

# Characteristics of a YMCA Camp Ocoee Staff Member

Being on staff at YMCA Camp Ocoee is sacred because we can make a tremendous impact on the lives of hundreds of children who visit us. Not only that, but we get to spend time outdoors, in the beauty of southeast Tennessee, developing lasting friendships, learning important life skills and getting paid to play and have fun.

## SERVING AT CAMP IS SERIOUS BUSINESS

### Staff Expectations

Along with the expectations illustrated on individual job descriptions (whether a cabin counselor, program staff, a group camping host or a support staff) there are certain things that we expect all YMCA Camp Ocoee staff to adhere to, including:

- To be modeling servants for our campers and guests – their overall experience and needs must come before our own. **Campers First Always!**
- To model Christian principles and values in **EVERYTHING** we do – even in front of each other when no campers or guests are around
- To follow the leadership and direction of camp administrators
- To always adhere to the camp rules and guidelines
- To put 100% of our effort into doing our jobs
- To be honest and respectful with one another even if there is a grievance or misunderstanding (Matthew 18: 15-17)
  - If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell him—work it out between the two of you. If he listens, you’ve made a friend. If he won’t listen, take one or two others along so that the presence of witnesses will keep things honest, and try again. If he still won’t listen, tell the church. If he won’t listen to the church, you’ll have to start over from scratch, confront him with the need for repentance, and offer again God’s forgiving love.
- To be consistent in working with our campers and guests every day, every week
- To work as one unit – a team of many for one purpose
  - To provide experiences under a strong Christian emphasis that will strengthen the spirit, mind and body of all participants.
- To commit to and actively illustrate the camp’s vision and purpose
- To Have Fun and grow!

### Christian Values & Emphasis

YMCA Camp Ocoee’s mission follows the YMCA movement’s mission in putting Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all. Campers of all faiths and cultural backgrounds attend camp. To meet the goals of our mission, Camp Ocoee has a unique and important tradition of emphasizing the Christian aspect of a camper’s experience. Campers are engaged in daily, Biblical-based devotions. With that said, YMCA Camp Ocoee is not a church-affiliated camp, therefore we do not engage in matters of Christian doctrine or philosophy.

The most important thing for our staff is to daily model Christian values and principles at all times at camp. The values we focus on are: I am Third, Faith, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility, and Caring

#### **1 Peter 4:7-11 – Staff Slogan**

“...be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. <sup>8</sup> Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. <sup>9</sup> Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup> As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: <sup>11</sup> whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

#### **“I’m Third” - Camp Slogan**

(Philippians 2:3-8, Galatians 6:2, Luke 9:57-62, James 4:1-3, John 13:2-17)

I’m Third is a slogan treasured at YMCA Camp Ocoee. It means to put our focus on God 1<sup>st</sup>, others 2<sup>nd</sup> and our selves 3<sup>rd</sup>. By doing this, we devote ourselves to lifting up others, and therefore spreading the love of Jesus with everyone around us. This type of hospitality and humility is vital in our camp culture.

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### YMCA Involvement

Camp Ocoee, from the beginning, has been under the direction and leadership of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), specifically under the YMCA of Metropolitan Chattanooga. As part of the YMCA movement, *Camp Ocoee's mission is to utilize camp as a tool to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build the spirit, mind and body of all camp guests.*



### Activities, Skill Development & Fun

We teach several activities campers during their visit at camp. The staff aims to help improve the skills of particular activity areas in which the campers participate, therefore campers will often attend multiple class periods in the same activity.

Here are many of the activities we provide at YMCA Camp Ocoee:

- High Ropes Course
- Climbing Wall
- Paintball
- Kayaking
- Canoeing
- Mountain Biking
- Swimming
- Arts & Crafts
- Drama
- Dance
- Field & Team Sports
- Archery
- BB's
- Fishing
- Water Skiing
- Sling Shot Range
- Outdoor Living Skills
- Nature Study
- Bible Study

Just as we provide Christian values in all aspects and areas of camp, we also strive to provide an atmosphere of **extreme fun**. Putting fun into our program activities and the time spent with cabins is essential.

