB.

How are we paid?

Pocket Money (for International Agency staff) and Salaries (for Domestic staff) are paid at the end of the summer. Advances can be obtained from the office at specified times during the summer, after the first week of the campers arriving at camp. These times will be announced during orientation. Up to 75% of total salary can be advanced and is calculated on how much has been earned in ratio to time at camp. Advances cannot be taken during last 10 days of camper's session.

Any staff member not completing the summer will have their salary pro rated and forfeit the completion bonus (if applicable). Staff departing early, for any reason, may draw an advance, but all final checks are distributed at the end of camp unless alternative arrangements have been made with the camp office.

Travel allowances/license reimbursements or any other expenses must be submitted during orientation and will be reimbursed at the end of camp with salary check, unless alternative arrangements are made with the office staff.

Final paychecks are issued on the last day of camp (for counselor staff) or the last day of contract (for support staff) and are distributed once all equipment has been returned, accommodations are cleaned, keys returned (if applicable) and all other duties are completed.

What about time off and free time?

Yes, you will get one day off per week, but not during the first week of campers arriving or last week of campers session. On your days off, you are free to leave camp and rediscover the rest of the world. Days off start after inspection in the morning and end at curfew on that evening, which is 12:30 AM. Before leaving camp for a day off staff must ensure their accommodations are clean and neat and any duties required have been completed.

On my day off, is transportation provided anywhere?

We do our best to provide transportation to town on a daily basis, however on occasion times and availability may vary dependant on needs of the camp on the day.

Will I be able to utilize any of the other activities/facilities on camp?

Yes, most facilities are available for staff to enjoy when the campers are not using them. Please always ensure to treat each area with respect and return it as you found it when you leave.

What about dress and personal appearance?

Personal appearance is very important. As a uniform camp it is important for staff to dress in uniform colors at all times whilst on camp or at an off-campus activity. Stay as clean as possible, shave daily if beardless, keep it neatly trimmed if you are not, and please don't start growing new facial hair while here. Leave any suggestive/inappropriate clothing at home. Wear shoes that are appropriate to the activity, most often sneakers – generally not sandals. Girls, please no string bikinis, nor skimpy tank tops or shorts that reveal underwear. No bizarre hairstyles and in keeping with our wholesome environment, all staff are required to remove any visible body piercings. Although we acknowledge the existence of tattoos, we expect that they would be inoffensive and covered at all times where possible.

What should I pack?

You can download a staff packing list from this website.

Important: We would advise against bringing expensive items, jewelry, electronics etc to camp as all personal items are your own responsibility and camp cannot be held responsible, they are not covered by camp insurance.

For personal items such as money and important documents lockers are available for the following small charge:

3.5" X 5.5" = \$5.00 5.5" X 5.5" = \$10.00

Do we need to bring towels and linens?

We provide towels, sheets, pillows and blankets at no charge for international staff. You may bring your own if you prefer. A sleeping bag is also very useful.

Is there a staff laundry service?

Laundry is done in the camp laundry facility once a week; all clothing must be properly labeled. There is also a coin laundry facility on site for staff use if you prefer to do your own laundry. We recommend you do not bring any expensive items to camp.

Will I have access to the internet and phones while at camp?

There are phones for staff use at various locations on camp and they work with phone cards, which you can purchase locally or from our main office. Internet access is available and can be used during your free time, we ask you be courteous in limiting your use so that all staff can benefit. In order to use the Internet please set up an email address before coming to camp as the camp official email address cannot be used for personal email (unless for an emergency).

How can people contact me during the summer?

Mail is delivered Monday to Saturday at camp. Phone messages can be taken for you but phone calls cannot be put through to you directly. To help our office staff to pass on the correct information please ensure caller knows the area in which you are working and at which camp.

What is the correct mailing address?

Your Name

Camp Equinunk or Camp Blue Ridge – depending which camp you are **living** at

PO Box 365

Equinunk, PA 18417

You can purchase stamps in the main office. Please bring your own stationery.

Anything else I need to know?

Please ensure you have completed all the necessary staff forms (as per the website) and returned to the camp office by May 20th.