

Camp Chewonki for Girls

Yurt Leader (Counselor/Wilderness Trip Leader)

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 is a year-round nonprofit educational institution started in 1915 and known today for innovation in education, leading-edge sustainability practices and a long history of wilderness travel. Along with our wilderness camp for girls Chewonki offers a traditional boys camp in Wiscasset, a broad array of environmental education programs, traveling natural history programs, wilderness trips, workshops and a residential academic program for high school juniors and seniors called the Semester School. Visit our website at www.chewonki.org

Camp Chewonki for Girls is a wilderness-based camp set in a stunning location in Maine's largest ecological reserve and on the edge of a vast protected wilderness in northern Maine. The camp offers both in-camp activities and wilderness travel for up to 40 girls ages 9-16. Activities include formalized instruction in woodworking, campcraft, canoeing, sailing, kayaking, art, nature, local history, map and compass, renewable energy projects, and the shared responsibilities of daily living. Special emphasis is given to natural history, ecology, and wilderness trip preparation. Campfires, blueberry picking, scavenger hunts, stargazing, drama, games, singing and many other informal activities make this small community unique and special.

Our group leaders have the role of both camp counselors and trip leader. Half of each 3-week session is spent in-camp, living in wood/canvas yurts with 6-8 girls and sharing responsibilities with one other leader. Leaders are involved in all aspects of the camp program – helping to organize special events, supervising girls setting tables and doing dishes, life-guarding at the waterfront, organizing evening activities etc. The rest of the session is spent “on-trail” leading girls on two 4-10 day canoeing, hiking and white water kayaking trips. We have an intimate, tight-knit staff community, living and working together at a very remote site. We are five hours from Chewonki's main campus in Wiscasset, 1½ hours from the nearest town (Greenville) and half a mile walk or boat ride from the parking area. Everyone pitches in with chores around camp including dish washing and laundry by hand, helping to carry in food, fuel and gear, cleaning the yurts, dining hall, bathrooms, shower house, and the grounds around camp.

Camp Chewonki for Girls seeks enthusiastic applicants with strong leadership ability, camping skills and trip leading experience, a dynamic personality and a passion for living and working with children in the out-of-doors. A strong willingness and an ability to work very hard is a necessity. A true joy of life and willingness to just be silly at times is

needed. We also require Wilderness First Responder (WFR) and lifeguarding certification. Minimum age is 18yr.

Timeframe: 10 week contract; June 7th – August 12th, 2010

Benefits include: Starting salary of \$3,500 for 10 weeks, plus room and board, and two weeks of leadership and wilderness trip training. We also provide a staff pro-purchase plan for discounts on out-door gear.

Health: Tobacco products are not allowed at Chewonki. A complete physical with current immunizations by a licensed physician is required.

Working for Camp Chewonki for Girls is challenging and demanding and requires a great deal of patience and understanding. Sensitive and dynamic leadership is necessary to support each girl in discovering her inborn capacity for courage, compassion, insight, and perseverance. The growth that is realized is often quite amazing. We strive for each girl to return home with heightened self-awareness, expanded horizons, and a renewed sense of wonder. To be part of that growth is a tremendous responsibility and a wonderful opportunity.

To apply: Send cover letter, resume and girls camp application to : Genell Vashro,
Director

Camp Chewonki for Girls. 485 Chewonki Neck Road. Wiscasset, Maine 04578. 207-882-7323 ext. 130

gvashro@chewonki.org