



## **Outdoor Classroom Intern**

*Fall Intern, August 11, 2010 – October 29, 2010*

### **Chewonki 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.

### **Outdoor Classroom Program Description**

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. Groups participate in two lessons each day that focus on either ecology, sustainability, outdoor living or teambuilding. Examples of lessons include Pond Study, Sustainable Food and Farm, Renewable Energy, Low Ropes Group Challenge Course, Map and Compass, Canoeing and more. Night activities include group games, night walks, natural history roves, or 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 Outdoor Classroom. Instructors live on campus, and we all work together to make the community a successful one.

### **Internship Description**

The 10-week internship runs from mid-August through the end of October each year. Interns live in rustic wood-heated yurts and assist in all aspects of the Outdoor Classroom program. Much of the season involves shadowing and assisting experienced instructors on residential programming. Working closely with many different instructors provides interns the opportunity to observe a variety of leadership styles and teaching methods. Interns will also have the chance, depending up on individual interest to experience other aspects of Chewonki programming. These opportunities *might* include but are not limited to the chance to observe a Semester School class, a day of working on our Saltmarsh Farm, participating in an Office of Sustainability project, or assisting in the Health Center. Working for Chewonki's Outdoor Classroom is an extremely demanding, yet rewarding experience. Staff and interns are on-duty 24 hours a day for 3-5 day residential programs each week, camping out with a group of 10-12 students. 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. When not on program, interns are expected to participate in daily chores and cleaning and general Chewonki maintenance work. Because of the nature of our programs, we look for individuals who are sensitive and caring and who enjoy teaching and working with children. A strong willingness and an ability to work very hard is a necessity. Interns are encouraged to apply and are considered top candidates for open instructor positions each spring.

### **Qualifications**

A BS or BA. Degree in education, natural sciences, outdoor recreation, or related field preferred.\*\* Experience working with children required. Experience teaching environmental topics and leading low ropes courses a

plus. Wilderness First Responder (WFR) and lifeguarding certification also a plus. We are looking for individuals with strong leadership ability, a dynamic personality and a passion for living and working with children in the out-of-doors.

*\*\*Qualified applicants who are currently enrolled in college will be considered for the internship as will gap-year students.*

### **Benefits**

Interns receive room and board and are eligible for staff “pro deals” for discounts on outdoor gear. Interns live in rustic wood-heated yurts. Shower and bathroom facilities are nearby and indoor space with electricity is available for computer use.

### **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.

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