



Chewonki's Outdoor Classroom Fall Internship

Positions Available:

Fall Internship starting August 12, 2009

Outdoor Classroom Teacher, 3-season position starting March 2010

Thank you for your interest in Chewonki's Outdoor Classroom Teacher positions. Our staff is made up of seventeen teachers in a 3-season position starting the end of March and ending early November each year. With a few instructors staying on over the winter. Each fall Chewonki hires two to three Outdoor Classroom Interns to support our program. The internship is designed as a stepping stone to the 3-season teaching position. The internship is from August 12 to October 30, 2009 and includes room and board and a \$100 weekly stipend. Interns who sign to return for the 3-season position starting March 2010 will be able to get health insurance this fall. The internship is a support role for the Outdoor Classroom program. Interns will be paired with veteran teachers during residential programs and be involved in a wide variety of support jobs. Please give me a call if you are interested and would like to set up an interview.

Qualifications

A BS or BA. Degrees in education, natural sciences, outdoor recreation, or related field preferred. Teaching experience required. Experience teaching environmental topics and leading low ropes courses a plus. We are looking for teachers with strong leadership ability, a dynamic personality and a passion for living and working with children in the out-of-doors. We also require Wilderness First Responder (WFR) and lifeguarding certification. We host WFR at Chewonki in January and lifeguard training in March. To maintain the professional quality of our programs we encourage our teachers to be thinking of a two year minimum stay with time away in the winter.

Stipend and Benefits

Interns receive a \$100/wk stipend, plus room and board. Interns who sign on to return for the 3-season position starting March 2010 will be able to get health insurance this fall for \$3/wk. We also provide staff pro-purchase deals for discounts on out-door gear.

To Apply

Please submit your resume, cover letter and references along with the **OC Application Form**, posted on the employment opportunities page. Please include a list of your strengths and three reasons you are interested in this position.

Dot Lamson

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Chewonki's Outdoor Classroom

FALL INTERNSHIP

Job Description

Mission: The Chewonki Foundation is dedicated to helping people grow individually and in community with others by providing educational experiences that foster an understanding, appreciation and stewardship of the natural world and that emphasize the power of focused, collective effort.

Chewonki's Outdoor Classroom Fall Internship is a support position designed as a stepping stone to our 3-season teaching position. The internship starts the middle of August and ends October 31st each year. Interns serve as a second leader on school programs and trips throughout the fall season. Much of the season involves shadowing our veteran instructors and learning the job through self-guided learning. We start with a brief training in which interns learn a few natural history, sustainability and teambuilding lessons and activities that they will be called upon to lead. This is a demanding job, being on-duty 24 hours a day for 3-5 day residential programs each week, camping out with a group of 10-12 students.

Intern will have the opportunity to work closely with many different instructors before working on their own. This provides a chance to observe a variety of leadership styles and teaching methods. When interns return in the spring they will join our new instructors in four weeks of more formal, in-depth training with the advantage of familiarity with our school program

Because of the nature of our programs, we look for experienced teachers, who are sensitive and caring and who enjoy teaching and working with children. Our teachers also need camping skills and trip leading experience. A strong willingness and an ability to work very hard is a necessity. We require an up-to-date Wilderness First Responder and Lifeguarding Certification. We host WFR at Chewonki in January and lifeguard training in March. **Benefits include:** Room and Board and a \$100/wk stipend. Insurance is available for 3% of salary for interns who sign on to return in March for a 3-season position. We also provide a staff pro-purchase plan for discounts on out-door gear.

Chewonki's Outdoor Classroom program is a unique model in which our instructor and interns live with their students and school chaperone in small camping groups at shore-side campsites on Chewonki Neck. Adults and students sleep in tents, cook over open fires, and learn camping skills. Respect and responsibility for oneself, others and our natural environment are stressed within these small group communities. Our interns assist our teachers with leading their groups through two lessons daily focusing on both natural history (in-depth field studies of various ecosystems or concepts) as well as challenge activities, such as group initiatives, low ropes course, rock climbing, map and compass, canoeing and more. Night activities include group games, night walks, natural history roves, or a live animal presentations. These programs take place on Chewonki's 400-acre peninsula, which is surrounded by tidal estuaries. Our land is mostly wooded, but also contains fields, two fresh water ponds, a working organic farm, an extensive salt marsh, a hiking trail system and ten established campsites with tent platforms. In addition to the camping programs, we also offer day programs (on- and off-site), teacher workshops, and occasional wilderness trips.

Other programs exist at Chewonki side by side with the Center for Environmental Education. Most teachers live on campus and we all work together to make the community a successful one. When not on program, interns are expected to participate in daily chores and cleaning and general Chewonki maintenance work.

Working for Chewonki's Outdoor Classroom is an extremely demanding, yet rewarding experience. It is an excellent teacher training opportunity regardless of experience or background. Although the programs are short (usually 3-5 days), the growth that is realized by each participant is often quite amazing. To be part of that growth is a tremendous responsibility and a wonderful opportunity.

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