



# BOATING



## Job Description

### Program Area Counselor

Of the three basic types of counseling staff at Hawkeye the Program Area Counselor is the one with the most contact with the widest range of campers. This counselor remains at their assigned Program Area most periods of every day and conceives of, plans, organizes, leads, and follows up on activities within that Area. These activities are non-gender specific and need to be directed at the entire range of age groups within camp, 8-16 year olds, because each cabin spends approximately two periods each week at each Program Area. These individuals do not split their time between a Cabin Group, with which they may live, and the Program Area. However, most Program Area counselors do live in cabins with the campers and must assist in getting the campers started in the morning and settled at night as necessary. Some time each week may be spent outside of their Program Area; this may include covering a cabin or accompanying a cabin group to various activities, on an out-of-camp trip, or organizing a special activity.

Each Program Area has a staff member who is primarily responsible for its oversight and a number of other staff members who assist them; these are the Program Area Counselor and General Counselors respectively. As the Program Area Counselor you will meet with the Assistant Program Director, your immediate supervisor, each week. Each Program Area Counselor has weekly paperwork responsibilities that include a self-evaluation as well as cabin and activity reports assessing the success of each at the Area each week. These are presented to the Assistant Program Director before weekly supervision and used during the session. S/he, in turn, evaluates and reports on the workings of the Program Area and your progress and success, on a weekly basis, to the Program Director and Camp Director. S/he also provides guidance, feedback, and support to you as a Program Area Counselor.

Each Area has one or two General Counselors and/or Counselors in Training, CiT's, assigned to it that provide additional leadership, organizational assistance, oversight, and group management. These individuals may help to plan, organize and carry out activities but do this on an as needed basis. These individuals are primarily available to assist the Program Area Counselor and take direction from this Counselor on a daily and weekly basis as pertains to the Program Area.

In addition to daily activity planning Program Area Counselors are responsible for creating larger projects, including inter-area ventures, that last weeks or even the entire summer. These plans may take in to account weekly out-of-camp trips, Tribal Considerations, Special Activities, Evening Activities, or other events throughout the session.

Program Area Counselors must also take part in planning, setting-up, organizing, and carrying out Special Activities with special attention paid to elements of these events which are related to activities or skills primarily applicable to their specific Area. For example, songs written for Tribal Games by each Tribe must be assisted by the Drama Counselor regardless of tribe affiliation.

Program Area Counselors need to be the most organized group of staff members within the camp structure. These individuals must plan and organize activities prior to each period in a way that can be re-created at a later date. They must contribute to the construction of a foundation of ideas and information that will endure year after year (Program Area Binders).



## **Boating Outline**

The boating program at Camp Hawkeye is an important activity area on its own but is also part of the more general adventure trip program at camp. In Boating, campers learn the skills and safety precautions for properly and safely piloting a variety of water craft. The three types of boats that are most important at Hawkeye are the canoe, the kayak, and the sailboat. Learning to be comfortable and pilot these craft are lifelong skills that will present years of enjoyment and safe recreation for each individual. There does exist a canoeing proficiency requirement for all campers. The canoe is the single most important craft for camp trips and all campers are expected to know paddling and steering skills. Campers must also be able to demonstrate a satisfactory level of comfort and knowledge in these crafts to enable them to participate on trips with the Expeditions staff.

## **Responsibilities**

- Organize and facilitate boating activities for campers.
- Instruct campers about the safety, rules and regulations of the boating area.
- Instruct campers on boating skills with an emphasis on canoeing including a variety of strokes (“J” and “S” stroke in particular), steering from the bow, stern and solo position, single/double portages as well as proper packing and care for trips.
- Organize and facilitate boating races and activities.
- Begin to fill the boating binder with activity plans before the campers arrive.
- Continually evaluate and provide feedback in the boating binder for upcoming years. This feedback would include the success of the activities, camper enthusiasm, and thoughts/suggestions that would assist with future improvement.
- Maintain the boating area and ensure that boats are kept in order and clean.
- Provide rules and regulations for your program area.

## **Required Certification**

- None.

## **Recommended Skills/Abilities**

- Experience with boating, especially with canoes, kayaks, and sailboats.
- Experience in teaching children how to use a variety of water craft.
- Flexible, adaptable and have ideas on boating activities for children.
- Ability to make the activity area FUN for all campers!