

Chewonki's Outdoor Classroom Fall Internship

Positions Available:

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

Becomes:

Outdoor Classroom Instructor, March - October 2011

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

Chewonki's Outdoor Classroom Fall Internship is a support position designed as a stepping stone to our 3-season teaching position. The internship runs from mid-August through the end of October 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. Working closely with many different instructors before working on one's own provides a chance to observe a variety of leadership styles and teaching methods. We start with a brief training in which interns learn a few ecology, sustainability and teambuilding lessons and activities that they will be called upon to lead. 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 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. 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.

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. 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. Wilderness First Responder (WFR) and lifeguarding certification a plus – both are required prior to full instructor training in March. A WFR course is held at

Chewonki each January and lifeguard training is available each March.

Applicants who are currently enrolled in college will be considered for a fall-only internship without the spring sign-on requirement. Gap year interns will also be considered but are not eligible for a stipend.

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 in March will be able to get health insurance in the fall for \$3/wk. We also provide staff pro deals for discounts on outdoor 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.

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