

BREWSTER DAY CAMP CAMPER LEADER PROGRAM

Program Information Sheet

Overview:

BDC's Camper Leader Program is a unique, *part-time*, summer opportunity for young adults rising into *9th & 10th grade*. Camper Leaders (CLs) are expected to be self-reflective, self-directed, and to work as part of a team while identifying and taking responsibility for pursuing excellence in areas of interest. CLs at BDC learn that with freedom comes responsibility. All participants build skills and confidence in becoming a competent leader in an adult work force, while gaining job and life skills. Applicants must apply for acceptance into the Camper Leader Program. Space in this program is limited and highly competitive. Once accepted, CLs, with the assistance of the Camper Leader Director, design individual schedules which meet personal goals. All Camper Leaders strive to:

- Challenge themselves physically, mentally, and creatively in activity areas offered at Brewster Day Camp;
- Master effective communication, leadership, and team building/problem solving skills;
- Acquire a working knowledge of appropriate developmental teaching strategies when working with younger children.

Pre-Requisites/Experience:

Camper Leader applicants must be:

- A *rising 9th or 10th grader* (or international equivalent) in school for the upcoming fall;
- Familiar with the routines and expectations of BDC or through other past camp and/or work experience with children;
- Able to demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively, set and achieve personal goals, demonstrate positive and effective leadership among peers and young children, be self-reflective, and act as a positive role model;
- Able to document current abilities in activity areas through past experience, portfolios, certificates, and by formal recommendation or interview upon request.

Individualized Responsibilities:

CLs are an integral part of the camp community and may customize their own schedule depending on their interests and skills. Participants spend the day in a combination of one or more ways:

1. Assisting teachers/counselors in classrooms/tent groups with our youngest campers (YCP, Mariners & Sailors Hill);
2. Assisting activity heads in areas of interest. Note: CL's skills are considered when making individual schedules, ie. only CLs with extensive experience will be assigned to sailing, swimming, boating, etc.
3. Assisting on BDC Trips or during Wednesday Swim Meets;
4. Taking part in BDC Lessons, Off-Campus Trips or specialized CL Activities;
5. Help program staff plan and execute All-Camp Special Events.

Because of the developmental lessons learned, all CLs spend some amount of time working with children toddler through pre-kindergarten age (YCP) and must meet daily with the CL Director. CLs may not spend time working closely with Admirals Hill campers (middle school campers) due to their proximity in age.

Schedule Options:

The Camper Leader Program is intended to be a *part-time* program. The camp day is from 8:30-4:30 with a ½ hour grace period for early drop off beginning at 8:00AM and late pick up until 5:00PM. Please note the following 3 scheduling limits:

1. 4 Full Weeks – 20 days total max per summer season.
2. 8 Two or Three-Day Weeks - 24 days total max per summer season.
3. A custom schedule (some full weeks + some partial) totaling ***no more than 24 days*** max per summer season.

Camper Leaders may choose different schedules for different weekly sessions, and may pick and choose from our extra Lessons and Trips to create unique schedules. For example: A MWF schedule, plus Sailing School on TTh afternoons.

Supervision:

All participants are still considered “campers” and are assigned to the full time Camper Leader Director – an experienced BDC staff member (and often a professional teacher) accomplished in leadership training and experienced in working with

high schoolers. In assigned activity areas, CLs are under the direct supervision of the Lead Teacher or Activity Head. Participants meet with the CL Director the first day of camp for orientation, to determine personal goals and design individual, and to set day to day schedules. During camp, CLs also meet with the CL Director during lunch to discuss progress and challenges of the day. During these lunches, the CLs are encouraged to take part in roundtable discussions on current events and themes in camp and the world, moderated by the CL Director. Guest speakers may also be invited to join the CLs for lunch. At the close of the experience, CLs complete a Self Evaluation and meet with the CL Director individually. The CL Director will also complete a final evaluation for each CL, and will review that evaluation with the CL on his/her last day. Parents are invited to request feedback and share insights regularly, with the CL Director. The camp office assists parents in connecting with the CL Director, by phone, email or in-person meeting.

Application Process:

The Camper Leader Program Application completed by both parent/guardian and Camper Leader must be accompanied by the non-refundable Processing Fee. Upon review of the submitted written materials, the applicant *may* be contacted to schedule an in-person, Skype/Facetime or telephone interview.

1.) CLP Written Interview & Enrollment Form:

- The Enrollment Form is to be completed and signed by an applicant's parent or another responsible adult.
- The Written Interview Form section of the application **MUST** be completed by the CAMPER LEADER... No help from adults (except for spelling/grammar editing) please!

The purpose of the written interview is to:

- Provide an opportunity for the camper to introduce him/herself to the CL Director;
- Encourage the camper to review his/her strengths and weaknesses and consider how these attributes might both help and hinder success in different areas;
- Allow the camper to outline personal goals for the summer and begin to define strategies for complementation at BDC.

2.) CLP In-Person Interviews:

Some years ago, participating CLs requested that in-person interviews be added to the application process. The group felt that these interviews would help keep the process competitive, and give the candidates valuable experience as they approach working age. Though not always required, applicants may *request* an in-person or video chat (Skype/FaceTime) interview as part of their application process.

- In-person interviews may be required for applicants at the discretion of the Camp Director or CL Director.
- They will take place on campus in Brewster, or at BDC's winter office in Pawtucket, RI.
- If an in-person interview is not feasible, a Skype/Facetime or Phone interview may be scheduled.

Acceptance:

A limited number of CLs are accepted each summer. Applicants are accepted on the basis of submitted material, past experience, program availability, and their interview (written and in-person). Upon acceptance to the program, 50% of tuition plus the processing fee is due in order to hold that space for the available schedule. The remaining tuition, Health Form, and Camper Information Form is due by May 1st. All applications accepted after May 1st must be accompanied by full tuition. CL days/weeks may be added, pending space availability, at the discretion of the Camp Director & CL Director. *Total participation may not exceed the maximum days outlined in the schedule options section, each season.*

Tuition:

CL Participants pay reduced camper tuition, as outlined on the Camper Leader Program Enrollment Form.

CLP Community Service Credit:

Many high schools require Community Service Volunteer Hours as a minimum requirement for graduation. BDC is pleased to support these requirements by providing written documentation regarding a CL's volunteer work with young children at BDC. If you are interested in CL Community Service Credit, please contact the camp office for proper documentation of your participant hours. We are also happy to work with a school's specific documentation needs. Please let us know how we can help, and provide us with your school's forms or contact info for the appropriate person at your school. Community service documentation may be requested at any time throughout the summer and off-season, by contacting the Camp Office, once hours are completed by the CL participant.