

## Overview

Summer Staff at Camp John Hope is a new program. For the next few years, we will be building the summer camp program and developing Summer Staff intern program that will meet the needs of the summer camp.

## Who is eligible for Summer Staff?

We are looking for recent high school graduates and college students with the following characteristics:

Graduated from high school in May 2017 or earlier.

Must enjoy working with youth and want to see lives changed. That is why this camp exists, so this must be the most important motivation for any staff member.

Must have an outstanding work ethic. The job is very demanding, so we do not tolerate any laziness.

Must exhibit high moral character and must be a positive role model for campers. Staff are required to be someone that campers can look up to.

Must thrive in a team atmosphere. Staff will be in a high-stress environment , so teamwork is critical.

Must have the maturity to handle the responsibility and stress of camp life. We have a massive responsibility with being entrusted with these youth and meeting the needs of our rental groups.

Must have a positive and upbeat attitude. Camp life is hard, so a positive attitude is a vital to the success of the team.

Must want to grow and be stretched. We not only invest in the campers, but we invest in the staff. You will be challenged to grow.

## What does the Summer Staff do?

The primary job of the staff is to serve the campers and to set an example for them in every way. The goals of the staff program are:

To provide a safe and enjoyable environment for campers

To provide positive role models for campers

To provide an intensive program for the Summer Staff to grow and develop critical skills for success.

Staff are responsible for overseeing recreational areas, conducting programs, and preparing the facility for campers.

After the week of SLC, in addition to overseeing recreational areas, you will transition to serving in other camp operational areas such as, grounds, kitchen, administrative, and maintenance.

## Salary and Experience

The starting salary for first year staff who complete Staff Training is \$290 per week. This is for a week - Sunday afternoon through Friday afternoon. Staff lodging and all meals are included. Staff will go home on most weekends. There are many weekends that we have campers, and we will ask some staff to stay. Please plan to work at least one weekend during the summer. Salary is pro-rated for the weekends. You will pay for your staff shirts, but the cost is minimal.

No experience is necessary to be on staff. We do give first preference to those with FFA or FCCLA background or those who participated in the Wildlife Camp or Horse Camp programs at Covington. Experience in working with a team and working with youth is a plus.

## Facility Information

Camp John Hope FFA-FCCLA Center is a year-round camp facility in Fort Valley, GA. We are located about two hours south of Atlanta, 30 minutes south of Macon, 2 hours southwest Athens, and an hour north of Tifton. Our primary purpose is to provide services and programs for FFA and FCCLA students in Georgia. We also rent facilities to educational organizations such as YMCA, Boy Scouts, and church ministries. Our facility has meeting rooms, food service, lodging, and recreation. Visit the facility website at [www.campjohnhope.com](http://www.campjohnhope.com) for more information.

## Staff Training and Orientation

For the first week of Staff Training, staff will select one of the two training courses. Staff are not paid during Staff Training week, but you must complete the training course in order to receive the full salary. First Aid and CPR training is included in both courses. Staff will choose one of the following classes:

**Lifeguard:** Staff will have the opportunity to become a certified lifeguard.

**Low Ropes instructor:** Staff will be trained as an instructor on the Center's Low Ropes Course.

**Staff Orientation is the first paid week.** This is a week that we spend preparing the camp facility and the staff for the weeks ahead. This is the first year of SLC, so EVERYTHING is from scratch! We will work on program aspects and develop the staff team dynamic. We may also cut grass, clean cabins, prepare recreation areas, and whatever is necessary to get ready for the summer camps. The schedule for the week following orientation is contingent upon

registration numbers for camp. We have reserved the week to open up another week of camp. If there is not camp that week, we will continue to work on programs and prepare the grounds and facilities for camp and the remainder of summer.

## Summer Leadership Camp

A week long camp for FFA and FCCLA students from across Georgia. It is a leadership and recreation-based camp for middle school and high school chapters. During this camp, we provide everything - meals, lodging, recreation and program. This year is the FIRST year of camp at CJH! You will be a part of making history!

Campers for Summer Leadership Camp arrive Monday morning and depart Friday morning. Staff report on Sunday afternoon and are released on Friday when the camp is clean (typically mid-afternoon).

Summer Staff operate the recreation areas, participate in assemblies and other programs, and help the campers have a great time. Some of the assignments during Summer Leadership Camp include:

Operating the canteen

Operating archery range

Operating Airsoft field

Referee for kickball and volleyball

Lifeguard at the pool and at boats

Ropes Course instructor

Conducting non recreation based activities (quiz, crafts, etc.)

Food service

The days are long - a typical day starts with breakfast 7:30 AM and ends back at your cabin around midnight. Staff stay in the staff cabins, not in cabins with campers. For more information about Summer Leadership Camp, visit the SLC page.

## After Summer Leadership Camp

After Summer Leadership Camp, we transition to serving our rental groups. Our largest rental groups are church youth groups and children camps. For these groups we continue offering meals, lodging, and recreation, but we do not offer programs and assemblies. Summer staff will be involved in servicing these groups, mostly through operating the recreational areas, food service, and grounds.

## Why Work Here?

1. Since SLC at CJH is new, you will be a part of making history!! You will be the very first group developing the program! YOU will set the bar for SLC at CJH!
2. Anyone interested in being on Summer Staff must understand that this is a very challenging job!
3. Staff work long hours! They work from around 7:30 AM until around midnight. The weeks are long (Sunday afternoon through Friday afternoon.) You will be exhausted, but you have to give 100% at all times for the campers, and that is tough!
4. Staff work hard! We do whatever it takes to make the camp enjoyable for the campers. That includes lots of manual labor. It requires a great work ethic, so lazy people need not apply!
5. The salary does not match up to how many hours and how hard you work! Don't come here for the money!
6. The rules are strict, and we have high expectations! We have a very strict set of policies that the staff must follow for the protection of the campers. We do not permit dating, alcohol, drugs, inappropriate language, or any inappropriate behavior. We do not permit facial rings, tongue rings, exposed tattoos, or unkept appearances. Staff are expected to be outstanding role models at all times. Everything you do during the summer is our business (including weekends), because it impacts the campers we serve.
7. You can't escape one another! Our staff members spend a lot of time together. If someone gets on your nerves, you have to be able to work with them. We serve the campers no matter what.

## So why join the Summer Staff?

1. It is a great learning experience! You will learn to work on a team, learn more about yourself, and you will be challenged in new ways. We will invest in you heavily because we want to make you more successful in whatever career you choose. Our goal is to see significant growth in you during the summer.
2. It is fun! From activities like the ropes course, archery, and Airsoft, you will have the opportunity for new and exciting experiences!
3. You get to invest in youth! If you have a heart for youth, you will have great opportunities to be a role model for them. Our purpose is to help develop character in young people, and you can play an integral role in that.
4. It is an excellent experience for those wanting to teach or work with youth as a career!
5. You might be able to use it for college internship credit! Check with your program advisor to see if this experience qualifies as an internship for your major.
6. You can save money because room and board is free!
7. You will be working with other college students with whom you have the opportunity to build lasting friendships!
8. To steal a line from the Peace Corps, it is the toughest job you will ever love!