



Ann Arbor YMCA Camp Al-Gon-Quian

Junior Staff Application

For applicants who have completed one summer of the Counselor-In-Training Program

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2012

November 1, 2011

Dear Junior Staff Applicant and Parent,

Thank you for your interest in returning to Camp Al-Gon-Quian to work another summer! I hope you had a great time and a great learning experience as a Counselor-In-Training last year and I hope the school year has provided you with further opportunities to grow. The purpose of this letter is to help you understand more about our camp, our programs and our expectations of staff members, as well as to explain the application process and job descriptions.

This year, applicants who have completed one year of the CIT program and who have finished at least the 11th grade may apply for a Junior Staff position at Camp AGQ. Junior Staff members serve as cabin and activity counselors at AGQ and work for half of the summer. Their daily tasks and responsibilities are almost the same as full-summer staff members, except they have fewer supervisory responsibilities since most are under the age of 18.

Once they are hired into the position, Junior Staff members have the option to select whether they would like to work as volunteer or be a paid staff person. The stipend for J-Staff members is \$175/week. Many of our Junior Staff members in the past have enjoyed collecting incredible service hours for scholarships through being a volunteer, but this year, those who do not plan on collecting volunteers may select a stipend. It just depends on your personal preference, but that will not affect the hiring process. You will make that choice after hiring decisions are made.

Junior Staff members work at camp for three sessions. J-Staff Session A is from June 23 through July 28 (five weeks), which encompasses camper Sessions 1-3. J-Staff Session B is from July 29 through August 26 (four weeks), which encompasses camper Sessions 4-6.

Junior Staff members receive a day of training before camp starts (date, time and location TBA). Once at camp, they will work alongside of full-summer staff members. The other two big differences are that J-Staff report to their own program directors and have time off with other J-Staff members rather than with the full-summer staff. The program focuses on giving J-Staff an experience as close to regular staff experience as possible, but still providing close guidance and constant feedback for the younger staff member. This program is oftentimes a bridge to full-summer employment in the future, but being a J-Staff member does not guarantee future Ann Arbor YMCA employment.

The application consists of the following information form, essay portion and three references, as well as the Ann Arbor YMCA application for employment. One of your references must be from a community leader outside of camp (coach, religious leader, club instructor, teacher, etc.) and one must be from a staff member at AGQ. The third reference is someone of your choice, but please avoid using family members. It's OK if one of these individuals has been a reference for you in the past. All of the references must be submitted to the camp office on or before the application deadline in a signed, sealed envelope.

Complete applications are due on **Wednesday, February 1, 2012**. After applications are received, candidates will be contacted to set up an interview the week of February 6, 2012. final decisions will be mailed to staff members the week of February 19, 2012. if you do not live in the area, I would be happy to set up a phone or Skype interview with you.

Here are some FAQs about becoming a Junior Staff member at Camp AGQ:

Why work at camp?

Working with youth in a resident camp setting is one of the most challenging experiences you may ever have. It requires a level of commitment and energy far beyond other kinds of summer employment, even other positions that involve working with children. The rewards, however, are as great as the challenges. The opportunities camp provides for deeply affecting the life of a child are extraordinary. I'm sure many of you remember the effect your counselors had on you as a camper; whether they introduced you to new music or taught you the true meanings of the pillars. You can continue this tradition and have the same profound effect on the lives of many children yourself as a counselor at AGQ.

Who are these positions for?

Summer positions at YMCA Camp Al-Gon-Quian are for hard working, enthusiastic people who enjoy fun and camaraderie. It is for dedicated individuals who have a sincere desire to work with children and have a positive impact on their lives. The work is demanding of your time, energy and emotions and requires a great deal of self-motivation, patience and creativity.

Only qualified individuals who demonstrate a deep sense of commitment and character, and can be strong, positive influences in the camper's lives are selected to be Camp Al-Gon-Quian staff. We're looking for responsible and caring individuals to bring their skills to our summer staff community. Our number one priority is finding summer staff who will be positive role models for our campers. We are also looking for charisma, maturity and activity skills that can support and add to our program. To ensure the safety of all of our youth, we have all staff applicants (prior to hiring) undergo a thorough background check. Staff members are, without question, the key to happy and healthy campers and a successful summer at camp.

Information about our staff

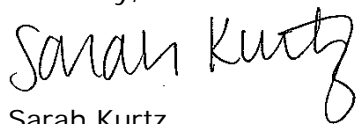
Al-Gon-Quian employs about 55 summer staff members. About 7 or 8 Junior Staff members will join the staff for each half of the summer. Around 45 volunteer CITs will also work at AGQ, approximately 10 at a time.

