

# Camp DREAM 2010

## Summer Staff AmeriCorps Positions

### Camp DREAM Mission Statement

Camp DREAM's Mission is to offer innovative, inspiring camping experiences to the children we serve and to build amongst them a sense of caring for community, environment, and self.

For the children of DREAM, this mission translates into our Camp program through these objectives:

- The development of a **healthy self-concept**, centered around increasing campers' sense of self-reliance, bolstering interpersonal skills, and interacting with exciting, dynamic, and responsible staff role models.
- The appreciation of the simple wonders of Camp's natural surroundings through an emphasis on **environmental education**.
- The encouragement of a **spirit of adventure** through unique outdoor experiences.
- The continual inspiration of feelings of **connectedness to DREAM** and the larger community of DREAM children and mentors throughout Vermont.
- The reinforcement of **Camp ownership** through campers' conceptualization, design, and completion of Camp service projects.
- The establishment of campers' confidence that the skills and friends they have gained at Camp DREAM will be **reliable and motivational supports** in their lives outside of Camp and DREAM.



Please look over this information and consider spending an amazing summer working with children! If you...

- *Love to dress up in crazy costumes*
- *Find spending time with kids a rewarding part of your life*
- *Are itching to get outside all summer long*
- *Get a thrill from working alongside other college students*

...then being a part of Camp DREAM's Summer Staff is where it's at!

## **Basic Information**

**Summer Season Dates:** Monday, June 14-Monday, August 16, 2010

**Compensation:** **\$2,500** AmeriCorps stipend + **\$1,250** education award + bed and meals while at camp + Camp DREAM T-shirt

**Boundaries:** All hired summer staff must adhere to the same mentor boundaries expected during school-year DREAM Programs. In addition, due to camp's setting and program, summer staff must adhere to camp-specific boundaries, which will be shared with you during orientation.

**Factors that are considered during the hiring process:** Experience with children, contagious energy, ability to work in a team setting, planning skills, interest and/or experience with specific positions, and availability for the summer season are all seriously considered when reviewing applications. Wilderness First Aid, Wilderness First Responder, and/or outdoor leadership skills are a big plus. One of the most important factors in hiring is determining how the camp team comes together. The goal of the hiring team is to assemble the best team possible to carry out the mission of Camp DREAM. Unfortunately, because we are a small camp and are only seeking a small number of full-time summer staff, not everyone can be hired. Please know that this decision does not judge the worth of the individual, but the situation of this time and place. If you are not selected to be on staff, you are welcome to join us for a session (or more!) as a Volunteer Counselor!

### **Hiring and Summer Timeline:**

- March 1: Application deadline for summer staff
- February and early March: Interviews conducted for candidates
- March 31: Applicants notified about hiring decisions by this date
- April TBA: Summer Intern Retreat w/ D-Unit and Trail Crew
- Monday, June 14-Saturday, June 19: Summer Staff Orientation and Summer Family Day
- Monday, June 21-Monday, August 16: Summer Camp! (More detailed information about exact dates for sessions will be available this spring)

## **Summer Camp Overview**

Camp DREAM is a residential summer camp located in Fletcher, VT. There are at least seven different three- and five-day sessions over eight weeks for DREAMers ages 8 to 17, hosting approximately 25 children per session. Sessions will include 8- and 9-year-old girls (3 days), 8- and 9-year-old boys (3 days), 10-12 girls (5 days), 10-12 boys (5 days), 13+ girls (5 days), and 13+ co-ed (5 days). The number of campers per week will be approximately 22, along with three teenage Counselors-in-Training, giving Camp DREAM a staff:camper ratio of 1:2 or better. Camp DREAM is situated on 50 acres by Metcalf Pond in Fletcher, Vermont, which is about an hour northeast of Burlington. You will be "on call" (24 hours a day, with a limited amount of free time during the day) as a staff member for the duration of each session and live in a lean-to or tree house on-site, with approximately two days off in between sessions to return to Burlington or take care of personal tasks. A summer at Camp DREAM just might change your life! No, really!

