

Stephen E. Garner Summers of Service 2022

YMCA of Ithaca/Tompkins County – Summer Camp Intern



United Way
of Tompkins County

Purpose of Position:

The purpose of the position as Summer Camp Counselor Intern is to support the work of the Ithaca YMCA, which is a community leader in providing programs that support people to learn, connect, be healthy, and have fun. As a long-standing nonprofit and charitable organization, the Y is committed to strengthening community through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Camp counselors at the YMCA of Ithaca and Tompkins County create a safe and positive atmosphere that welcomes and respects all school age individuals while providing a safe, nurturing, creative, and fun camp experience in accordance with YMCA policies and procedures. Camp counselors instruct, supervise, and participate in a wide-range of activities including archery, arts and crafts, sports and games, camp crafts, character education, environmental education, low ropes/team building, swimming, and other activities.

Site address/location of the position:

50 Graham Road West, Ithaca, NY at the YMCA of Ithaca & Tompkins County building and at 1349 Mecklenburg Road, Ithaca, NY YMCA Outdoor Education Facility

Special Instructions: Interns are expected to be onsite at the YMCA main facility on Graham Road West on Mondays and Fridays; they will go to the Outdoor Education Center on Tuesdays-Thursdays. Both locations have ample parking. Interns are expected to wear a YMCA staff t-shirt or similar with shorts or pants and sneakers at the YMCA facility on Graham Road West. Interns are expected to wear their YMCA t-shirt or similar with long pants and boots/boot-like shoes at the Outdoor Education facility. Potential changes to site location will be indicated by the Camp Director with plenty of notice.

Required responsibilities/tasks of this position:

- Engaging with and supporting campers
- Participating in outdoor activities including swimming, hiking, biking, etc.
- Leading active and passive activities with counselors
- Interacting with all adults, children, parents, and special guests
- Providing additional supervision for campers in support of camp counselors
- Preparing daily snack with youth
- Support camp staff with managing bathroom trips, handwashing, clean-up, etc.
- Managing potential risks in program indoor/outdoor program areas
- Having fun and learning new things that will be used later in life

Skills necessary for this position:

- Ability to be motivated and have fun with youth
- Wanting to learn new skills while remaining positive and empathetic to young children's needs
- Experience with babysitting or experience with playing/supervising children

Age requirement for this position in order to be compliant to state guidelines: The age requirement of 16 is based on OCFs policies, as the intern will never be left alone while supervising children.

Leadership opportunities or decision-making expectations for the position:

- Making the decision when to modify a youth's activity or redirect a youth when they may pose a risk to themselves or someone else.

- Directing children when to use bathroom facilities, how to stay on the trails at the Outdoor Education Center, or be creative when the rain comes down and they need to think of a game for the children to play - making decisions.
- Opportunities may also come when the camp director or assistant camp director has the intern accompany them to learn how to speak with a parent or adult, and ensuring the intern understands the thought process of communicating when there may be a difficult situation to describe.

Other employment or life skills this internship will help the intern develop:

- Team work
- Recreational programming
- Strategic thinking
- Communication skills
- Youth development
- Healthy choices
- Outdoor education and awareness

Certifications obtained as part of the internship experience: Red Cross Certification, and miscellaneous certificates of completion

Start and end dates of the internship:

Approximately June 20 (training) and completion by September 2, 2022.

Schedule for this role (days/hours):

Training week of June 20 will be approximately 15 hours. June 27-September 2 will be determined and scheduled by the Camp Director (Rachael Jackson), and will not be more than 30-39 hours per week.

“Must-be-available” dates and any flexibility available: There is flexibility at all times between June 27-September 2. There is no flexibility June 20-24, with training happening those days in the late afternoon/evenings.

Other information about a good match for the internship:

The Y has experienced many years of Summers of Service interns. We have found them to be very engaging, greatly motivated, and many have become employees of the Y either in the Camp & Recreation field, or in our Aquatics department. We are excited every year to interview these bright young people.