Red Cross Trainings: During the month of May and the first two weeks of June, Red Cross trainings, including CPR for the Professional Rescuer, first aid, lifeguarding and others, take place at the Ann Arbor YMCA. All full-summer staff members are required to be certified in First Aid and CPR for the Professional Rescuer, and we highly recommend that J-Staff members become certified. Some positions require additional certifications.

Thank you for applying to work at Camp Al-Gon-Quian for Summer 2012! Remember the competition is very high for these coveted spots, and hiring will be based on your application, interview, performance last summer and your three references. There will be many applicants for few spots—please take this process seriously and professionally. If you have any questions about the process, the J-Staff experience or camp in general, please do not hesitate to contact me anytime via email (camping@annarborymca.org) or by calling my office directly (734.661.8051).

I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,



Sarah Kurtz
Director, Camp Al-Gon-Quian
Ann Arbor YMCA



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APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2012

Full Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

Which communication form is best? Email Cell Phone Home Phone

School: _____ Grade entering in Fall 2011: _____

Extracurricular Activities: _____

Were you a camper at AGQ? _____ If so, when? _____

Which session and year were you a CIT? _____

Who were your co-counselors? _____

What was your activity concentration? _____

Preferences for Hire

Please rank your preferences for hire. If you would not like to apply for a particular position, please leave that selection blank. Use "1" as your top preference and "2" as your final preference. Remember, applicants who are hired have the option to select whether or not they would like to volunteer or receive a \$175/week stipend once they receive their contract.

Junior Staff – Session A (6/23-7/28; Sessions 1-3)

Junior Staff – Session B (7/29-8/26; Sessions 4-6)

RANK

Interview Preferences

J-Staff interviews will be held the week of February 6, 2012. Please mark the following applicable option so we can schedule your interview:

- I live in Ann Arbor or the surrounding area. Please call me to set up a time to meet.
- I live out of town, but will be visiting the Ann Arbor area. Please call me to set up a time during these specific dates for an in-person interview: _____ to _____.
- I live out of town. Please call me to set up a phone interview.

Activity Area Interests

Please place a 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 on the line before each activity:

1. I have expert knowledge in this area. I could teach it as an expert
2. I am fairly skilled in this area. I could competently organize this activity
3. I believe I can assist in teaching or cover for other staff on time off in this area
4. I am interested in learning about this activity area
5. I am not interested in this activity area

Waterfront Activities

- Swimming
- Canoeing
- Sailing
- Waterskiing
- Fishing

Outdoor Activities

- Archery
- Riflery
- Climbing Wall
- FUNK (Nature)
- Landsports
- Potpourri

Creative Endeavors

- Woodshop
- Newspaper
- Library
- Dance/Music
- Creative Writing
- Drama
- Arts and Crafts
- Northstar
- Southstar

Barn

- Trail Rides
- Western Riding
- Ground Lessons
- Care of Creatures

Other

- _____
- _____
- _____

From the list of activity areas, please list the four you can best instruct and any relevant experience:

Activity 1: _____

Experience:

Activity 2: _____

Experience:

Activity 3: _____

Experience:

Activity 4: _____

Experience:

Parent Agreement

I have read and understand the Junior Staff application letter and understand my child is applying for a job to work at Camp Al-Gon-Quian. I agree to have my child apply to Camp Al-Gon-Quian and participate in an interview.

Parent Signature: _____

Short Answer Questions

Please answer the following questions in a thorough, thoughtful and legible way.

1. Why would you like to be a junior staff member? How will this experience work in to your long-term goals?
2. How was your experience as a CIT last summer?
3. What was the best piece of advice you received last summer? How did you implement the advice, and how did it help you as a CIT?
4. Talk about a relationship you built with a fellow staff member last summer.
5. Talk about a relationship you built with a camper last summer.
6. What, in your opinion, is the most important Camp AGQ tradition and why?
7. Out of the exceptional group of CITs we had in 2011, what makes you stand out from the rest?
8. Now that you have a thorough understanding of how camp operates, what is one thing you would like to see change (from a cultural, traditional or programmatic standpoint, or anything else you would like to adjust)?
9. Talk about a time when you took something you learned at camp and used it in your life outside of camp.
10. Which camper or camper situation was the most challenging for you last summer and why? How did you deal with this challenge?
11. If you had a million dollars to spend for Camp AGQ, what would you do with it and why? (Sorry...we don't have a million spare dollars. I'm just curious).

Supplementary Information

Please include photocopies of all relevant certifications (CPR, First Aid, Lifeguarding, Belay, Paddle, etc.)

Please check here if you would be interested in becoming a lifeguard and would like to know about future lifeguard training opportunities for AGQ staff at the Ann Arbor YMCA

