

# Camp Singing Hills Basic Information for Applicants

**Dates:** Our staff orientation runs from May 24-June 3rd. Sessions with campers runs from June 6<sup>th</sup> to August 12<sup>th</sup>. Post camp is August 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Who We Are:** We are a Girl Scout day camp outside Chugiak off the Mirror Lake Exit. It is about 30 minutes from Anchorage or Wasilla. Camp is located on 40 acres of forest and a lake. We are an outdoor camp. What I mean by outdoor is that while we have flush toilets and running water we spend 90% of our time outdoors in nature.

**What We Do:** We are a general day camp program with leadership, community service, and STEM components. That means we do lots of environmental education, hiking, canoeing and hands-on STEM activities. We also have arts and crafts activities.

Our program is designed to help girls develop courage, confidence and character through the challenges of the program while in an outdoor environment. We are a camp that believes that our staff's most important job is to create and facilitate experiences where girls can develop character in a safe environment. As a staff member, you are an integral part of this experience.

Our camp sessions are 5 days long. Many campers attend multiple sessions during the summer. This means it is critical that our staff create and deliver inventive, engaging and unique programming for girls each session. Every staff person gets two hours off each day. It is critical staff maintain their energy and enthusiasm so staff must use their time off wisely.

**Counselors:** Our counselors work in pairs to manage an entire group of 10-15 girls. Counselors are with campers during check in, downtime and closing. They also sit with their campers during meals and travel to activities with their group. Counselors are expected to be with their campers at all times of day except on specific periods you have off. You are expected to be with campers and aware of their whereabouts and behavior from the time they are dropped off by parents until the time they go are checked out by parents.

**Your Time:** Many applicants underestimate the time, energy and dedication it takes to be an invaluable staff person. You will get a lot out of working at camp, now though, it is important that you know what you will be required to put into it. We believe that camp is for the camper. To us, that means:

- Your camp life, days and decisions will revolve around what is best for camp/your campers, not around you.
- You will sacrifice some personal comfort, control, decision making and autonomy as you prioritize camp and your campers



- You will work long days full of physical activity. They will be full of fun and adventure with your girls but you need to be there when girls need you.
- You will need to adjust what you do and how you do it to best serve individual campers. This includes how you facilitate program, speak with campers and implement behavior management techniques
- You will have honest coaching conversations with your supervisor who will give you guidance and instruction on how to move forward when you fail or are struggling. This requires that you approach situations humbly and with no ego
- You put effort and care into all areas of camp, even those parts that may seem unimportant like paperwork

**Working at Camp:** It's different from other jobs. At our camp, this means:

- We focus on building relationships and community living. This means we stop drama when it happens between campers. We also don't participate in starting or continuing drama among staff. In fact, it is your professional obligation to deal with issues directly and honestly by having fact based conversations.
- You will have a limited amount of time off each day (the hours of which you won't get to pick). This means that during your time off you will need to prioritize what you do so that you can come back to work with focused energy. For example, you may decide that reading a book is more important than a texting with friends or family.
- You will have less control over many aspects of your life including the food you eat (we often have camper allergies), what you do when and your personal space.
- You will work and play with your co-workers. Many staff become friends with other counselors. However, staff are expected to prioritize and maintain their professional relationships during the season.
- We do not allow drinking, smoking or the use of drugs while you are at camp.
- You will have access to the world outside camp on a limited and inconsistent basis. This means contact with friends and family and access to your email/social media. Cell phones and other technology are permitted for staff only. You will be expected to have all technology turned off (not just on silent) except on your time off in which case you can use that technology in the staff lounge only. Technology must be stored in backpacks where campers cannot see them.
- You will be physically active all day long. Every program area at camp has a physical aspect to it from carrying and paddling canoes to hiking up and down trails. We also expect our staff to actively engage with campers during every program. This means participating in activities as well as getting on the same physical level as campers. This means sitting cross legged on the ground, kneeling and squatting depending on the activity.

