

# Nature Camps, Inc.

## Returning Counselor Application

### Personal Information:

Last Name	First Name	Nickname	Age
Winter Address	City	State	Zip
			E-mail
Summer Address	City	State	Zip
			E-mail
Cell Phone #			

### Education Information (enter only new information, since last summer):

High School	Grade Completed
College	Major
	Years
	Degree
Other Education (workshops, courses, etc.)	

### Teaching, Environmental, or other work experience (enter only new information):

Position	Employer	Phone #	Dates Employed
Position	Employer	Phone #	Dates Employed
Volunteer Position	Employer	Phone #	Dates Employed/Volunteered
Volunteer Position	Employer	Phone #	Dates Employed/Volunteered

In the following list, put #1 before those activities you can organize and teach, put #2 before those you can assist teaching, and put #3 for those you are interested in.

- |   |   |  |  |   |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| <u>Nature Crafts</u><br>weaving<br>pottery<br>Native American lore<br>leather work<br>wood carving<br>wood working<br>flint knapping<br>fire building<br>slingshots | <u>Survival</u><br>camp craft<br>hiking<br>orienteering<br>outdoor cooking<br>overnight camping<br>traditional tool making<br><br><u>Music</u><br>lead singing<br>instrument, specify | <u>Nature</u><br>acclimatization activities<br>(sensory awareness)<br>animals<br>astronomy<br>birds<br>conservation<br>flowers<br>forestry<br>insects<br>rocks & minerals<br>trees & shrubs<br>weather | <u>Other</u><br>campfire activities<br>gardening<br>farming<br>First Aid*<br>story telling<br>horseback riding<br>bike-trail riding<br>photography<br>journaling<br>CPR*<br><br>*See note other side | <u>Water</u><br>Life Saving*<br>Swimming*<br>Canoeing*<br><br><u>New Games Experience</u> |
|---|---|--|--|---|

\*Do you hold a current:

Life Saving Certificate?	No	Yes, Date _____
Water Safety Instructor Certificate?	No	Yes, Date _____
Canoeing Certificate?	No	Yes, Date _____
Pool Operator Permit?	No	Yes, Date _____
First Aid Certificate?	No	Yes, Date _____, Type: _____
WFA/WFR (Wilderness First Aid/Responder)?	No	Yes, Date _____, Type: _____
CDL?	No	Yes, Expiration Date _____
Have you had extensive experience driving a full-size van?	No	Yes, Explain _____
Other Certifications	_____	

Have you ever been convicted of any crime, including sex-related or child abuse related offenses? No Yes

What type of position would you like at Nature Camps, Inc.?

If you would like to purchase new staff shirts for the upcoming summer, please send an email to [naturecamps@msn.com](mailto:naturecamps@msn.com) prior to May 5.

**Please submit the following items on separate paper:**

- 1) Describe situations that brought new personal strengths and understandings from last summer at Nature Camps.
- 2) Imagine camp this upcoming summer. Paint (with words) a detailed picture of what your ideal NC summer will look like.
- 3) What did you like about what you did last summer?
- 4) If you could change or do anything differently about what you did, what would it be?
- 5) Provide three examples of your nature journal entries (words and drawings) from last summer. What do you personally enjoy the most about nature journaling and journaling in general?
- 6) See Nature Journaling on NC web site, <http://www.naturecamps.com/programs/cjournal.html>. From camp's written philosophy about nature journaling, describe at least four aspects that resonate for you, adding possible further benefits about nature journaling that you have discovered in your work with children.
- 7) An essential and required aspect of being a NC counselor is to follow through with camp's philosophy about nature journaling for oneself as well as for the benefit of children every day. All counselors are required to keep a journal during staff training and throughout the summer. Describe how you plan (structure/set-up/organize) for successful journaling (drawing/words/inserting found items) with children in the early morning prior to Big Circle, during lunch, and during your planned activities. Describe what you do as follow-through after your children and you have journaled each day.

In order to provide the best experiences for the campers and ourselves, these expectations help to fulfill the camp's philosophy:

- to help children feel comfortable in and understand their environment
- to develop a questioning attitude about their world
- to heighten children's awareness, using all of their senses experiencing some of the places where plants and animals live
- to have children experience certain ecological concepts and to motivate further respect for their surroundings
- to help prepare children for making choices, becoming self-directed, and responsible for their own learning
- to assure children of their inestimable worth
- to create an atmosphere of caring and respect.

There will be eight days, and six overnights for all staff for orientation, training, certification, and setting up before camp, and one overnight and the following day to pack up and close down. All staff members are expected to attend daily staff meetings, staff overnights, and all camp Family Overnights (one, and sometimes two overnights per week). *It is important to arrive and set up for activities by 8:20 a.m., and to remain for staff meetings, and end-of-day maintenance jobs until 4:30 each day, and to plan for the next day's activities.* On the second Friday of each session, all staff are required to stay until 6:00pm (or later) to set up for the next session. Pay checks are not dispersed until all work on that Friday is completed.

Each counselor is responsible for *co-planning and co-leading* numerous activities throughout the entire morning, being responsible for small group lunch with a co-counselor, and leading afternoon activities.

All staff are responsible for taking equal turns in the Extended Day Program, which runs 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. **All staff must have current WFA, CPR for the Professional Rescuer, and Life Guard Certifications prior to Pre-Camp NC Staff Development (June 9).** NC pays for WFA and ACA canoeing/kayaking. (See dates below).

Smoking, alcohol use, drug use, non-compliance with NC protocols and philosophy, etc, are grounds for immediate dismissal.

**It is the hope of Nature Camps, Inc. that as we share the summer with the campers and families, we too shall grow and learn ...about our environment, one another, and ourselves.**

***I understand*** the above procedures, times, and expectations. I understand, and agree to, the required dates listed below for camp orientation, family overnights, training and orientation, and closing down camp. I understand that I am not paid for time missed. I understand there will be a payroll deduction for any missed Overnight. I understand the training and orientation must be successfully completed before I will be officially on staff at NC.

Signature

Date

Email to: [naturecampsinc@aol.com](mailto:naturecampsinc@aol.com)

or

Snail Mail to:

**DON WEBB**

**NATURE CAMPS, INC.**  
1616 Eden Mill Road  
Pylesville, MD 21132

**DATES FOR CAMP ORIENTATION, TRAINING, CERTIFICATION, AND CLOSING DOWN:**

(These dates are REQUIRED for employment at Nature Camps)

- ✓ Pre-Camp Staff Training, Development, Certification: June 8 -10 & 12-16  
(June 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15 are overnights)
- ✓ Bi-Weekly Staff Development Overnights: June 18; July 2, 16, 30; August 10
- ✓ Bi-Weekly Family Overnights: Thurs., June 28, July 12, 26, and Wed., August 8
- ✓ Post-Camp Overnight and Closing Down: August 10 through August 11, until 6:00 pm.