Since 2004, DREAM has been running summer camp on this woodsy slice of heaven. Due to the hard work of many DREAMers and volunteers over the past few years, Camp DREAM has a tree house and two lean-tos that sleep approximately 40 people combined! We also have an organic vegetable garden, an edible landscape with yummy berry bushes, a chicken coop, a clay oven where we bake flatbread pizza and more, an educational marsh boardwalk, a low ropes course, miles of trails for hiking and mountain biking, a swimming area and a large pond on which to canoe! Even more than the sum of its parts, though, Camp DREAM thrives on the energy that children, mentors, and DREAMers all add to the flavorful stewpot that is camp.

## Summer Staff Overview

Camp DREAM Summer Staff will work together to ensure that each child's experience at camp is engaging, challenging, inspiring, and fun. Camp DREAM Summer Staff will consist of a **Camp Director**, **Camp Land and Facilities Manager**, **Camp Program Empowerment Director**, and **eight AmeriCorps Camp Counselor positions** that will be filled by college students on summer break (more details about these positions are below). In addition, Camp DREAM will host a **four-person AmeriCorps Trail Crew** who will help with the regular maintenance of camp's property and will get everyone involved in preserving camp's vital natural resources. **Volunteer Counselors** (mentors and friends of DREAM who volunteer their time at camp for one session or more), **other DREAM Office Staff**, **Guest Rock Stars** (mentors and friends of DREAM who bring a special talent to share with the campers at one session) and **Counselors-in-Training** (teens who have attended Camp DREAM before as campers and will be in a leadership position at camp for a session or two) will round out the group of people who will work towards fulfilling the mission and philosophy of Camp DREAM. Because we've always got fresh faces and energy coming in and out, it is an ever-changing, dynamic environment that promises to be exciting and unpredictable in fabulous ways!

The Camp DREAM Summer Season begins on Monday, June 14 and ends on Monday, August 16. All full-time summer staff are expected to be available during this time, with time off negotiated prior to the start of the camp season. The camp season will consist of a summer camp orientation, summer family day (for kids and their parents to visit camp and meet you before the season starts!), approximately eight camp sessions, an end-of-summer clean-up and evaluation, and an end-of-summer celebration with all of DREAM's summer interns.

Camp DREAM has become such an integral part of the full DREAM Program experience. For children, it represents a safe time and space where they can get out of their day-to-day and experience something completely new, regardless of whether they've been to camp before. For mentors, it means a chance to spend the summer with many of the kids you already work with as well as many new ones! For Camp staff, it means the best time of the whole year!

A camp team works best when everyone works together. That is why each position is so important to help camp run smoothly. If we didn't need a position, we wouldn't hire for it. So please know that first and foremost, your commitment to be a camp counselor means that no matter what your specific role is, you're going to help make camp the best week of these kids' summer. But it's not just fun for the kiddos, oh no! You'll spend the summer breathing in the air of the woods of Vermont...swimming in a semi-secluded pond surrounded by mountains...reflecting on what it means to be a role model for kids as well as what it means to live immersed in the great outdoors...you'll challenge yourself and the kids to do things you never imagined you would do before—and you'll love it! (Even the rain and the bugs!). All staff will be involved in programming, supervision, physical maintenance, meal preparation, general camp clean-up, and more! We are a small camp with a small staff, which is great because EVERYONE is allowed to have a ton of responsibility and ownership. That also means that we have to keep ourselves and each other accountable for what needs to happen each day and session at camp. The rustic experience of Camp DREAM only serves to bring campers and staff closer together as they work to make camp their own. Expect to surprise yourself when you spend a summer at Camp DREAM!