### Successful Staff

Successful staff members need to have the following characteristics:

- be faithful to Christ and to God's Word
- outgoing
- full of energy
- values driven
- light hearted
- passion to make a difference
- silly at times of fun, collected and controlled at times of reflection
- good listener
- adventurous
- servant driven
- outdoor enthusiast
- responsible
- FUN!



**When all of these characteristics are met, 100 % of the campers will walk away with a meaningful experience!**

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## **Essential Functions**

All seasonal employees must be able to perform the following essential functions.

- Read written documentation both on paper and on screen
- Listen to and comprehend oral communication
- Effectively communicate in both verbal and written communications
- Work several days in a row, sometime with little rest
- Work with and have patience for children for up to 24 hours a day
- Be comfortable and work effectively in an outdoor or natural setting
- Hike up to 5 miles each day
- Lift and carry up to 50 pounds
- Make decisions in high-stress situations
- Function and thrive in a community with very little personal space
- Respect and obey authority
- Live and work with other people up to 24 hours a day
- Utilize discretion when faced with sensitive issues
- Be able to live without access to your cell phone
- Maintain personal hygiene and health (bathe, eat, use the restroom, etc..) without assistance of others.
- Everybody is expected to embody the "Can Do" attitude and be willing to assist in any and all aspects of camp with a smile. The term "that's not my job" is not used at Ocoee.

## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

YMCA Camp Ocoee today facilitates several services and programs not only for kids, but also for people of all ages. In addition, camp happens throughout the year, not only in the summer. Camp can be broken down into the following key areas.

### **Summer Camp**

#### *Ranger Camp*



Ranger camp is Ocoee's traditional, summer overnight camp program for youth ages 7-16. In the morning, campers choose from a long list of exciting individual program activities, focusing on skill development, fun and personal achievement.

Campers stay in cabins with like age and same gender children. As a cabin group in the afternoon, they participate in cabin-centered activities that focus on group achievement, teamwork and relationship building. Campers come for one-week sessions.

#### *Teen Leadership Academy*



Our Teen Leadership Academy is a series of camps (in various levels) that give teenagers (ages 16-18, depending on the program) the opportunity to learn incredible Christian leadership skills while enjoying the incredible scenery and great fun of Camp Ocoee. Our TLA is structured in a series of levels. Counselor in Training [CIT] (rising 11<sup>th</sup> graders) and Ambassadors (rising 12 grade) are geared on helping to give teens advanced training on how camp functions, on the skills and experience needed for future camp staff (anywhere) and on methods to greatly effect the communities around them at home.

### **Year Round**

#### *Retreats & Group Camps*



YMCA Camp Ocoee organizes and facilitates several retreats each year both at camp's main site and at the Johnson Retreat Center. These retreats offer people of all age's experiences for meaningful reflection, fellowship and fun. The retreats offer activities, programs and services intended to help individuals develop and strengthen Christian life values. Some of them include the Adventure Guides & Princesses, Moms on the Mountain, Family Camps, Church retreats, school retreats and reunions.

## **Characteristics of YMCA Camp Ocoee Staff Member**

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YMCA Camp Ocoee is seeking role models to serve as camp staff for all seasons (spring, summer and fall). Our staff mentor and model responsible behavior and enhance teamwork and character development among campers and participants.

Application becomes available online in January each year. Interviews are conducted and references are checked on qualified applicants. Positions are filled first come first serve with qualified applicants completing the application and interview process.

If you feel led to serve on our staff, you are invited to complete an online application. You will be contacted via email if there is interest in scheduling an interview.

**[www.ymcacampocoe.org/job-opportunities](http://www.ymcacampocoe.org/job-opportunities)**

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**YMCA CAMP OCOEE**

**Experience the Ocoee Spirit!**