

# CAMP ANOKIJIG

**CARING HONESTY RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY**

To the parents or guardian of a potential Camp Anokijig Leader:

One of our main goals at Camp Anokijig is to help our campers mature by giving them opportunities to take on responsibility in a guided environment. For some that may be the simple act of keeping their bunk clean or making decisions about what to do with their free time, others take on the responsibility of caring for a horse or working towards a skill award in one of the program areas. As campers enter their teen years, many are ready to start building those all-important skills that will help them enter the workforce in the future and that is what the Weekend Volunteer, Stamper, and Jr. Staff programs are geared towards. We are also committed to offering campers the opportunity to “rise-up through the ranks” here at Camp Anokijig; many of our Sr. Staff members along with 5 of our current Executive Staff members are former campers, volunteers, or Jr. Staffers.

Even if you are familiar with our summer camp program you might want to know more about what is involved in the leadership programs. One of our goals for these programs is not to give campers responsibilities beyond their capabilities but each will test their maturity, abilities and patience. Be assured that they are all conducted under the direct supervision of our Executive Staff and adult Sr. Staff.

## **WEEKEND VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

When summer camp is not in session Camp Anokijig becomes a retreat center for family groups, churches, schools and other organizations - these activities are essential to the continued operation and well-being of the camp. Off-season events are run by the camp management who rely upon a large group of volunteers (a mixture of adults, current staff members and prospective Stampers and Jr. Staffers) to assist with the activities offered. Duties consist of assisting in the supervision of program areas (experience is not necessary) and some kitchen and maintenance duties. Involvement in the volunteer program is not required to become a staff member but they do allow the potential staff member to exhibit their skills, abilities, and potential for success in the summer program.

There is no fee for this program and transportation from northeastern Illinois/southeastern Wisconsin and the Madison area is available for most weekends. A schedule of volunteer weekends can be found on the Camp Anokijig website under the “OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP” tab or contact the camp office for more information.

## **STAMPER PROGRAM**

The Stamper program is for those who will be at least 14 years old next summer and could be looked upon as your child’s first part time job. Campers participating in the Stamper program attend camp for one half the normal fee; they spend one meal each day working in our kitchen performing serving and clean-up duties and the rest of the day participating in the standard camp program (part staff / part camper = Stamper). This program allows campers to learn some of the basic work skills of dealing with supervisors and a schedule. Like the Volunteer program the Stamper program gives campers an opportunity to show their abilities and potential as a future staff member.

Stampers attend camp for a reduced fee - the program is included on our standard registration form (please be aware that space is limited for each session).

## **JR. STAFF PROGRAM**

Jr. Staff positions are open to individuals who are at least 15 years old or currently in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade - candidates need to apply and be accepted into it. Jr. Staff job responsibilities fall into two different categories – Sectional and Program Area. For their sectional responsibilities they are assigned to camper groups where they will work as counselors in training under the supervision of our trained Sr. Staff. They will be in direct contact with the campers and their duties include sleeping in the tents or cabins, supervision of a group of campers at meals, and general supervision in the day-to-day care for the campers. Their Program Area responsibilities consist of being assigned to a program area (arts&crafts, boating, swimming, archery, horses, archery, maintenance, etc...) where, once again under the supervision of Sr. Staff members, they assist in the teaching and supervision of the campers in the program areas. Some of the things they learn in the program areas are lesson planning, safety supervision, equipment maintenance, and scheduling.

Benefits from the Jr. Staff program include leadership training, program skill training, room and board, and the availability of college/job reference. There is no fee for this program but if your child is accepted as a Jr. Staff member he or she will be required to commit to 1 week of mandatory training in addition to the sessions that they work. Jr. Staff members take on many responsibilities and are held to a high standard - please consider carefully whether your teenager has time in their schedule for the commitment and is mature enough to be capable of this.

Jr Staff is a volunteer, unpaid program - applications for Jr. Staff positions are available for download from our website: [www.anokijig.com](http://www.anokijig.com) or by request from the camp office.

Of course it is only natural for a parent to want to take an active role in every aspect of their child's life but please remember that these programs place strong emphasis upon maturity, independence, and responsibility. It is our hope that you will provide guidance and advice but allow your son or daughter to begin handling things like scheduling issues and applications on their own. If you have any further questions about leadership programs please feel free to contact me – I can be reached by e-mail at: [donh@excel.net](mailto:donh@excel.net) or through the camp offices at: 920.893.0782. Thank you in advance for your cooperation; it is my hope that by working together we can build a positive learning experience for your child.

Sincerely,  
Claude Gonzales  
Assistant Program Director  
Jr. Staff/Volunteer Coordinator

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