## Summer Staff Positions

### ➤ Camp Counselor (4 positions available)

The camp counselors form the backbone of Camp DREAM! As a counselor, you are "on-call" from the moment the campers are picked up to the moment they are dropped off. Counseling involves leadership, mentoring, recreation, outdoor living, and most of all, energy! Additional responsibilities include:

- Collaborating with other staff on camp programming and keeping on track with the scheduled activities each session—understanding communal responsibility and supporting others' ideas and projects

- Providing basic medical care to campers and supervision at all times, both on-camp and off-site while transporting campers or on field trips
- Transporting campers to and from their communities and Camp DREAM (you will be reimbursed for gas on all DREAM-related trips)
- Incorporating the local ecology into daily activities, emphasizing a strong environmental education component of camp programming
- Working to contact, recruit, and facilitate mentors and friends of DREAM as volunteer counselors and/or Guest Rock Stars
- Attending staff meetings during camp sessions, attending prep meetings the day before each camp session, turning in receipts and time sheets to Camp Director each week, and filling out the proper AmeriCorps paperwork at the beginning and end of the summer
- Working with the Teen Resource Director to provide positive support to approximately three teen Counselors-in-Training each week
- Facilitating trips off-site that challenge and engage campers while building energy and excitement for Camp DREAM's programming
- Being a wonderful supporter, role model, friend, and mentor to Vermont's DREAMers!

➤ **Camp Counselor: Iron Chef/Local Foods focus (2 positions available)**

In addition to the responsibilities of a camp counselor, these two incredible individuals will be responsible for coordinating anything and everything that has to do with camp food. But you will be so much more than a cook! The Iron Chef will be in charge of all food programming, which means s/he will direct the rest of the summer staff in food programming and take a backseat in other aspects of programming. This will include incorporating our garden (and chickens, clay oven, orchard, nearby farms, and more) into the meals and program. Experience with cooking and/or local foods issues is helpful, but not necessary. Additional responsibilities include:

- Responsible for healthy menu-planning and food purchasing in accordance with the Vermont Child Nutrition Program
- Purchase healthful food for 20-40 on a budget
- Involving campers, CITs, and Camp Staff in preparing meals through a food prep and cooking rotation, and involve everyone in learning about food sources
- Utilize camp garden, orchard, edible landscape, chicken coop, clay oven, and The Farm Between when planning for and preparing meals
- Work with all staff to create a meaningful food culture at camp, one that campers can incorporate into their lives and choices at home

➤ **Camp Counselor: Waterfront/First Aid focus (2 positions available)**

In addition to the responsibilities of a camp counselor, these two talented individuals will take the lead at the waterfront and coordinate the canoeing, sailing, swimming, and all water-related fun. Other summer staff will assist in waterfront supervision while you lead activities and teach basic swimming or canoeing lessons. We are looking for candidates who are highly organized and have waterfront and/or First Aid experience. Additional responsibilities include:

- Lifeguard trained and certified before the summer season begins (for those who are not already certified, DREAM will reimburse the cost for the right candidate(s) to be certified)
- Expected to implement waterfront safety procedures and supervise safety of campers and staff at waterfront
- Engage and encourage campers to participate in waterfront activities
- Responsible for the care (yes, this includes cleaning and storing) of all waterfront equipment, including canoes, kayaks, PFDs, and other waterfront supplies
- Use your creativity in planning waterfront programming, including working with other staff to create alternate plans due to inclement weather
- Disburse medications to campers and keep accurate records of doing so, as well as provide medical care in necessary situations

➤ **Volunteer Counselors/Guest Rock Stars (unlimited positions available)**

Mentors and friends of DREAM who choose to spend a session or a summer at camp, working with kids in every capacity and as needed by summer staff. Volunteer counselors are vital to Camp's summertime operation. We recognize that free time during summer months is a precious commodity, and we HIGHLY encourage you to spend as much of it as you can with your mentee or any of the fun DREAMers we work with through the summer! Volunteering at camp can greatly add to your already-stellar ability to work with children and will provide a meaningful connection to the larger DREAM community. Commitments are either three or five days in length depending upon the age of the kids in the session. Volunteer counselors are welcome for any session, regardless of whether your mentee is attending that session or not.

- Food and housing provided at Camp DREAM while volunteering at camp
- Must adhere to Camp DREAM Rules and Guidelines while volunteering at camp
- Perfect opportunity for those mentors who can only commit to a week or so to be able to spend part of their summer at Camp DREAM! This is also a fantastic opportunity for alumni to remain in touch with DREAM!

**Are you interested in having a summer you will never forget?**

Please fill out an application and mail/email it to [Katie@dreamprogram.org](mailto:Katie@dreamprogram.org) or

The DREAM Program, Inc.

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