

AN INTRODUCTION TO CCUSA

- ❖ CCUSA is the leading cultural exchange organisations in Australia and has been in operation since 1986. We have over 49 offices worldwide and have exciting programs available all over the world, programs can last from 4 weeks to a maximum of 2 years.
- ❖ We are the biggest and the most trusted American summer camp program in Australia, we sent 1800 Australians to camp in 2006, and also have camp counselor programs in the UK, Croatia, and Russia. We pride ourselves on being the program that Camp Directors turn to first when looking for quality staff.
- ❖ CCUSA is proud of all of its established international programs which include Work Experience USA, Camp Counselors UK and Practical Training USA. We now offer 13 programs for Australians to experience working around the world.
- ❖ Our largest and most popular program is Camp Counselors USA (which is where our current company name originated) and has been running since 1986. Since then we have sent over 175,000 people worldwide.
- ❖ CCUSA are a reputable International Exchange Sponsor, big enough to find participants their perfect camp placement (as we work with the top 1,000 accredited camps in America), but small enough to give professional, quality service and the attention our participants deserve.

BENEFITS OF SUMMER CAMP

- ❖ **Experience working in your area of study.** Spending a minimum of 9 weeks at camp, living 24-hours a day with campers between the ages of 8-16 years, will help to prepare you for your future career. Not only will you have fun with the campers, you will also be their role model, coach, motivator and teacher during their stay at camp. This is a great time to put theory into practice, as well as learn different approaches/methods from fellow staff from around the world.
- ❖ **Improved work opportunities upon graduation.** This experience with children and an obvious sense of adventure, adaptability and proven independence can be a major feature in an applicant's success rate when applying for jobs. Employers appreciate the commitment that has to be made to succeed in a foreign country as well as their obvious ability to impact positively in a child's life.
- ❖ **Greater cultural awareness and sensitivity.** Develop a greater appreciation and sensitivity for lifestyles and cultures that are different from the Australian way of life. This is important because globalisation has resulted in different people from different countries being much closer. The more exposure you have to different cultures, the more you will develop a greater appreciation and understanding of them.
- ❖ **Improved life skills.** You will return from camp with increased confidence, greater communication skills, a sense of independence and better time management skills. Camp truly is an environment that brings out the best in each person. It is a wonderful, fun environment, but also very demanding. Those who succeed in camp can often succeed anywhere.
- ❖ **Gain qualifications.** Many participants are given the opportunity to gain additional skills and qualifications either before or during camp. Such qualifications can include first aid, life guarding, a variety of land and water sports, archery, high ropes and more.
- ❖ **Course Credits.** Previous participants of the program have been able to use the Camp Counselors USA program as practical experience and use it for course credits toward the completion of their degree.
- ❖ **Quote from Heather Smith – A University of Sydney (Cumberland Campus) student who studied Occupational Therapy:**
"I first went to camp in my last year of university where I was studying to be an Occupational Therapist. Thanks to camp - and a local OT in the hospital who agreed to be my supervisor I was able to do the last 6 weeks of my practical experience, which is mandatory, at camp. Since coming back I have worked with people with disabilities, in OHS, HR and am now managing a consulting business of about 25 people. What camp gave me was the ability to work with different people from many different backgrounds, and to understand the different needs that people had. I also learnt to lead people, as I worked for 4 years as the program director, and was responsible for supervising about 30 direct care staff. I still use some of the skills I learnt at camp in my current job."

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- ❖ **How do I apply or find out more...** visit www.ccusa.com or call 1300 859 040
- ❖ **Where are the summer camps?**
We work with 1000 camps in the USA, which are spread across every state. A large concentration of these camps is in the North East corner of the USA (Pennsylvania, New York and Maine) and there are also a lot of camps in California.
- ❖ **How do I find a camp?**
CCUSA do all of this for you. We pride ourselves on the 'perfect placement'. Whether this is through our US office, or at one of our Camp Counselors USA Job Fairs (see below), we are sure that we will find a placement that matches your skills, experience and personality.
- ❖ **What is a Camp Counselors USA Job Fair?**
A Camp Counselors USA Job Fair is an opportunity to meet Camp Directors from the United States, speak to them about camp and sign your summer camp job contract on the day. This year CCUSA are organizing them in: Sydney in December and February, Melbourne in December and February, Brisbane in December and January, Perth in February and Adelaide in February. You can find out more details by visiting www.ccusa.com or calling 1300 859 040.
- ❖ **When can I apply?**
Applications are open from now until the 30th of April. Don't delay any longer. The earlier you apply, the sooner we start looking for your perfect camp, and then you can relax knowing that you will soon be having the best summer of your life.
- ❖ **When do I need to be available and for how long?**
Camps start anytime from May 20th to June 20th. You need to be available for a minimum of 9 weeks leaving for the USA no later than June 20th. The earlier and longer that you are available, the easier it is to find you a camp!
- ❖ **What about a visa?**
CCUSA are your visa sponsor and organise your J1 visa sponsorship from the US Government. You will need to have a face-to-face interview with the US Consulate to have your visa processed, and CCUSA set this up for you and help you with all of your paperwork. When you receive your visa it will start on the first day of your camp. Your visa will last whilst you are at camp and also allow you 30 days after that if you would like to travel in the USA before you have to leave.
- ❖ **Who else will be at camp?**
CCUSA has offices all over the world, so as well as having American co-workers, you could possibly have co-workers from Europe, Asia, South Africa, the UK and New Zealand. You may even have other Aussies with you.
- ❖ **Do I get paid?**
At camp, you are paid 'pocket money' which is at least US\$145 per week. You are also free of living expenses while at camp such as food, accommodation and laundry, as its part of your stay at camp.
- ❖ **How much free time will I get?**
Camps have, on average, one day off a week as well as a nominal time during the day. Summer camps organise time off independently, thus everyone will be different.